

MAY 16, 2021

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Text to Give: (833) 938-2034

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Rob Adams

Deacon: Dcn. Joe Jacobs

Director of Religious Education:

Sr. Amy Westbrook, 614-282-2103

Administrative Assistant: Becky Griffith

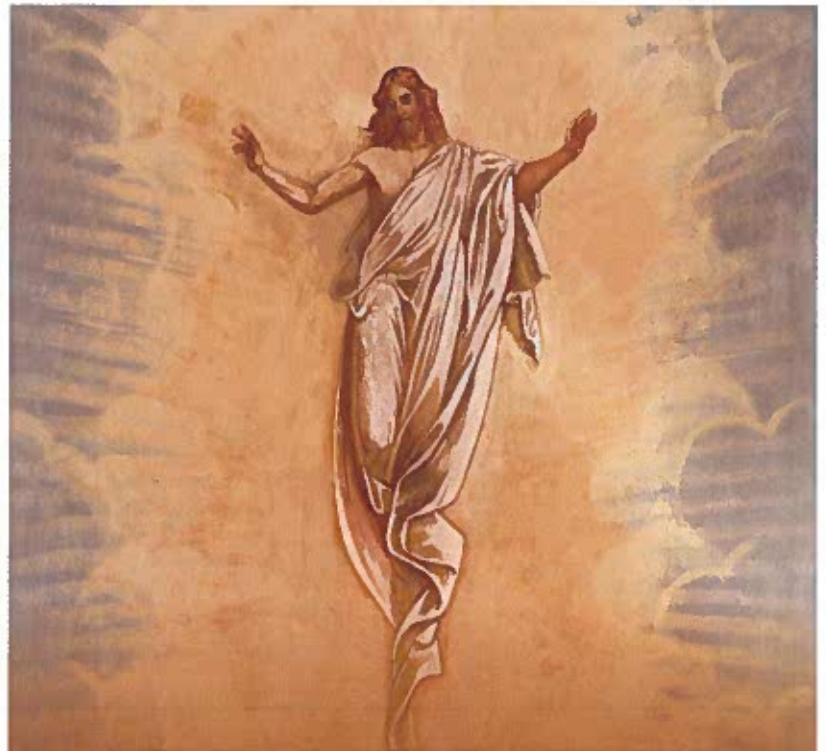
Custodian: Lisa Scalf

137 Bryan Street
Pikeville, Kentucky 41501
Phone: 606-437-6117

Website: www.stfrancispikeville.org

Email: stfrancischurch@cdlex.org

App: St Francis Pikeville



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Jesus said to his disciples, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." - Mk 16:15-16A



From the Pastor's Desk....

Sunday Offertory

5-9-2021.....	\$2,112
Weekly Budget.....	\$2,700
Surplus/ <u>Deficit</u>	\$588
YTD	
Offertory.....	\$127,767
Budget.....	\$121,500
<u>Surplus/Deficit</u>	\$6,267
5-9-2021 Building Fund	\$530

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: We currently owe **\$77,488** on the new church building. Thank you for your continued support of the Church Building Fund.



Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:17-23
Mark 16:15-20

Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in his name, reminding them that he is always present through his Spirit. Having ascended to his Father amid cries of gladness, we are to be his witnesses for we have been gifted with his Spirit of wisdom and revelation. Let us, therefore, live in a manner worthy of the call we have received.

Readings may be found in the Saint Augustine Hymnal Number 967

Happy Ascension Sunday!

Personally, I am not in favor of celebrating the Ascension on Sunday. The Scriptures say that the Apostles spent 9 days praying after the Ascension and before Pentecost. In our diocese, we move the Ascension to Sunday to make it easier on the faithful, which is a good thing! But let's not lose sight of the connection between our feast days and the New Testament!

I will be taking some vacation time this coming week, so we won't have Mass until Friday, May 21st. If you need a priest during this week, please call St. Martha's in Prestonsburg and they will do their best to help!

Fr. Rob

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is a Eucharistic family of Catholic Christians. Nourished by the sacraments and guided by the Holy Spirit, we proclaim Jesus Christ and the Good News of salvation. Following the spirit of the Gospel, St. Francis parish provides continuous religious education and spiritual growth for all parishioners, varied opportunities for social enrichment, and support for the needs of families in Pike County, our nation and the world.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, May 15	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Drew and Lexie Dreggors
Sunday, May 16	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, May 17	No Mass	
Tuesday, May 18	No Mass	
Wednesday, May 19	No Mass	
Thursday, May 20	No Mass	
Friday, May 21	Noon Mass	For the Priest Himself
Saturday, May 22	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Ronaldo Tanael
Sunday, May 23	10:30 am Mass	For the People

Parish Calendar & Announcements

BABY BOTTLES: The annual baby bottle drive to assist The Appalachian Pregnancy Care Center is here. Please take a bottle and return it with a donation by Fathers Day, June 20. Thank you for your continued support!

