

Dear Padre,

Why should I believe Jesus is God, the Messiah?

Jesus was a historical figure whose miracles and wise teachings were witnessed by other reliable historical figures—the apostles and other disciples. He demonstrated miraculous powers through physical healings, dislodging demons, and command over nature, such as walking on water and instantly calming a storm. Most importantly, reliable witnesses saw the risen Jesus in a glorified body after his death on the cross. Rather than deny the truth of what they saw and learned, they submitted to gruesome martyrdoms.

Our world needs a Messiah. Despite the philosophies humans have adopted throughout history, we find we are our own worst enemy. Our egoism and pride have led to conflict and inequalities, negligence and hurt. We try following worldly leaders who promise us more, but they can't rid us of the inner defect of our selfishness. Neither economic success nor military conquest bring lasting happiness. We long for more. We long to know the purpose of life, to live without dying. We long to know God.

Jesus is the Messiah we need. His teaching centers on God's love for us and the love among people as the binding force for human hearts. Jesus taught that God loves his creations so much that he forgives people even for the ultimate sin: crucifying Jesus. His plans for eternity are that we, too, shall have a resurrection in a perfected body.

The truths Jesus exemplified and taught resonate perfectly with the deepest desires of the human heart.

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



DRANABWISHUTTERSTOCK

Calendar

- Monday**
MAY 30
Easter Weekday
Acts 19:1–8
Jn 16:29–33
- Tuesday**
MAY 31
The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Zep 3:14–18a or
Rom 12:9–16
Lk 1:39–56
- Wednesday**
JUNE 1
St. Justin, Martyr
Acts 20:28–38
Jn 17:11b–19
- Thursday**
JUNE 2
Easter Weekday
Acts 22:30; 23:6–11
Jn 17:20–26
- Friday**
JUNE 3
St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs
Acts 25:13b–21
Jn 21:15–19
- Saturday**
JUNE 4
Easter Weekday
Acts 28:16–20, 30–31
Jn 21:20–25
- Sunday**
JUNE 5
Pentecost
Acts 2:1–11
1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13 or Rom 8:8–17
Jn 20:19–23 or
Jn 14:15–16, 23b–26

Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 29, 2022

The Ascension of the Lord (C)

Acts 1:1–11

Eph 1:17–23 or Heb 9:24–28; 10:19–23

Lk 24:46–53

How Far Is Up?

It depends upon your understanding of cosmology, the religious explanation of the nature and structure of the universe. If Jesus ascended into heaven, how far up did he go? This also depends upon your understanding of cosmology. These are not foolish questions. We might not be experts in the field of cosmology, but many of us know a bit about galaxies, spacetime, and black holes, if only from *Star Trek*. So with this minimal cosmological knowledge, how should we understand Acts 1:9 when “a cloud took [Jesus] from their sight”? Did he just keep going up?

In the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul refers to Jesus' ascension, but he does not describe a mystifying event, as the Gospel reading does. Instead, he speaks of Jesus' exaltation at God's right hand. Perhaps it was fitting that Jesus ascended into the sky a little way, emphasizing that what occurred was more than mere physical exaltation. Rather, it is a way of stating that Jesus has now achieved honor and glory far beyond anything that is human, earthly, or created. He now enjoys divine glorification.

Still, even Paul uses metaphorical language when he says that Jesus sits at God's right hand in heaven. We know that heaven is more than a place but is also a state of total fulfillment. We also know that to be seated at the host's right hand means to be awarded the place of honor at the banquet. So, Paul is saying that Jesus enjoys total fulfillment in the place of honor next to his Father, where he is now praised as the beginning and end of all that is. This is reason to rejoice.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



SOLARSEVENSHUTTERSTOCK

As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy.
LUKE 24:51–52

FOR Reflection

- ★ Pray the responsorial psalm today.
- ★ At his ascension, Jesus said his followers would be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. Are you one?



