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

SOLARSEVEN/SHUTTERSTOCK

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

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?***

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St. Joseph Catholic Church

204 North Main Street, Leitchfield, KY 42754 www.stjosephch.org
Office Hours: 8am to 4pm Mon-Fri Office 270-259-3028 Rectory 270-259-3028

Pastoral Staff

Pastor - Fr. Tony Bickett 270-259-3028
ftonyb57@ymail.com

Deacon - T.J. Dennison / Pastoral Associate
270-302-6257 tj.stjoseph@gmail.com

Deacon - Bob Higbee 270-589-7316
rhigbee95@gmail.com

Deacon - Dale DePoyster 270-765-8754
dale54@live.com

Office Manager - Missy Hart 270-259-3028
stjoseph1840@yahoo.com

Social Media & Youth Group - Paloma Culver
270-605-8957 pfalconstjoe@gmail.com

Religious Education - Kim Smith 270-589-1789 kim.smith@grayson.kyschools.us

Music - Meredythe Lee 270-929-7048

Homebound - Joanne Johnson 270-259-7599

Outreach - Linda Clark 270-287-3776

Altar Society - Dee Dee Johnston
270-723-2740 deedeej80@gmail.com

Prayer Chain - Betty Miller 270-259-3303
bettymil@windstream.net

Masses: May 31—June 5

Monday	7:30 am	Prayer/Communion
Tuesday	12:05 pm	Communion Service
Wednesday	7:30 am	Communion Service
Thursday	12:05 pm	Communion Service
Friday	7:30 am	Communion Service
Saturday	4:00 pm	†Betty Stone
Sunday	7:00 am	Medea Dennis
Sunday	11:00 am	St. Joseph & St. John

Confessions: Saturday at 3:00 pm

Anytime by request

Pastoral Council

Barbara Allen
Jim Cecil
Jerry Clemons-Chair
Kirk Collard
Eddie Clemons
Edna Duggins
Ann Marshall-Secretary
Chris Nelson
Carolyn Thomason– Vice Chair

Stewardship of Finance
May 15 $3537
Outreach $255

Thank you for your generosity!
July 1, 2021-April 30, 2022
Total Income $315,000
Total Expense $290,000

Lector Schedule

June 4—4pm	June 5—7am	June 5—11am
Erin Cannon	**Andrea Kemp**	**Samara Heavrin**
June 11—4pm	June 12—7am	June 12—11 am
Mark Collins	**Kim Smith**	**Rita Hodges**
June 18—4pm	June 19—7am	June 19—11am
Robin Embry	**Jim Cecil**	**Brandi Lee**

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

430 St. John Church Rd, Sunfish, KY 42210
Website: www.stjohnch.org St. John Thrift Store 270-597-1038
Pastor Fr. Tony Bickett 270-863-1596

Pastoral Council

Nancy Farmer, Secretary	Joe Durbin
Barbara Fitzhugh	Shelia Durbin
James Hughes-Chair	Jim Sims-Vice Chair

This Week at St. John

Tue 5:00 pm No Mass

June Weekends: The following priests will be here on the weekends of June.

4/5	Fr. Jamie Dennis
11/12	Fr. Frank Ruff
18/19	Fr. Mike Williams
25/26	Fr. Sinoj (Paul) Pynadath

Mission to the Whole World

Where does Jesus send us? There are no borders; no limits. He sends us to everyone. – Pope Francis

Stewardship of Finance

May 15 $458

Thank you for your generosity!

January 1, 2022-April 30, 2022
Total Income $11,300
Total Expense $10,700

Mass	May 31—June 5	
Tuesday	5:00 pm	No Mass
Sunday	9:00 am	†E.T. & Maggie Duvall

Minister's Schedule

Date	Server	Lector
June 5	Colton	Joe Durbin
June 12	Brian Davis	Chris Wolfe
June 19	Colton	Nancy Farmer