ST FRANCIS DAILY MESSAGE - Monday through Friday you can hear a message from Fr. Rob highlighting that days readings. The app can be found in the app store on your device. Search for St Francis Pikeville.

COMMUNITY DINNER: The next Community Dinner to feed the needy in our area is Tuesday, May 25 at 5:30 pm at the First Christian Church. Food donations are due to the church by May 22. Thanks for your continued support!

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

God remains where love remains. When a believer realizes without doubt that God is love, it is a powerful moment. Being able to place our resurrection trust in this fundamental truth allows us to experience God's presence in all of our experiences: the good and the bad, positive and negative, life enriching and destructive events we encounter. It is no wonder that St. Paul so accurately tells us that it is love that endures all things and lasts. How can God not endure or ever fade away? Because he is God, Jesus also guarded and protected his disciples as the endearing shepherd who always had their best interest at heart.

If we become too immersed in the world, we lose touch with these deeper realities. We can become so preoccupied with preserving what we have created or think that we need, forgetting that it is not building our city that really matters, but God's. Jesus clearly did not belong to the world and, by virtue of his resurrection, he tries to get us to understand that we do not either. The truth brings us to other worldly, more divine places and takes our eyes off of the concerns that often captivate our fears and storm our senses.

Life can easily erode our faith. Think of your life over the last couple of weeks. What challenged your faith and distracted your divine glance? Even being overly stimulated with technology and social media can erode

our sense of confidence and cause us to forget who we really are. We need to distance ourselves from the world in order to experience the joy that Christ offers. The world will never like the word of God. It is too challenging and too perplexing. The world mistakenly believes that it can survive on its own. It is a mistaken judgment that may cost people a lot in the end. It is all so very simple: God remains when we love one another. If in all the business of our lives and all that each day brings, the good and the bad, we follow the call and path of love, we will walk with God. There is nothing to fear and anxiety finds no home. ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Where do you get the best night's sleep? For me, it's in my own bed. I don't even really know why. There's something about the texture of the sheets, the groove I've worn in the pillow. The mattress seems to recognize my shape. I've got a job that sees me traveling often and I've stayed in plenty of nice places. But there's just no sleep like the sleep you get at home.

There's a feeling that we have when we're at home. Our bodies seem to recognize it when we walk in the door. There's a relaxation that kicks in, a peace that falls over us. I think that's what Heaven will be like. It won't be pleasure or happiness — those words aren't enough to describe what it feels like to be at home, are they? It's more than that.

If you ever wonder why there is pain in this world, it's because we're not at home.

That's not to say we don't belong here. Through God's mercy, this beautiful world is where we live out our earthly existence, and those existences can be filled with amazing relationships and profound experiences. In fact, we might enjoy our time here so much that we don't want to leave.

But there's a reason this life has so many things that don't make sense: loss, fear, anger, sickness, hatred. It's because we weren't made for this place. For our souls, it's like a never-ending night in a hotel bed.
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PRAYER REQUEST



Bryce Wolfe, friend of Lisa Scalf

Jerry and Ann Bilicek

Gloria Wagner (Mother of Linda Justice and Susan Chafin)

Steve McCoy, stroke, Lisa Scalf's Cousin

Jim Goss

Ron Saros

Dave Such, Mollie Dawahare Such's father in law

Cindy and Christy Hedinger

Tedric Evangelista, Gloria Newsom's cousin, cancer

Rita Scheuer

Kenny Blackburn

Alpha Carroll, Signature Health Care

Dr. Harry Altman

Carol Rashella

Margarita Gomez

Fran Sykes

Peggy Brown, Jennifer Brown Day's grandmother

VOTIVE CANDLES:

Suggested donation: Large votives \$3.00 and small votives \$0.50

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY- THE WORLD OF FINANCE - Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.



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

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 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*

CNS PHOTO, ANDREW ROZARIO, CATHOLIC STANDARD

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
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



PHOTOGRAPHEE.U / 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



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.