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

What is the secret of a happy life? Recognizing Jesus, but Jesus as the living God, not as a statue. Because it is not important to know that Jesus was great in history...what matters is the place I give him in my life, the place I give to Jesus in my heart.

ANGELUS, JUNE 29, 2020



Rectory & Parish Office

600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860

Mailing Address: PO Box 983

Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405

Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com

Website: saintanthonylakin.org

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek & Nanette Rice	355-1696 355-7676

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, May 28	4:00 p.m.	For the People
Sunday, May 29	9:00 a.m.	Mary Kay Milford
Monday, May 30	9:00 a.m.	Anna Sack+
Tuesday, May 31	9:00 a.m.	Charles & Eileen Hoff
Thursday, June 2	9:00 a.m.	Charles & Eileen Hoff
Friday, June 3	9:00 a.m.	Fred Cahoj & Family
Saturday, June 4	4:00 p.m.	Rebecca Burden+
Sunday, June 5	9:00 a.m.	For the People

ASCENSION OF THE LORD (color: White)

5/28/2022 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Lucy Gannett, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bamberger

Reader: Debbie Frederick

5/29/2022 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Cade Berning, Jace Berning, Luke Woodrow

Reader: Kyle Berning

PENTECOST (color: Red)

6/4/2022 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Maggie Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

Reader: Gwen Waechter

6/5/2022–Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Kirbe Koons, Taybree Lohman-Fuller, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller

Reader: Mike Broeckelman

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD –MAY 29, 2022



Today, as we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, we enter into a kind of waiting period.

What exactly are we waiting for?

Are we waiting for God to change things around us? Are we waiting for God to get us a better a job, or more friends, or get our children to be more obedient or considerate? Are we waiting for God to provide us with a better house?

In other words, are we ultimately waiting for God to do something for us, or are we waiting for God to do something in us and through us?

My friends, what are we waiting for? God wanted to do some wonderful things in the hearts and minds of his disciples. The Spirit would make it possible. They just had to be willing to wait, be ready, and be open. Thank God they were. And he wants the same for us. Will we choose the same?

Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for May 22, 2022: Envelopes: \$710; Loose: \$264; Online Giving: \$504.37; Total \$1478.37; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under -282.8

CHURCH PROJECT GOAL \$52000—Last weekend contribution: \$231; Building Fund To Date: \$11,317.26

Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE We will be having a Church Rummage Sale this year. The date has not yet been decided on, but if you have anything you would like to donate please contact one of the following:

Tressa Powers at 620-260-6247 ; Jane Sullivan at 620-355-511 ; Gwen Waechter at 620-272-1030 ; Jana Jenkinson at 620-290-5201; Carolyn Robertson at 620-290-5569 . **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH!**

BUDGET SHOP We will be working at the Budget Shop on Saturday, June 4th and Tuesday, June 7th. Please keep these dates on your busy calendars and try to save a few hours to help us. We are open on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Any help will be greatly appreciated. And “Thank You” ahead of time. **PRIEST-**

LY ORDINATION With great joy, the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City announces the Ordination of Rev. Mr. John Stang to the ORDER OF PRESBYTER through the imposition of hands and the Holy Spirit by The most Reverend John B. Brungardt Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 10 AM Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe 3231 N. 14th St., Dodge City, KS. Reception to follow in the Holy Family Social Center

VOCATION VIEW Jesus promised his disciples that they would be clothed in power from God. As a follower of Jesus, you are also given that same promise. Pray for the grace to be a faithful witness. (Luke 24:46-53)

STEWARDSHIP The second reading today contains the somber warning that Jesus is coming soon and will bring to each person the reward that his or her conduct deserves. Has my stewardship of the blessings entrusted to me been such that I could respond joyfully, “Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!”? **PRAYER OF THE WEEK** (adapted from the Opening for the Solemnity of the Ascension) God our Father, our minds were prepared for the coming of your kingdom when you took Christ beyond our sight so that we might seek him in his glory. Make us joyful in his ascension. May we follow where he has led and find our hope in his glory, for he is Lord for ever. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - Luke 24:46-53)

“**It is written**” Nothing in the Old Testament clearly indicates that God’s chosen one (messiah) would suffer, die, and rise. Jesus must help his followers look at the scriptures with new eyes in order to see how his life and death have always been part of God’s plan (v.45). As God’s chosen one, Jesus has the authority to explain the true and often hidden meaning of God’s word. The holy Spirit will enable the disciples to share in this authoritative power.