BIRTHDAYS

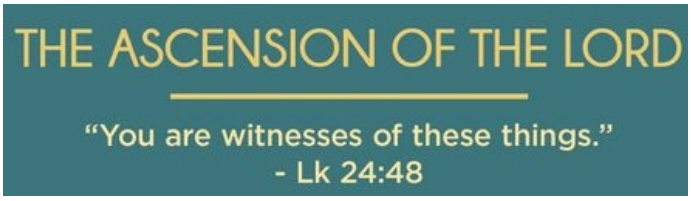
Sherry Pohlman	5/31
James Guest	6/03

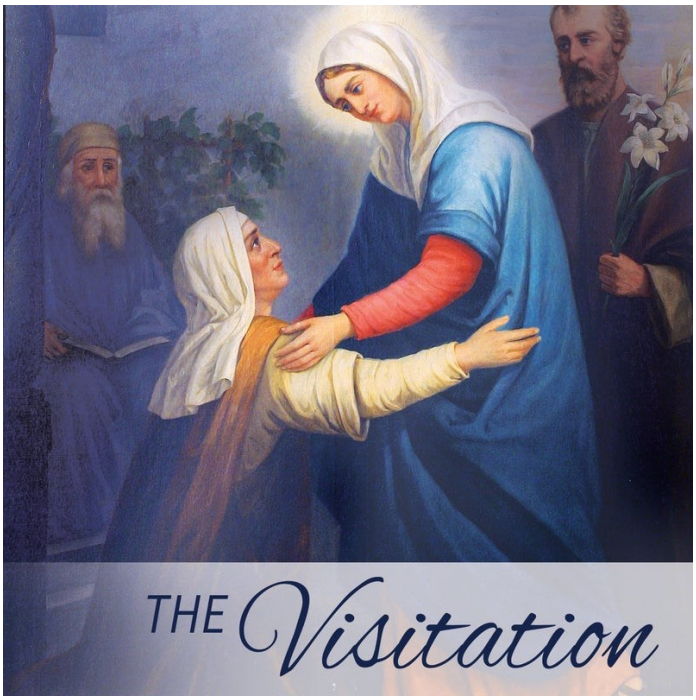
The Ascension of the Lord: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Revelations 22:13)
This is a reminder of how we should live our lives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – putting God first in all that we do. Not only when I am at Mass and parish activities, but when I am in the world, at work or at school. Living gratefully and generously is an intentional lifestyle. Every decision you make either moves you closer to God or farther away. Choose wisely!

St. John Prayer List: Liz Bush, Shirley Bush, Joe & Joan Childress, Judy Dombrowski, Liz Durbin, Martha Durbin, Catherine Duvall, Ken Farris, Donna Guest, Goldie Hardin, Laura Hamilton, Betty Jennings, Joe Lonsbery, Delores Monroe, Laura Osborn, Kathryn Sowders, Jim Vessels, Chris Wolfe.

This Week at St. Joseph

Mon	7:30 am	Prayer/Communion
Tue	12:05 pm	Communion Service
Wed	7:30 am	Communion Service
Thu	12:05 pm	Communion Service
Fri	7:30 am	Communion Service
	8:00 am	Eucharistic Adoration
Sat	3:00 pm	Confessions





Tuesday is the Feast of the Visitation of Mary

June Weekends: The following priests will be here on the weekends of June.

4/5	Fr. Jamie Dennis
11/12	Fr. Frank Ruff
18/19	Fr. Mike Williams
25/26	Fr. Sinoj (Paul) Pynadath

BIRTHDAYS

Miles Mudd	5/29
Andrea VanMeter	5/29
Michelle Vincent	5/29
Katie Embry	5/30
Gary Render	5/30
Deacon Dale DePoyster	5/31
Liam Ray Mattingly	5/31
Jessica Smith	5/31
John Evans	6/01
Timmy Pierce	6/02
Pam Collins	6/03
Loura Ray	6/03
Kirk Collard	6/04
Linda Cripps	6/04

ANNIVERSARIES

James & Bonnie Nelson	5/29
Michael & DeeDee Johnston	5/30
Gary & Stephanie Render	5/31
Mark & Brandi Lee	6/01
Larry & Helen Butler	6/02
Roy & Jan Taylor	6/02
Wade & Robin Lashley	6/03

Sympathy: Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Kevin Powell who passed away. He is the son-in-law of Ernie and Jane Johnston. May he rest in peace.

