

# 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?**

**Y**our 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*  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



PHOTOGRAPHEE EU / SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*The Ascension tells us that Jesus, although he ascended to heaven to dwell gloriously at the right hand of the Father, is still and is always among us: this is the source of our strength, our perseverance, and our joy, from the presence of Jesus among us with the strength of the Holy Spirit.*

ASCENSION SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020



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## Calendar

- Monday**  
MAY 17  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 19:1-8  
Jn 16:29-33
- Tuesday**  
MAY 18  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 20:17-27  
Jn 17:1-11a
- Wednesday**  
MAY 19  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 20:28-38  
Jn 17:11b-19
- Thursday**  
MAY 20  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11  
Jn 17:20-26
- Friday**  
MAY 21  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 25:13b-21  
Jn 21:15-19
- Saturday**  
MAY 22  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31  
Jn 21:20-25
- Sunday**  
MAY 23  
*Pentecost Sunday*  
Acts 2:1-11  
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13  
or Gal 5:16-25  
Jn 20:19-23  
or Jn 15:26-27;  
16:12-15

**Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?**  
Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit [ScrupulousAnonymous.org](http://ScrupulousAnonymous.org).



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 16, 2021

*Ascension of the Lord (B)*  
Acts 1:1-11  
Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13  
Mk 16:15-20

## Up in Heaven

**T**he 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 right-hander, 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

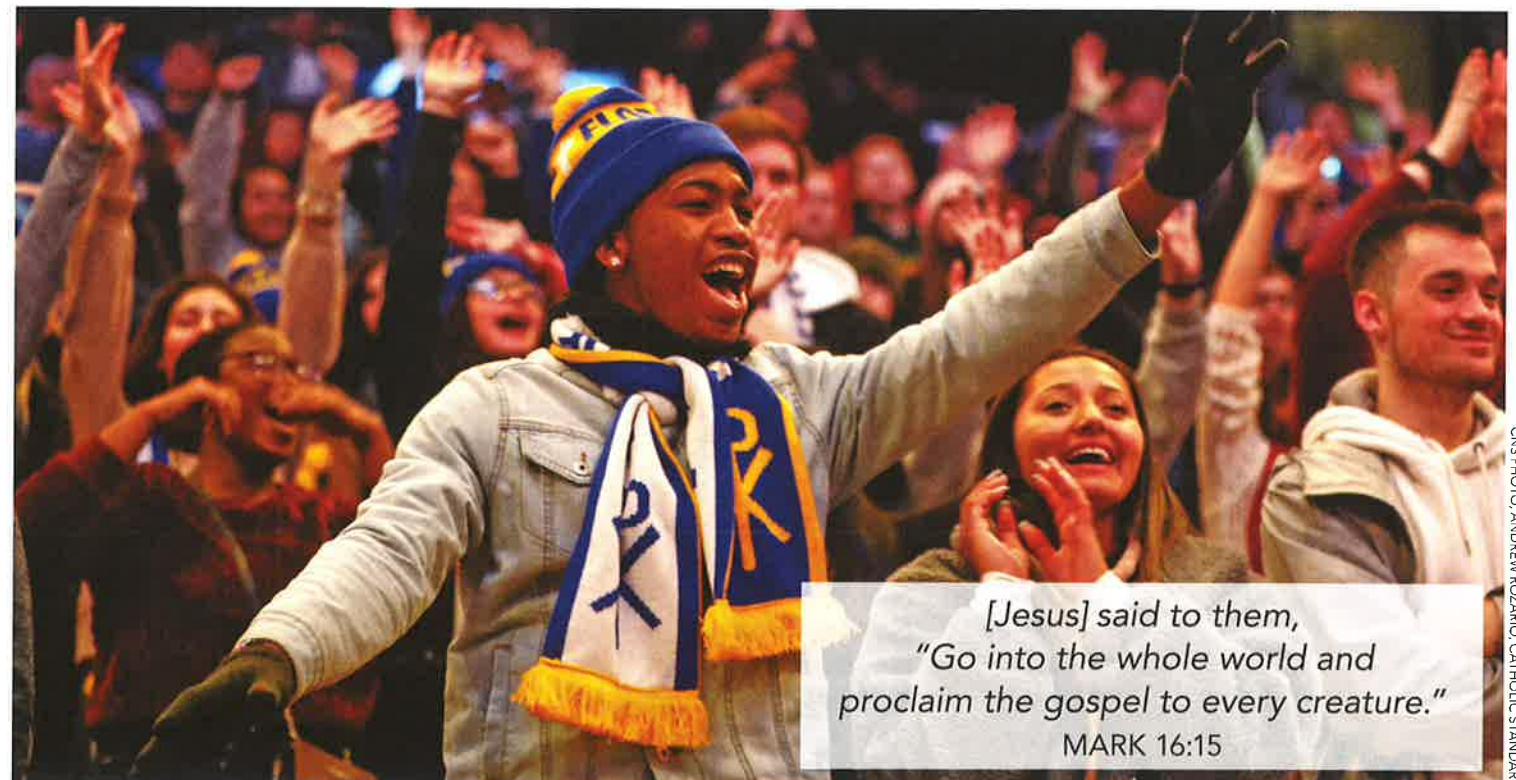
restrictions of earth's space and time but now enjoys the highest honor with God everywhere and always.