Back to the temple The end of Luke’s Gospel connects to its beginning, where the stories surrounding the conception of John the Baptist and Jesus have a joyful tone. Parts of these infancy narratives are also set in the Jerusalem temple. At the end of Luke’s Gospel Jesus’ disciples are filled with great joy. They also praise God in the temple as they await the next stage of salvation history. In this Gospel the temple is a place of prophecy. In Acts it is a place of fulfillment.

Two Ascensions? Luke’s Gospel ends with Jesus’ ascension, but Acts begins with a similar event. Ancient writers weren’t concerned about such duplication. The repetition also further links Luke’s two books.

(www.oursundayreadings)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING (Acts 1:1-11)

The prologue Luke begins his second book according to literary custom. First he neatly summarizes Book One, his Gospel. Then he lays the groundwork for Book Two. Jesus’ mission ends in Book One; the church’s mission begins in Book Two, where the disciples preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 24:47). Theophilus (“friend/lover of God”) probably refers to Luke’s financial patron.

Restoring Israel When Jesus’ disciples ask if he’s going to restore Israel (v.6), they expect a physical change, like the end of Roman control. However, this isn’t the kingdom that Jesus came to establish. Throughout Acts Luke notes the peace, unity, and joy that prevailed in the new and growing church. Just how exactly the church spreads and when God’s kingdom will be complete isn’t for the disciples to know. Instead they must follow the Spirit, which brings about the kingdom they seek.

Empowerment The male disciples witness Jesus’ ascension, just as women were witnesses of the empty tomb. In both cases two men appeared to confirm what happened to Jesus and to redirect his followers. Once Jesus ascends he is no longer physically constrained, so he can be spiritually and sacramentally present everywhere and at all times. He can not only instruct but also empower his disciples to continue his mission. Just as the holy Spirit guided Jesus during his ministry, so the Spirit will now lead the disciples during theirs.

Ascension In both Jewish and Gentile writings revered people were sometimes shown being taken up into heaven. Their ascension was a metaphor for divine approval. Luke draws on this imagery to show not only that God approves of Jesus but that Jesus shares God’s power. • In the Book of the Prophet Daniel one like a Son of Man comes on the clouds of heaven to exercise judgment (Daniel 7:13-14) • The prophet Elijah is caught up to heaven in a whirlwind, after which his successor, Elisha, shares his power to speak in God’s name (2 Kings 2:9f). Jesus is like Elijah; his disciples are like Elisha.

Theological geography As well as making literary connections Luke links his two works geographically. Jesus goes up to Jerusalem, then up to heaven. The holy Spirit comes down from heaven upon the disciples, who then go forth from Jerusalem to the rest of the known world. (www.oursundayreadings)



VALUE THEM BOTH



In 2019, the Kansas Supreme Court issued a ruling that “discovered” a right to an abortion in the 1859 Kansas Constitution. This decision puts at risk all existing pro-life laws that protect women and their unborn children from the abortion industry. In January 2021, the Kansas Legislature stood up to the abortion industry to support women and babies. They voted to put the **Value Them Both** amendment on the ballot the next year. Now, Kansans will get the final say with a vote on the amendment in August of 2022. **Value Them Both** will allow Kansans to, once again, regulate the abortion industry.

