

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2017

Vol. XXXIII, No. 21

Keeping Jesus' Commandments

Jesus' commandments entail much more than doing this or avoiding that. We keep Jesus' commandments by living His way of life—a life characterized by deep care for others. His commandments are to love as He loved, believe as He believed, live as He lived. His commandments are the most self-engaging and challenging of all! How comforting, then, when Jesus says, "I will not leave you orphans." No, we are not orphans; the risen Jesus comes to us. How? In "the Spirit of truth."



Living Liturgy

Pastoral Council Election Forms

The election of four new members to the Pastoral Council is scheduled for June 3-4 in time for the first meeting of the new fiscal year in July. Biography forms for candidates wishing to run for a council seat are now available at Church entrances and also in the Church Office. These completed forms are due in the Church Office **before 4:00 p.m. by Monday, May 22.** Candidates' biographies will be in the bulletin May 27-28. The election will be held at weekend Masses June 3-4. Voting will continue through Thursday, June 8, in the Church Office. Announcement of the results will be at the June 10-11 Masses.

Right To Life Program

Alex Seghrs, Youth Program Co-Director of the Right-to-Life, will present an informational talk about abortion in the Parish Hall Sunday, May 21, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. All are invited to attend.



Altar Flowers Donation

The beautiful flower arrangements adorning the altar this weekend were donated in memory of **Mark Symons** by his loving wife Monty Symons.

Just One Hour A Month!

Are you willing to spend one hour a month helping to clean the Lord's house? I am looking for two regular workers plus substitutes to help vacuum. If you are interested in this ministry, please call Audrey Ruiz at 601-799-



4527.

Offertory Giving

Philip understood very well Jesus' words: "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." We learn of Philip's devotion to prayer, evangelizing and healing in the region of Samaria that was made up of communities that would not be very receptive to the followers of Jesus. Philip is a model steward, living his discipleship day by day in the Lord without being obstructed by feelings of what cost his actions might entail. Good stewards summon the courage to proclaim the Lord and to serve Him by ministering to others. As an Easter people, eager to rejoice in the Lord, it is important to reflect on how we are

Weekly Budgeted Need	\$7,100.00
Last Sunday May 14	
Envelopes (Adult)	\$5,964.00
Loose	<u>709.00</u>
Total	\$6,673.00
Progress Report	
Cumulative Budget	\$326,600.00
Cumulative Income	<u>332,468.68</u>
Ahead	\$5,868.68
Second Collection	
(Building Fund)	\$1,882.00

living out our own commitment to discipleship.



Fellowship Sunday

The members of the Knights of Columbus will serve coffee and doughnuts after all of the Masses next Sunday, May 28. Please stop by the Parish Hall to enjoy tasty treats and great fellowship. There will be no Fellowship Sunday next month due to the VBS dinner.

Office Closed Memorial Day

The Church Office will close Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day. It will reopen Tuesday, May 30, at 1:00 p.m.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

Christians in Africa—"That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice and peace."

A True Friend

"People are only complete when they have a true friend to understand them, to share all their passions and sorrows with and to stand by them throughout

Mass Intentions Requested

Monday, May 22

(Act 16:11-15; Jn 15:26—16:4a)

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, May 23

(Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11)

8:00 a.m. Debbie Goodey

Wednesday, May 24

(Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; Jn 16:12-15)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, May 25

(Acts 18:1-8; Jn 16:16-20)

8:00 a.m. Paul Burkhardt

Friday, May 26

(Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23)

8:00 a.m. Agnes Marchese

Saturday, May 27

(Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28)

5:00 p.m. Maurice Bersuder Sr., Capt. Pete Vogt, Bill & Marie Madary, Jacques P. Damare, Eugene Blanchard Jr., Shirley Cavalier, Jerry Templet Sr., Rosemary Poche, Byron Banks, Tina Mangano, Ken & Adele Salzer, Louis Mangano Sr. & Jr., Roszczynialski Family, Lee & Yvonne Tracey, Joseph D'Antoni Jr., Roger Doucette, Imelda Gares

