

May 16, 2021 • *The Ascension of the Lord*



# *The Cathedral of* **SAINT JOSEPH**

521 North Duluth Avenue • Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

[www.stjosephcathedral.net](http://www.stjosephcathedral.net)



DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS

Most Reverend Donald DeGrood, *Bishop*

## LITURGY GUIDE—Ascension of the Lord

*Welcome to the Cathedral of St. Joseph and thank you for joining us for the celebration of Holy Mass today! Please silence your cell phones and refrain from eating, drinking or chewing gum in the Cathedral. Please help keep our Cathedral tidy by utilizing the waste baskets found near the main entrances. Also, please refrain from taking pictures once Mass has begun. You are welcome to take pictures after Mass has concluded.*

### INTROIT

*(At 9:15 & 11AM, the Introit is sung by the choir, followed by the opening hymn.)*

*Viri Galilae, quid admiramini, aspicientes in caelum? Alleluia: quemadmodum vidistis eum ascendentem in caelum, ita veniet, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (Verse) Omnes gentes plaudite manibus: iubilate Deo in voce exultationis.*

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia. (Verse) All nations clap your hands; shout unto God with a voice of joy.

### OPENING HYMN

438

KING'S WESTON

At the Name of Jesus

At the name of Jesus ev'ry knee shall bow, Ev'ry tongue confess him King of glory now; 'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord, Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season, to receive a Name From the lips of sinners, unto whom he came, Faithfully he bore it spotless to the last, Brought it back victorious, when from death he passed.

Bore it up triumphant, with its human light, Through all ranks of creatures, to the central height, To the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast; Filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue All that is not holy, all that is not true: Crown him as your Captain in temptation's hour; Let his will enfold you in its light and pow'r.

Brother, this Lord Jesus shall return again, With his Father's glory O'er the earth to reign; For all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow, And our hearts confess him King of glory now.

### PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, *(striking breast three times)* through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

### GLORIA



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo-ple of good  
will. We praise you, we bless you, we a-dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you thanks for your  
great glo - ry. Lord God, hea-ve-nly King, O God, al-migh - ty  
Fa - ther. Lord Je-sus Christ, On - ly be - got - ten Son, Lord God,



Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on  
us; you take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer; you are sea-ted at the  
right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer-cy on us. For you a - lone are the  
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most...  
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of...  
God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

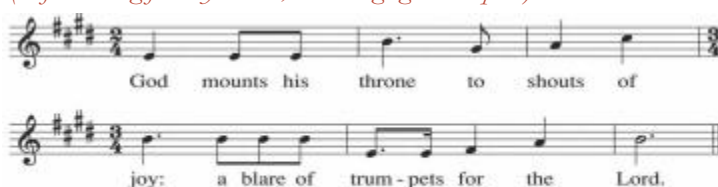
When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them.

They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven."

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9

*(Refrain sung first by cantor, then congregation repeat)*



God mounts his throne to shouts of  
joy: a blare of trum-pets for the Lord.



All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, the great king over  
all the earth. **R.**

God goes up with shouts of joy. The Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God; sing praise! Sing praise to our king; sing praise! **R.**

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God reigns over the nations. God sits upon his holy throne. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:17-23

Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Please Stand*

Cantor (*sung*): Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia (*Congregation repeat*)  
Go and teach all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, until the end of the world. **R.**

## GOSPEL

Mark 16:15-20

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; whoever does not believe will be condemned. 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." So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs."

## HOMILY

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Please Stand*

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,

consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven,  
(*bow here*) and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS

#### OFFERTORY HYMN (4PM & 7:30AM) LASST UNS ERFREUEN 753

Sing we Triumphant Hymns of Praise  
Sing we triumphant hymns of praise To greet our Lord these festive  
days, Alleluia, Alleluia! Who by a road before untrod Ascended to  
the throne of God, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

In wond'ring awe his faithful band Upon the Mount of Olives  
stand. Alleluia, Alleluia! And with the Virgin Mother see Their Lord  
ascend in majesty. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O risen Christ, ascended Lord, All praise to you let earth accord,  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Who are, while endless ages run, With Father and  
with Spirit One. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

#### OFFERTORY ANTIPHON (9:15AM)

*Viri Galilaei, quid admiramini  
aspicientes in caelum? Hic Iesus,  
qui assumptus est a vobis in caelum,  
sic veniet, quemadmodum vidistis  
eum ascendentem in caelum,  
alleluia.*

Men of Galilee, why do you gaze  
at the sky in astonishment? This  
same Jesus who was taken up  
from you into heaven, will come  
by the very way in which you saw  
him go into heaven, alleluia.