Vote YES on August 2nd, 2022



VALUE THEM BOTH



En 2019, la Corte Suprema de Kansas emitió un fallo que “descubrió” el derecho al aborto en la Constitución de Kansas 1859. Esta decisión pone en riesgo todas las leyes provida existentes que protegen a las mujeres y a sus hijos por nacer de la industria del aborto. En enero 2021, la Legislatura de Kansas se enfrentó a la industria del aborto para apoyar a las mujeres y los bebés. Votaron para poner la enmienda Valóralos a Ambos en la boleta electoral el próximo año. Ahora, los habitantes de Kansas tendrán la última palabra con una votación sobre la enmienda en agosto 2022. **Value Them Both** (Valóralos a Ambos) permitirá a los habitantes de Kansas, una vez más, a regular la industria del aborto.

Vote Sí el 2 de agosto de 2022

As a Catholic, what do I need to know about racism?

Let me begin by saying, as a white Catholic, I knew almost nothing about the black Catholic experience until I heard Father Bryan Massingale speak at a conference. Massingale is a theologian, and also has to talk about racism a lot because he's black. As he says, when he was ordained, he only meant to become a priest. But he's obliged to be a *black* priest because that's what people see when they look at him. After hearing Massingale speak, I read his book on the church and racial justice (see below). Then I sat with him at another conference and got to talk with him more personally. He convinced me that I needed to read Cyprian Davis' history of contributions that black Catholics have made to this country—and how they were treated in return by country and church. Davis' history is an illuminating, breathtaking, and harrowing journey toward understanding. It made me realize that confronting the sin of racism takes time, education, and will—the same way building a society woven through with the thread of racism took time and teaching and deliberate decisions to create.

What becomes clear in an examination of the past and present is that racism is about everything in this country: poverty, education, health care, criminal justice, immigration, workers' rights, gender bias, the environment. Name an issue, and you discover there's a racial component to it that a white person may not have considered. This is what's meant by *white privilege*, a volatile term that a lot of people don't like to hear and don't properly understand. It doesn't imply that a white person is automatically richer, better educated, or has more career opportunities available to them—an obvious untruth. The privilege is that white people don't have to think about race. In every situation we face, we don't have to ask: what's the "white angle" on this? How will my skin likely affect my outcome here?

If you're black, Asian, Native American, or Latinx, you're never separated from the realities of race and what it may mean for you in any situation. And if you're white like me, you may be unaware that racism is a wound that harms us all. A spiritual danger, that is. We can't live contentedly knowing about Lazarus at the gate, sick and hungry and in need, without being complicit in his suffering. We can't live adjacent to injustice and not be summoned to speak out against it until it's defeated. Most white people I know don't "have it out" for people of color, and therefore don't see racism as a problem they have. We ALL have the problem. It's our problem, until it's no one's problem. (Prepare the Word—Camille)

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Hear me out

Pope Francis chose one word for the theme of this year's World Communications Day: "Listen!" Since the pandemic has spared no one, we each carry wounds that need to be acknowledged and healed. Dialogue isn't all about talking, the pope notes. At least half the time we should be listening, a task requiring humility in order to receive the truth of another person's experience. At the same time, the quest for truth involves the discernment of reliable information. We begin with the courage to listen, free of prejudice or agenda. Only then can we find our way together to the light. (Prepare the Word)

La Solemnidad de la Ascensión del Señor

Escúchame bien

El Papa Francisco eligió una palabra para el tema de la Jornada Mundial de las Comunicaciones de este año: "¡Escucha!" Dado que la pandemia no ha perdonado a nadie, cada uno de nosotros lleva heridas que deben ser reconocidas y sanadas. El diálogo no consiste sólo en hablar, señala el Papa. Al menos la mitad del tiempo debemos escuchar, una tarea que requiere humildad para recibir la verdad de la experiencia de otra persona. Al mismo tiempo, la búsqueda de la verdad implica el discernimiento de información confiable. Comencemos con el valor de escuchar, sin prejuicios ni agendas. Sólo entonces podremos encontrar juntos el camino hacia la luz.