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*

### FOR *Reflection*

- \* Thank God for people in your life who mirror God's generosity, forgiveness, and kindness to you.
- \* Think about ways you might mirror God's goodness to others.



*[Jesus] said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."*  
MARK 16:15

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Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church  
Bridgeport, NE 69336  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese  
Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336



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Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

Christian love resulting in the unity of all Christians is the main theme of today's Scripture lessons. The first reading, taken from Acts, tells us how the eleven apostles as one unit, relying on the power of God, elected Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot. This incorporation was an action done by the whole community under the chairmanship of Peter. They chose Matthias by lot — by prayer submitting the process to the power of God and in Faith, accepted the result as His will. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 103) thanks God forgiving our transgressions, putting them "as far [from us] as the east is from the west."

The second reading, taken from John's first epistle to the Church, emphasizes the centrality of love in our Christian living. The apostle deals with disunity in the Church by teaching the members the basis of true Christian love and unity. For John, love and unity among Christians is the first and most important witness for believers to bear. In today's Gospel passage, taken from Jesus' high-priestly prayer, Jesus prays in particular, for those disciples who are sharing the meal with him. The core of Jesus' message is love, a love that is to be manifested not only in nice-sounding words but, more convincingly, in the genuine acts of love that will bind his disciples together into one community. The world cannot be evangelized by competing Churches, and that is why Jesus prayed that his disciples might be as fully one as he and the Father are one.

We need to understand, appreciate, cooperate and pray: The denominations are a reality. There is no use in our blaming each other for the historical events which caused these divisions in Christ's Body. What we can do is to learn sympathetically about the doctrinal similarities and differences to our own beliefs among Christian believers, to shed prejudices and suspicion about each other, to learn to love each person we encounter, and to cooperate with the members of all denominations in all ways possible. We need to go beyond friendship and cooperation: The unity for which we pray is not merely a "comfortable" notion of friendliness and cooperation. It requires also our willingness to dispense with competition between us.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
**Fr. C. P. Varghese**  
Pastor

**SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK**

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
05/17	Monday	No Mass Today		
05/18	Tuesday	No Mass Today		
05/19	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
05/20	Thursday	No Mass Today		
05/21	Friday	No Mass Today		
05/22	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Chris Alhm
05/23	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	Immorality to End
05/23	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	People of God

**ALL SOULS**  
**617 P STREET**  
**BRIDGEPORT NE 69336**

**SUNDAY MASS**  
**OBLIGATION**  
**returns to**  
**Grand Island Diocese,**  
**On May 22/23, 2021**

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$825.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$800.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1625.00
MASS STIPEND	
CATHOLIC HOME	\$100.00
TOTAL	\$1725.00
HEAT/AC FUND	\$600.00
WEITZEL MEMORIAL	\$25.00
BUILDING FUND	\$310.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
DONATIONS	\$3615.00
BALANCE	\$2,431.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



**SACRED HEART**  
**1003 AVE B**  
**BAYARD NE 69334**

**SUNDAY MASS**  
**OBLIGATION**  
**returns to**  
**Grand Island Diocese,**  
**On May 22/23, 2021**

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$695.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$37.00
SUBTOTAL	\$732.00
MASS STIPEND	\$410.00
ASCENSION	\$20.00
TOTAL	\$1162.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
DONATIONS	\$2915.00
BALANCE	\$1,992.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



**SAINT MARY'S**  
**718 FRANCIS ST**  
**DALTON NE 69131**

**SUNDAY MASS**  
**OBLIGATION**  
**returns to**  
**Grand Island Diocese,**  
**On May 22/23, 2021**

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$260.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$10.00
SUBTOTAL	\$270.00
CATHOLIC HOME	\$20.00
ASCENSION	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$340.00
BUILDING FUND	\$20.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
DONATIONS	\$6439.00
BALANCE	(\$303.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