#### OFFERTORY MOTET (11AM)

Hallelujah, Amen

Hallelujah, Amen; Hallelujah Amen: O Judah, rejoice, Rejoice O  
Judah in songs divine, with cherubim and seraphim harmonious  
join. | Hallelujah Amen, and in songs divine, harmonious join,  
Hallelujah Amen.

G.F Handel  
(1685-1759)

**Celebrant:** Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R.** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

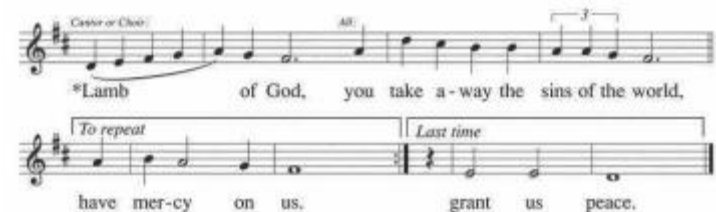
### SANCTUS



### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



### AGNUS DEI



### ECCE AGNUS DEI

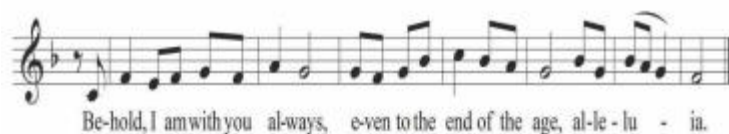
**Celebrant:** Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R.** Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

### HOLY COMMUNION

*All Catholics who have prepared themselves to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward. Our brothers and sisters of other faiths are invited to approach with arms crossed over the chest to signal their desire to receive a blessing.*

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON (4PM, 7:30AM)



### COMMUNION ANTIPHON (9:15 & 11AM)

*Signa eos qui in me credunt, haec sequentur: daemonia eicient: super aegros manus imponent, at bene habebunt, alleluia.*

These signs will accompany those who believe: they will cast out demons, and when they lay their hands upon the sick, these will recover, alleluia.

### COMMUNION MEDITATION (11AM) F. Melius Christiansen (1874-1946)

Fair are the meadows, Fairer the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.  
Beautiful Savior! Lord of the Nations! Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forever more be thine!

### HYMN OF THANKSGIVING 452

SLANE

Be Thou My Vision  
Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; All else be nought to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, thine own may I be: Thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

High King of heaven, when vict'ry is won, May I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun! Heart of me heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

### CLOSING HYMN 552

LLANFAIR

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise  
Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia! To the throne above the skies; Alleluia! Paschal Lamb for sinners giv'n Alleluia! Enters now the highest heav'n. Alleluia!

There for him high triumph waits: Alleluia! Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia! Christ has conquered death and sin; Alleluia! Take the King of glory in! Alleluia!

See, he lifts his hands above; Alleluia! See, he shows the prints of love; Alleluia! Though returning to his throne, Alleluia! Still he calls mankind his own. Alleluia!

Highest heav'n its Lord receives, Alleluia! Yet he loves the earth he leaves; Alleluia! Hark, his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia! Blessings on his church below. Alleluia!

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## PARISH NEWS

**NEEDED! Cathedral Bus Drivers to help others get to Mass & be able to receive the Eucharist**  
*"Whatever you do unto the least of my brothers, that you do unto me."* The Cathedral of St. Joseph is in need of a few additional volunteers to help get our bus back on the road to transport people to the Saturday Vigil Mass. We suspended the bus when the pandemic first hit and would like to get back out there but our pool of volunteer drivers has dwindled over the years. Driving the bus is one of the more behind-the-scenes ministries at Cathedral, but it is so vital and much appreciated to those receiving this service. For more information about what driving the bus entails, please contact the Cathedral parish office at 336-7390 or email [lhaatvedt@sfcatholic.org](mailto:lhaatvedt@sfcatholic.org).