St. Joseph Prayer List: Matt Alvey, Brent Alvey, Nellie Alvey, **Steve Beck**, Jill Bradley, Mary Agnes Brown, George Cannon, Anna Critchelow, **Norman Cubbage**, Medea Dennis, Delbert Durham, **Beverly Eck**, Sylvia Etnyre, Anita Ferguson, Steve Fey, Gary French, Carol Gatto, Sherrie Geary, Paul Ray Gray Jr., Carol Grider, Joyce Green, **Ray Hayes**, Deacon Bob Higbee, **Jimmy Higdon**, Odelean Hill, Jane Johnston, Geral Dean Mattingly, Anna Marie McKinney, Michael Meredith II, Sue Milliner, **Danny Payne**, Mandy Egan Pierce, Brad Pogue, Winnett Powell, Harry Rhodes, Susan Rhodes, Laura Roberson, Aaron Shull, John Shull, **Alex Simpson**, Chris Sneed, **Reba Sneed**, Andy Wilkins, Larry Woosley, Audrey Wortham.

Server's Schedule

June 5—7am	Eva & Ann Marie Kemp
June 5—11am	Gia Vincent & Canon Clark
June 12—7am	John & James Smith
June 12—11am	Jim & Jude Winn
June 19—7am	Cordale & Maggie Milliner
June 19—11am	Eliana & Anais Falcon

Pastoral Council Nominations: We will be selecting one woman and one man to the our pastoral council. Please consider members of our parish who you think would be willing to serve and drop their names off at the office. All nominations need to be submitted by May 29. The selection will be made in June to serve for a three-year term.

Do You Know A Future Priest Or Religious Sister?

If you know of someone that you think would make a great priest or religious sister, the Diocesan Vocations Office would like to know.

You can contact them online at: owensborodiocese.org/vocations/ or let Fr. Tony or one of our deacons know.

Also, please remember to pray for more vocations to serve the Church.

The Serenity Prayer: God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.

Whenever You Are Struggling, Pray This Prayer.

Vacation Bible School

We will be having Vacation Bible here at St. Joseph June 20-24 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Registrations forms will be online and in next week's bulletin. For more information contact Kim Smith at 270-589-1789.

Church Picnic

Our Parish Picnic is just 1 WEEK away (June 4th)

KITCHEN: Please bring homemade desserts for serving. We need more volunteers for Friday and Saturday.

RAFFLE TICKETS: We need your help to sell raffle tickets.

COUNTRY STORE:
We Need New or Homemade Items.
(No yard sale items please.)

Dinners will be served from 4-7pm.

For more information call Bonnie Nelson at 589-1933 or the church office at 259-3028.

Second Collection: We will be taking up a second collection this weekend, May 28/29, in support of St. Paul School addition building fund. This school year St. Joseph has 13 students attending and next year anticipating 17 students.

UNBOUND: June 11/12, Fr. Frank Ruff, a retired Glenmary priest who lives in our diocese, will be here at all of our weekend Masses to speak on behalf of UNBOUND.

Unbound was founded by lay Catholics and is grounded in Catholic social teaching to put the needs of the vulnerable first. Our program bridges cultural and economic divides, working side by side with people of diverse faith traditions in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

For sponsors, Unbound offers a concrete and viable way to live out their faith as they walk in spirit with their sponsored friends on a journey from poverty to potential. Sponsors build relationships of support, understanding and respect through letters, photographs and prayer.
Unbound partners with families living in poverty, empowering them to become self-sufficient and fulfill their desired potential. When you sponsor a child, young adult or elder through Unbound, you invest in personalized benefits that support goals chosen by the sponsored individual and their family.

Sunday, May 29, 2022

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 7:55-60; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20; John 17:20-26 (61). *"That they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you."*

Monday, May 30, 2022

EASTER WEEKDAY

Give thanks for reverse mission

Membership in the Catholic Church in the Western world is declining. It's painful for those who remain to see fewer and fewer people in the pews—or worse, to experience the closing of their parishes. It can seem like the church is on the ropes. But stop to think: There are an estimated 1.2 billion Roman Catholics in the world—more than 40 percent of them in Latin America, and the largest growth is in Africa and Asia. Many U.S. Catholic parishes now have priests from those regions. Consider how the Holy Spirit might be at work, with those the West once missioned to now missioning to us.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-33 (297). *"In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."*

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

FEAST OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Moved by the Spirit

The scene of Elizabeth greeting Mary, both carrying miraculous pregnancies, is blessedly familiar to Catholic ears. Our "Hail Mary" prayer comes from this encounter. And we hear that even *in utero* John the Baptist recognizes Jesus and leaps for joy. But Saint Ambrose makes an observation about this visit that's easy to miss: "Mary sets out for the hill country . . . . She goes eager in purpose, dutiful in conscience, hastening for joy. Filled with God, where would she hasten but to the heights? The Holy Spirit does not proceed by slow, laborious efforts." When has the Holy Spirit prompted you to act in joyful haste?

TODAY'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:14-18a or Romans 12:9-16; Luke 1:39-56 (572). *"Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."*

Wednesday, Jun 01, 2022

MEMORIAL OF JUSTIN, MARTYR

Give thanks to those who gave it all

Today we celebrate the feast of Saint Justin, a figure known for his philosophical prowess, as well as his astute defense of the Christian faith during the second century. His writings are some of the earliest among the church fathers, making his comments on subjects like the sacraments a vital source of information about what the early church believed. He stood out as one arguing for the proto-Christian nature of Greek philosophers such as Socrates and Plato and sought to use their ideas to explain and spread the faith among his non-Christian contemporaries. These included hostile Roman emperors, and Justin was eventually martyred alongside several of his students. Give thanks for the early witnesses who contributed so dearly to the deposit of faith we have inherited.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11b-19 (299). *"I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world."*

Thursday, Jun 02, 2022

MEMORIAL OF MARCELLINUS AND PETER, MARTYRS

May we all get to rest in peace

Little is known historically about early Christians Marcellinus and Peter, martyred in 304. It is said they were killed at an out-of-the-way location by hostile Roman authorities so that other Christians would not have a chance to bury and venerate their bodies. Even so, it is said they peacefully and without protest cleared the spot chosen for their death, an overgrown thicket three miles from Rome. The fact they could die with peaceful hearts indicates the strength of their faith and trust. Pray that we too can find that peace when we come to our own time and place of final repose.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; John 17:20-26 (300). *"[May] the love with which you loved me . . . be in them and I in them."*

Friday, Jun 03, 2022

MEMORIAL OF CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

The Spirit is on the move

The astounding growth of the Catholic Church in Africa has not come easily. Many a martyr died along the way, including Charles Lwanga and his companions of Uganda, martyred in 1895. From modest beginnings, there are now well over 13 million Catholics in Uganda—40 percent of the population—and continent-wide, Catholic Church membership rose from 2 million in 1900 to 140 million in 2000. In 2009, when Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI visited Africa, the total had grown to an estimated 158 million. By 2025, one-sixth (230 million) of the world's Catholics are expected to be Africans. Give thanks for the flourishing of the Spirit worldwide.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 25:13b-21; John 21:15-19 (301). *"He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God."*

Saturday, Jun 04, 2022

EASTER WEEKDAY; SHAVUOT

May the harvest be plentiful

Today is the Jewish festival of Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks. It is the Biblical celebration of the wheat harvest (Exodus 34:22) and, in the Orthodox Jewish tradition, the giving of the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. It's called "weeks" because it commemorates the counting of seven weeks from the barley harvest to the wheat harvest, or from the Passover to today. It has a parallel in our Christian tradition of counting from Easter to Pentecost, a word that means "fiftieth," celebrated tomorrow. One of the modern customs celebrated on Shavuot is presenting to the community babies born during the year. Let's pray for all the babies we know who have made it to birth this year.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; John 21:20-25 (302). *"There are also many other things that Jesus did."*

Take Five for Faith

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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.

DRAWLAB19/SHUTTERSTOCK

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

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

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

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