Good News!

MAY 16, 2021, THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (B)

Acts 1:1-11/ Eph 1:17-23 / Mk 16:15-20

The message of this feast is that Jesus was taken up into heaven. Just what does this mean? Is heaven "up there" along with the moon and the stars? Cosmology would question that. Today's readings also say that Jesus is seated at God's right hand. Is this science, or is it a concrete image used to explain something more marvelous than words can describe?

Traditionally the place of honor is at the dignitary's right hand (decided by a righthander, no doubt). That Jesus sits at God's right hand means he enjoys the place of highest honor. The psalm response refers to this exalted place as the throne of God "Throne" suggests king. Thus, the readings tell us that Jesus, who is now exalted with divine honor, is above everything else. Finally, to say that heaven is above means that it is beyond earth, perhaps not in actual distance but in distinction and glory. Thus, Jesus' ascension means that the risen Lord is no longer limited by the restrictions of earth's space and time but now enjoys the highest honor with God everywhere and always.

This is the message the disciples were sent to preach. This is the message we also are sent to preach. But how are we to do it? By the way we live our lives. Emmanuel Célestin Cardinal Suhard of Paris (1874–1949) wrote: "To be a witness... means to live in such a way that one's life would not make sense if God did not exist." Do our lives show that we believe this?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Dear Padre

My neighbor, a fundamentalist Christian, said I won't be saved unless I accept Jesus as my personal savior. Didn't Jesus become my savior when I was baptized?

Your neighbor is probably referring to John 3:7, when Jesus said, "You must be born anew" (Common English Bible). Jesus is talking about a spiritual rebirth; we must have a spiritual birth in order to be saved. As you noted, Catholics believe this happens at baptism. In John 3:5, Jesus says, "Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom."

We are saved by the waters of baptism. But for Catholics, it's not merely a one-time event. We continue to accept or reject the salvation offered us by the decisions we make every day.

Your neighbor used the words "personal savior." Catholic Christians go even deeper through the sacraments. We develop and nurture a very personal relationship with Jesus by regularly receiving the Eucharist. In the sacrament of reconciliation, we admit we have sinned and ask Jesus to forgive us. And in the sacrament of confirmation, our relationship is "sealed" with the gift of the Spirit.

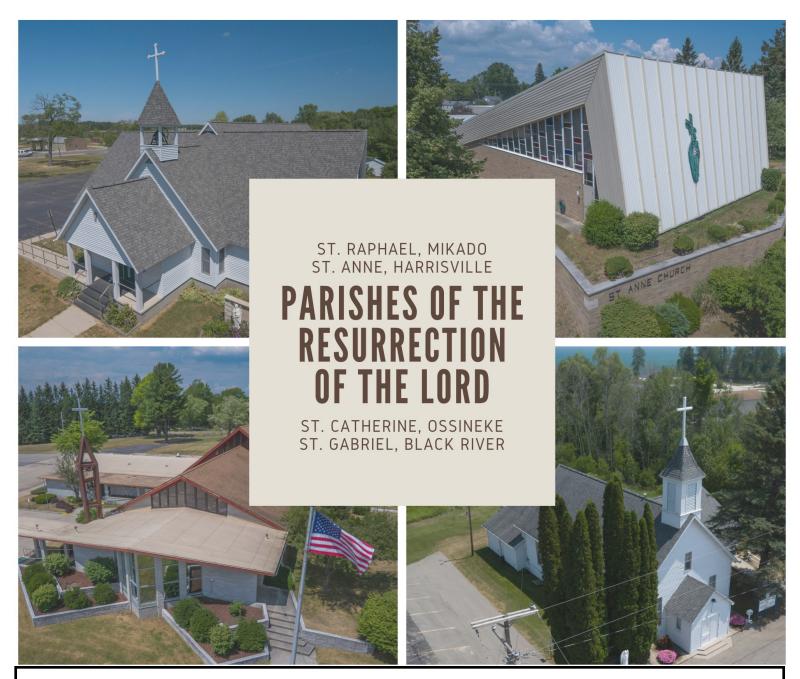
Many Catholics also celebrate the sacrament of marriage. The couple's personal relationship with Jesus is deepened through the love the couple shares.

So, tell your neighbor you are indeed saved by Jesus. And because you are saved, you deepen that relationship with Jesus by living a sacramental life.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR

Scripture readings for the week of May 17—23

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Acts 19:1-8	Acts 20:17-27	Acts 20:28-38	Acts 22:30;	Acts 25:13b-21	Acts 28:16-20,	Acts 2:1-11
Jn 16:29-33	Jn 17:1-11a	Jn 17:11b-19	23:6-11	Jn 21:15-19	Jn 21:20-25	1 Cor 12:3b-7,
			Jn 17:20-26			12-13
						Jn 20:19-23



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD — 16 May 2021

ADMINISTRATOR: Fr. Tyler Bischoff

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Or text: [rise] to 55321

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From the Priest's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Sunday we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven. We hear in the Gospel: "These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover" (Mk 16:15-20).

Jesus ascended to the Father so that the Advocate – the Holy Spirit – would be poured out on the whole world. As we await a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost let us keep these 'novena' days holy. Jesus in the Gospel talks about the signs that will accompany those who believe in His name. Why isn't that happening today? Or is it? Are we open to the power and working of the Holy Spirit in our lives or do we try to be 'self-sufficient' Christians – doing things on our own rather than relying on God. Have we been moved during this pandemic to be more hopeful in Christ or more fearful of death? It is time for us to be fire up by the Holy Spirit for evangelization. Our world is so thirsting for salvation and healing. Will you pick up the mantle and work to bring Jesus' name to your relative, friends, and neighbors?