### May is Cathedral's month to support the Sisters!

Please consider making a donation and dropping it in the bins near the doors. Large envelopes are displayed near each bin. Draw a slip out of the envelope and then return your item to the bin next week! Thank you for supporting the Sisters! They are powerful prayer warriors for our parish family and the diocese as a whole.

### Register for Family Program early & win a gift card!

Family Program registration for 2021-22 is now available! Registration forms can be picked up in the parish office or printed from our website ([stjosephcathedral.net/family-program](http://stjosephcathedral.net/family-program)). Any registration forms turned in to the parish office by June 1st will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 Pizza Ranch gift card! Contact Abigail with questions.

### 4pm Saturday Mass on May 22 to include Confirmations

Next Saturday's 4pm Mass will include some Confirmations from a couple parishes right around Sioux Falls. The 4pm Mass will likely run a bit longer than usual and will probably also be a bit more crowded than usual. Please take this information into account when planning for your Sunday Mass obligation next weekend.

### Memorial Day Mass at St. Michael's Cemetery

St. Michael Catholic Cemetery will be celebrating Memorial Day Mass with Most Reverend Donald DeGrood, Bishop of Diocese Sioux Falls as the Celebrant on Monday, May 31, at 9am on the Cemetery grounds. Mass will be held under a Tent! The Cathedral is the host parish for our Holy Mass this year. The Cemetery also is selling potted flowers, urns, and Statues of our Mother Mary. Please bring your Lawn Chairs.

## WEEKLY OFFERING

May 9th	Envelopes	\$	9,924.00
	Online/EFT	\$	2,235.00
	Visitors/Loose Cash	\$	3,375.42
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,534.42</b>

**We have officially met our CFSA goal! Anything over and above stays in our parish! Thank you!**

## Liturgical Roles

### May 19-22

6:45 am Dick Ellenbecker  
12:00 pm As Scheduled



### May 22/23

#### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:00 pm Lyle Behrends, Nancy Ann Kadinger  
7:30 am Carl Eisenberg, Barbara Lockwood  
9:15 am Alea Hardie, Jeff Heron, Zeljko Juric  
11:00 am Matt & Mary Enderson, Tom Stombaugh  
4:00 pm Ministers as Scheduled

#### Readers

4:00 pm Susan Albers, Ashley Stoltenburg  
7:30 am Barbara Lockwood  
9:15 am Ruth Bordewyk, Bette Theobald  
11:00 am Max Boyum, Darlene Tentinger  
4:00 pm Readers as Scheduled

#### Altar Servers

4:00 pm Pontifical Servers  
7:30 am Dominic Rieff  
9:15 am N & D Hardie, C & N Myers  
11:00 am Dominic Ostermann, K & F McManus  
4:00 pm Servers as Scheduled

#### Dow Rummel

Deacon Bill

**Good Sam Center** — No EM service until further notice.

**Cathedral Bus** — The Cathedral bus will remain suspended until further notice.

*Thank you to all of our Cathedral Volunteers!*

### Readings for the week of May 16, 2021

Sunday: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23/Lk 24:46-53  
Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-7b [33a]/Jn 16:29-33  
Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a  
Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-36b [33a]/Jn 17:11b-19  
Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11 [1]/Jn 17:20-26  
Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20/Jn 21:15-19  
Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 [cf.7b]/Jn 21:20-25  
Next Sunday: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 [cf. 30]/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

## CONGRATULATIONS

### The 500 Club

The third winner of the 500 Club for May 2021 is Joann Kutilek. She will receive a check for \$102 and Father received \$447.50 for the Church. Currently we have 179 members; it is only \$5/month to join. Our hope is to have 200 members so the weekly winner receives \$115 and the Church receives \$500. Applications are available in the Narthex (Duluth Ave. entrance) or the Parish Office. Those received by May 31 will be eligible for the June drawings. For more info, call Verlyn at 334-2305.



## Mass Intentions

**Mon, May 17 • Easter Weekday**

**No 6:45am Mass — Mass @ Monastery @ 7:30am**

12:00 pm † Steven Green

**Tues, May 18 • St. John I, Pope and Martyr**

**No 6:45am Mass — Mass @ Monastery @ 7:30am**

12:00 pm † Michael Kennedy

**Wed, May 19 • Easter Weekday**

6:45 am † Sally Holiday

12:00 pm † Brian Tarnasky

**Thurs, May 20 • St. Bernadine of Siena, Priest**

6:45 am † Mrs. Conley

12:00 pm † Mandy McLaughlin

**Fri, May 21 • St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest &**

*Companions Martyrs*

6:45 am Sr. Amata Veritas, OP

12:00 pm † Thelma Douville

**Sat, May 22 • St. Rita of Cascia, Religious**

9:00 am Maria Bartell

**Sat, May 22 • Mass of Anticipation**

4:00 pm Fr. Ramil Fajardo

**Sun, May 23 • Pentecost Sunday**

7:30 am † Gordy Honerman

9:15 am † Mabel Walter

11:00 am † Del Wurtz

4:00 pm Pro Populo

## Sanctuary Candles

***The five sanctuary candles will not be used until Mass resumes in the Sacred Heart Chapel.***

The light of a candle is a powerful symbol for us. It signifies God's presence and beckons us to remain present with him. Christ tells us, "I have come to the world as its light, to keep anyone who believes in me from remaining in the dark" Jn 12:46

## Cathedral Events Calendar

**Tuesday, May 11**

Bishop's Vision Presentation, 7pm in the Parish Hall

**Thursday, May 13**

Young Adult Potluck, 6pm

Adoration & Confessions, 7pm

**Saturday, May 15**

Permanent Diaconate Ordinations

9am Mass & Noon Confessions in the Chapel

## AROUND THE AREA

### Baby Bottles for Life! Fundraiser for ProLife billboards

Come take home a baby bottle and fill it with your cash/change donation. Bring it back on Father's Day weekend or drop it off in the Parish Office the week after Father's Day. Money raised will go to the Sioux Falls Area Right to Life to purchase permanent billboard advertising to promote Life from the moment of conception on the interstates just outside of Sioux Falls (north, south, east and west)! Questions, call Sarah Beaner at 421-8378.

### New Prayer Chapel near Planned Parenthood

Mission SOS (Saving Others Spiritually) is for anyone interested in praying for the unborn and their mother. We are open for prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at an apartment/prayer chapel with a balcony overlooking Planned Parenthood. To set up a time to come and pray, or for more information, contact Sara 605-421-8378 or Darlene 605-254-0951.

### Bishop's Fishing Tournament is back!

The 26th Annual "Bishop's Charity Fishing Tournaments" are scheduled for Monday, June 7, at Big Stone City - Lakeside Park and Monday June 14, at Pierre - Oahe Downstream Rec Area (located 5 miles north of Pierre). Can't make it to our in-person tournaments? That is OK! We are bringing back the Virtual Fishing Tournament option! The virtual tournament will begin June 5 and end June 14. You can fish one or more of those days on any public body of water in SD for your chance to win! Participants in the virtual tournament will submit their catches using the iAngler Tournament App on their cell phone! After cancelling the 2020 in-person tournaments, we are excited to gather again in support of the future priests of our diocese! For more information on sponsoring, registering or donating, visit [www.ccfesd.org](http://www.ccfesd.org) or contact 605-988-3765.

### Vocations Camp June 3-5 at Abbey of the Hills

The 5th Annual Vocations Camp for men 12-16 years old will be Thursday, June 3, thru Saturday, June 5, at Abbey of the Hills near Marvin, So. Dak. Men going into 7th grade or just leaving their sophomore year are welcome. There will be the incense of the daily Mass and smoke of campfires, tugging on the daily rosary and tug of war, Eucharistic processions and hiking, confession and kayaking, vocation talks and many games. The camp is a rare chance for young men to begin considering their vocation from God by hanging out with priests and seminarians. We will arrive Thursday, June 3, at 10 am and depart Saturday, June 5, at 2pm. Campers will form into small groups with a seminarian as their leader. Campers will be staying in the Abbey of the Hills lodging, sleeping two campers to a room. Special food can be provided for allergies. Cost is \$200 and scholarships are available. Only 28 spots per camp. Registration deadline is May 25. For more info visit [jpiivocationscamp2021.splashthat.com](http://jpiivocationscamp2021.splashthat.com).

**Parish Office:** 605-336-7390

**Parish Office Email:** cathedral@sfcatholic.org

**Office Hours:** 8:30am-5pm M-Th, 8:30am-3pm Friday

**Cathedral Church Hours:**

8am-5pm Monday-Saturday

7am-Noon & 3:30-5:00 Sunday

**Weekend Mass Schedule**

Saturday 4:00pm

Sunday 7:30am, 9:15am, 11:00am,  
& 4:00pm (St. J. Bakhita)

**Weekday Masses**

Wednesday - Friday 6:45am

& Monday - Friday 12 Noon

Saturday 9:00am in Cathedral

**Confessions**

Thursday 7:00pm

Saturday 12 Noon & 3:00-3:30pm in Cathedral  
(Chapel if a Wedding is scheduled)

**Adoration**

Thursdays 7pm-8pm

First Friday of the month at 11am  
in Cathedral

**Self Guided Tours**

1:00pm Monday-Friday (except Holy Days)

**Parish Staff**

**Rector,** Very Rev. James P. Morgan

**Parochial Vicar,** Rev. Jeff Norfolk

**Deacon,** William Radio

**Deacon,** Tim Dickes (Prison Ministry)

**Administrative Assistant,** Laura Haatvedt

**Director of Operations & Finance,** Heidi Solem

**Director of Liturgical Music,** Dr. Jared Ostermann

**Director of Faith Formation,** Abigail Budan

**Counseling Services**

**Catholic Family Services** Counseling 988-3775

**Retrouvaille** Help for hurting marriages 988-3755

**Birthingright** 977-4781

**Sacraments**

**Baptism** The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated for our parishioners on Sundays after the 11AM Mass. Parents must attend a Baptism preparation meeting. To schedule preparation, contact the parish office.

**Matrimony** Six months preparation required. Registered parishioners, please contact parish office. All others, contact the pastor of your home church. For wedding information, go to [www.stjosephcathedral.net](http://www.stjosephcathedral.net), under Sacraments.

**Anointing of the Sick**

Please call the parish office to request the Sacrament if you have been diagnosed with an illness, in preparation for surgery, or in case of serious illness.

**Catholic Burial**—St. Michael's Cemetery, (605) 338-3376

## “Jesus ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father”

Every weekend at Mass we pray the words of the Creed which include, “Jesus ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.” As we celebrate Jesus’ Ascension into Heaven today, 40 days after Easter, let us reflect on the words of our Holy Father Pope Francis as he teaches us the importance of Jesus’ Ascension. During a General Audience in St. Peter’s Square on April 17, 2013 he taught, “Jesus’ earthly life culminated with the Ascension, when he passed from this world to the Father and was raised to sit on His right (in Heaven). What does this event mean? How does it affect our life? Let us permit the Evangelist Luke to guide us in this. Let us start from the moment when Jesus decided to make his last pilgrimage to Jerusalem. St Luke notes: “When the days drew near for him to be received up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Lk 9:51). While he was “going up” to the Holy City, where his own “exodus” from this life was to occur, Jesus already saw the destination, heaven, but he knew well that the way which would lead him to the glory of the Father passed through the Cross, through obedience to the divine design of love for mankind. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that: “The lifting up of Jesus on the cross signifies and announces his lifting up by his Ascension into heaven” (n. 662).” These words of our Holy Father are an important reminder that our path to be lifted up to Heaven must also come through the Cross as we choose each day to respond to Jesus’ command, “If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” As Pope Francis taught, “Jesus already saw the destination, heaven, but he knew well that the way which would lead him to the glory of the Father passed through the Cross, through obedience to the divine design of love for mankind.” Choosing daily that our desired destination is Heaven affects all of the decisions we make. Let us ask Jesus for the grace this week to choose daily to take up the Cross as our compass on our destiny to Heaven. By learning to surrender through acts of denying ourselves and choosing “obedience to the divine design of Love” we will follow the path of Jesus in which He will lead us to Heaven.

May this prayer of Blessed Charles de Foucauld help you in your daily surrender:

Father, I abandon myself into your hands;  
do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you:  
I am ready for all, I accept all.

Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures —  
I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul:  
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,  
for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,  
to surrender myself into your hands without reserve,  
and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father!

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