Sunday, May 28 Ascension of the Lord

(Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20)

7:00 a.m. Elfier and Eula Gauthreaux

8:30 a.m. Katsy Fandal, Andrew Lambert, Margaret Clayton, Agnes Marchese, Ronnie & Betty Lambert, Fr. Burnick Terrebonne, Baby Isabella, Ben Spansel, Antonians & Benefactors

10:30 a.m. Parishioners



WEEKLY EVENTS

Legion of Mary—Monday 7:00 p.m. in St. Anthony Hall

Tuesday Morning Rosary—Tuesday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and the St. Jude Novena in St. Anthony Hall

RCIA Tracks I & II—Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in classrooms

Apologetics—Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. Topic this week—“Apologetics Primer and So-la Scriptura (Bible alone)”

Patriotic Rosary—Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Church

Women's Spirituality—Sunday, May 28, at 11:30 a.m. in St. Anthony Hall

SPP Stained Glass Window Prints

Father Bernie, the original owner of the paintings, has authorized the sale of prints of the paintings of the stained glass window prints of Sts. Peter and Paul behind the church altar. The paintings were completed by local artist and parishioner Diane Bourgeois and were auctioned at the 2016 Summer Soiree. The proceeds from this sale will go toward the needed funds for the 2018 Youth Washington Trip. The prints are available for purchase at \$20.00 each or both saints for \$35.00. Those interested should contact the Church office during regular office hours or Danny Bourgeois at 504-376-3701.

Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp, which burns on the Altar 24 hours a day, seven days a week (except Good Friday), is dedicated to the memory of a deceased person, family or group for that week. For a donation of \$10.00, you can have someone memorialized. Contact the Church Office at 985-863-7935, extension 3.

Holy Spirit Novena

St. John of the Cross will hold its Holy Spirit Novena beginning Friday, May 26, through Saturday, June 3. St. John of the Cross Catholic Church is located at 61030 Brier Lake Drive, Lacombe. Archbishop Gregory Aymond will open the novena on May 26. Praise, worship and confessions will begin each night at 6:30 p.m. and Mass at 7:00 p.m. A variety of guest priests and musical groups has been scheduled. For more information, please call Deacon Ricky Suprean at 504-577-6652.



Tabernacle Lamp

This week the Tabernacle lamp in the Sanctuary burns in memory of **Mark Symons** from his loving wife Monty Symons.



Pray For The Sick

Valdeana Bauer, Audrey Bonnet, Diana Bradshaw, JoAnn Brewin, Sonia Braud, George & Wanda Butko, May Caballero, Patricia Cuccia, Dotsy Chedville, Deacon Pat Downey, Steve Dunn, Marcelle Ernwein, Carroll Fourcade, Julia Drake, Jeanette Gomez, Deacon John Howard, Virgie Hurstell, Allen & Joan Jagneaux, Maria Kalcic, Gloriette Kiern, Elizabeth Kittel, Cheryl Martin, Shirley Matthews, Vito Montalabano, Jessie O'Dell, Cheryl Poiroux, Ed Roszczynialski, Adele Salzer, Cathy Smith

Congratulations!

Youth from our parish celebrated First Eucharist with family, friends and fellow parishioners on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. We congratulate them and ask you to keep them in your prayers. Those who received the Church's second Sacrament of Initiation are:



Nicholas Paul Adelfio
Marilyn Mae Ann Bayona
John Paul Beech
Monnica Maranda Miller
Tyrese DeWayne Nelson
Connor Michael Symons

May these children go forth as shining witnesses to the Lord's Light and Life. A special "Thank You" goes out to everyone who made this celebration both memorable and special.

Congratulations To 2017 Graduates



We would like to congratulate all high school and college seniors who have completed the requirements for graduation and are now preparing to move on to even greater things. You will now have the opportunity to apply the lessons learned to your higher education goals or to your chosen careers. Your hard work and determination have accomplished much. Good job!! We are especially proud of you for understanding the importance of an education and not giving up when the going got tough. May God continue to bless you and your future endeavors!

Hannan Summer Camps

Archbishop Hannan High School will host a variety of summer camps. They include Little Hawk Day Camp; Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball Camps; Ceramics and Painting; and Video Production. For information, contact Camp Director Ashley at summercamp@hannanhigh.org or visit <http://www.hannanhigh.org/campus-life/summer-camps>

In Memoriam

With deep sympathy we inform you of the deaths of **Robert Reinecke**, husband of Diane Reinecke and **Benjamin Spansel**, grandson of Tom and Pat Cuccia, who were called by God to eternal reward. Please remember **Robert and Ben** and all those who mourn them in your Masses and prayers.

Vacation Bible School



Come join us this summer at Vacation Bible School. Our theme this year is "Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose." This FREE one-week program is filled with incredible Bible learning experiences that kids see, hear, touch and even taste! . Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool Bible songs and tasty treats are just a few of the activities all children ages 3—11 will experience.

Vacation Bible School Registration is now open and will close **Sunday, May 28**. This year's program will be held June 26-30 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On Saturday, July 1, a closing celebration and covered dish dinner will be held in the Parish Hall at 6:00 p.m. after Mass.

The program is open to children ages 3 (must be potty-trained) through 11 years old. Please use one registration form **per person**. Registration forms are available in the CCD Office, Church Office or at Church entrances. Return the completed form(s) to the Church Office, drop it in the collection basket at Mass or the dropbox outside the Church Office door **NO LATER** than **SUNDAY, MAY 28**.

Kids 12 and older can register as Youth Helpers.

Adults need to register as Adult Volunteers and must have completed the Safe Environment course.

Registration forms are at Church entrances.

LIME GREEN—VBS Student 3-11

ORANGE—Youth Helper (**Must** be 12 or older)

YELLOW—Age 18 and Adult Volunteers

Please complete the form and return it **NO LATER** than **SUNDAY, MAY 28**.

Lord, Teach Me To Pray

The prayer series "Lord, Teach Me to Pray—Part 1 Praying Christian Virtues" begins Tuesday, June 6, at 10:00 a.m. at 1102 Dale Street, Slidell 70461. You will be introduced to the meditative and contemplative way of prayer devised by St. Ignatius of Loyola, enabling you to further develop your prayer life and intimacy with Jesus. To register, call Nancy Henderson at 504-231-9830 or Janice Tull at 504-460-2506.

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St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi

It would be easy to concentrate on the mystical experiences God gave this saint, rather than on her life. In fact, it would be difficult to do differently, so overwhelming were those gifts from God. Temptation for many modern readers would be to see little to identify with in these graces and walk away without seeing more. Another temptation would be to become so fascinated with these stories that one would neglect to dig deeper and learn the real lessons of her life.

But Mary Magdalene de Pazzi is not a saint because she received ecstasies and graces from God. Many have received visions, ecstasies, and miracles without becoming holy. She is a saint because of her response to those gifts, a lifelong struggle to show love and gratitude to the God who gave her those graces. Mary Magdalene saw her ecstasies as evidence of a great fault in her, not a reward for holiness. She told one sister that God did not give this sister the same graces "because you do not need them in order to serve him." In her eyes, God gave these gifts to those who were too weak to become holy. That Mary Magdalene received these gifts proved, in her mind, how unworthy she was.

Born in Florence on April 2, 1566, Mary Magdalene was taught mental prayer at nine years old at the request of her mother. Her introduction at this age to this form of prayer which involves half an hour of meditation did not seem to be unusual. And yet today we often believe children are incapable of all but the simplest rote prayers.

At twelve years old she experienced her first ecstasy while looking at a sunset which left her trembling and speechless. With this foundation in prayer and in mystical experience, it is not surprising that she wanted to enter a contemplative monastery of the Carmelite Order. She chose the monastery of St. Mary's of the Angels because the nuns took daily Communion, unusual at the time.

In 1583 she had her second mystical experience when the other nuns saw her weeping before the crucifix as she said, "O Love, you are neither known nor loved."

Mary Magdalene's life is a contradiction of our instinctive thought that joy only comes from avoiding suffering. A month after being refused early religious profession, she fell deathly ill. Fearing for her life, the convent had her professed from a stretcher at the altar. After that she experienced forty days of ecstasies that coexisted with her suffering. Joy from the graces God gave were mixed with agony as her illness grew worse. In one of her experiences Jesus took her heart and hid it in His own, telling her he "would not return it until it is wholly pure and filled with pure love." She did not recover from her illness until told to ask for the intercession of Blessed Mary Bagnesi.

What her experiences and prayer had given her was a familiar, personal relationship with Jesus. Her conversations with Jesus often take on a teasing, bantering tone that shocks those who have a formal, fearful image of God. For example, at the end of her forty days of graces, Jesus offered her a crown of flowers or a crown of thorns. No matter how often she chose the crown of thorns, Jesus kept teasingly pushing the crown of flowers to her. When He accused her, "I called and you did not care," she answered back, "You did not call loudly enough" and told Him to shout His love.

She learned to regret the insistence on the crown of

thorns. We might think it is easy to be holy if God is talking to you every day, but few of us could remain on the path with the five year trial that followed her. Before this trial, Jesus told her, "I will take away not the grace but the feeling of grace. Though I will seem to leave you I will be closer to you." This was easy for her to accept in the midst of ecstasy but, as she said later, she had not experienced it yet. At the age of nineteen she started five years of dryness and desolation in which she was repelled by prayer and tempted by everything. She referred to her heart as a pitch-dark room with only a feeble light shining that only made the darkness deeper. She was so depressed she was found twice close to suicide. All she could do to fight back was to hold onto prayer, penance and serving others even when it appeared to do no good.

Her lifelong devotion to Pentecost can be easily understood because her trial ended in ecstasy in 1590. At this time she could have asked for any gifts but she wanted two in particular: to look on any neighbor as good and holy without judgment and to always have God's presence before her.

Far from enjoying the attention her mystical experiences brought her, she was embarrassed. For all her days, she wanted a hidden life and tried everything she could to achieve it. When God commanded her to go barefoot as part of her penance, she simply cut the soles out of her shoes so no one would see her as different from the other nuns. If she felt an ecstasy coming on, she would hurry to finish her work and go back to her room. She learned to see the notoriety as part of God's will. When teaching a novice to accept God's will, she told her, "I wanted a hidden life but, see, God wanted something quite different for me."

Some still think it was easy for her to be holy with all the help from God. Yet when she was asked once why she was weeping before the cross, she answered that she had to force herself to do something right that she did not want to do. It is true when a sister criticized her for acting so different, she thanked her, "May God reward you! You have never spoken truer words!" but she told others it hurt her quite a bit to be nice to someone who insulted her.

Mary Magdalene's wisdom and love led to her appointment to many important positions at the convent including mistress of novices. She did not hesitate to be blunt in guiding the women under her care when their spiritual life was at stake. When one of the novices asked permission to pretend to be impatient so the other novices would not respect her so much, Mary Magdalene's answer shook this novice out of this false humility: "What you want to pretend to be, you already are in the eyes of the novices. They do not respect you nearly as much as you like to think."

Mary Magdalene's life offers a great challenge to all those who think that the best penance comes from fasting and physical discomfort. Though she fasted and wore old clothes, she chose the most difficult penance of all by pretending to like the things she did not like.

In 1604, headaches and paralyzation confined her to bed. Her nerves were so sensitive that she could not be touched without agonizing pain. Ever humble, she took the fact that her prayers were not granted as a sure sign that God's will was being done. For three years she suffered, before dying on May 25, 1607, at the age of forty-one.