As we prepare to welcome Fr. John to our parishes, I've included a link in our online newsletter and our parish website to an article that was in our Diocesan Faith magazine in the summer of 2016 about Fr. John's journey to our diocese for mission work while seeking healing from cancer. Please take a look there and read more about his story. Also, please keep Fr. John and I in your prayers during these weeks of transition. May the Holy Spirit be upon all of us for wisdom, understanding, patience, and joy!

God bless,



Please for pray for **Deacon Michael Linguar** who will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, May 22 at St. Mary Cathedral. Ordination will be live streamed at www.dioceseofgaylord.com

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISHES

SEE ONLINE CALENDAR FOR FULL DETAILS

Sunday, May 16, The Ascension of the Lord
Rosary is prayed half an hour before each Mass.
4:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Raphael
Deceased Members of
St. Raphael Sodality
6:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Catherine
Tom Kane
9:00 am Mass, St. Catherine
Parishioners of St. Anne, St. Catherine,
St. Gabriel & St. Raphael
11:00 am Mass, St. Anne
Ted & Kelly Kruttlin

Monday, May 17 9:00 am Mass, St. Anne All who suffer from illness

Tuesday, May 18, St. John I
9:00 am Mass, St. Anne
Our parishes' Sacramental Preparation
Students
9:30 am Adoration/Confession St. Anne

Wednesday, May 19,
9:00 am Mass,
Elbridge Dunckel
5-6 pm Adoration/Confession St. Catherine
6:30 pm Adult Faith Formation St. Catherine
6:30 pm First Communion/Confirmation Prep.
St. Catherine

Thursday, May 20, St. Bernardine of Siena 9:00 am Mass, St. Catherine For an increase in religious vocation 9:30 am Adoration St. Catherine

Friday, May 21, St. Christopher Magallanes & Companions
NO MASS

Saturday, May 22, Saint Rita of Cascia 3:30 pm Confession St. Raphael

Sunday, May 23, Pentecost Sunday
Rosary is prayed half an hour before each Mass.
4:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Raphael
Jill Scheller & Jerry Quin
6:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Catherine
Parishioners of St. Anne, St. Catherine,
St. Gabriel & St. Raphael
9:00 am Mass, St. Catherine
Lawrence & Ruth Gunderson
11:00 am Mass, Confirmation & 1st Communion
St. Anne

For all who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Communion

PARISH STEWARDSHIP



"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Pt 4:10). Thanks you for all the sacrifices you make as we all labor in God's vineyard to bring the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our neighbors. 10% of everything received is donated to support charities near and far.

	St. Anne	St. Catherine	St. Gabriel	St. Raphael
Needed each week	\$2,144.23	\$2,593.95	\$555.10	\$740.38
Needed year-to-date	\$96,490.35	\$116,727.75	\$24,979.50	\$33,317.10
Actual year-to-date	\$99,213.15	\$122,347.98	\$23,531.57	\$34,681.26
May 9		\$2,690.00	\$540.00	
Other Collections:		\$112.00	\$5.00	

Pray for Our Priests & Religious

Sunday—Rev. John Ladd
Monday—Rev. Scott Lawler
Tuesday—Vocations to the Priesthood and all
Religious life
Wednesday—Rev. Basil Lek
Thursday—Rev. Donald Libby
Friday—Rev. William Lipscomb
Saturday— All Seminarians

2021 Catholic Services Appeal: This is an opportunity for us to unite with all Catholics in the diocese and in the universal Church to share our blessings and to show our care for one another. The CSA provides the opportunity to act together as a family and support programs and services no single individual or parish could offer by itself. Your gift is very important. Every gift, regardless of the size, is vital to the success of the Appeal, so please be as generous as possible with your pledge. Please drop your envelope with your pledge card in the collection basket, mail to parish office, or go online to give at www.dioceseofgaylord.org Thank you in advance for your generosity. Parish Goals: St. Catherine-\$25,282.00; St. Gabriel—\$6,415.00; St. Anne—\$19,895.00; St. Raphael—\$9,367.00.

Pledged:	% of Target	
St. Catherine—\$10,275.00	41%	
St. Gabriel— \$3,554.00	55%	
St. Anne - \$9,245.00	46%	
St. Raphael—\$5,190.00	55%	

Happy Anniversary to *Ralph and Linda Bolda* who will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, May 22.

If anyone who is homebound would like to go to Confession, receive the Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion please contact the parish office to set up an appointment. Fr. Tyler will be available most afternoons for home visits.

SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE: As more and more visitors and snowbirds return to our area, please be advised of our summer Mass schedule: The 6:30 PM Saturday Vigil Mass which has been at St. Catherine Parish will be transferred back to St. Gabriel Parish beginning May 29th (Memorial Day Weekend) through Labor Day Weekend. Beginning June 2nd the 9 AM daily Mass which had been held at St. Gabriel will be celebrated at St. Catherine.

St. Catherine Lector Schedules for June, July & August. If there are any dates that you are not available please contact the parish office by May 26th.

CSA 2021 THANK YOU – to everyone who has already made their pledge towards our parish targets for the Diocese of Gaylord Catholic Service Appeal 2021. If you have not already made your pledge, please drop off your card and pledge in the collection basket or mail into the parish office. If you need a pledge card, contact the parish office and they will be happy to mail you one. There are some blank cards available in the back of the churches.

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT – On YouTube, the parish website, and messages on Evangelus, join Fr. Tyler starting Friday, May 14th praying for nine days (novena) for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our parishes. Also, keep in your prayers the children who will be receiving their First Holy Communion and Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday.