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THE CARPENTER

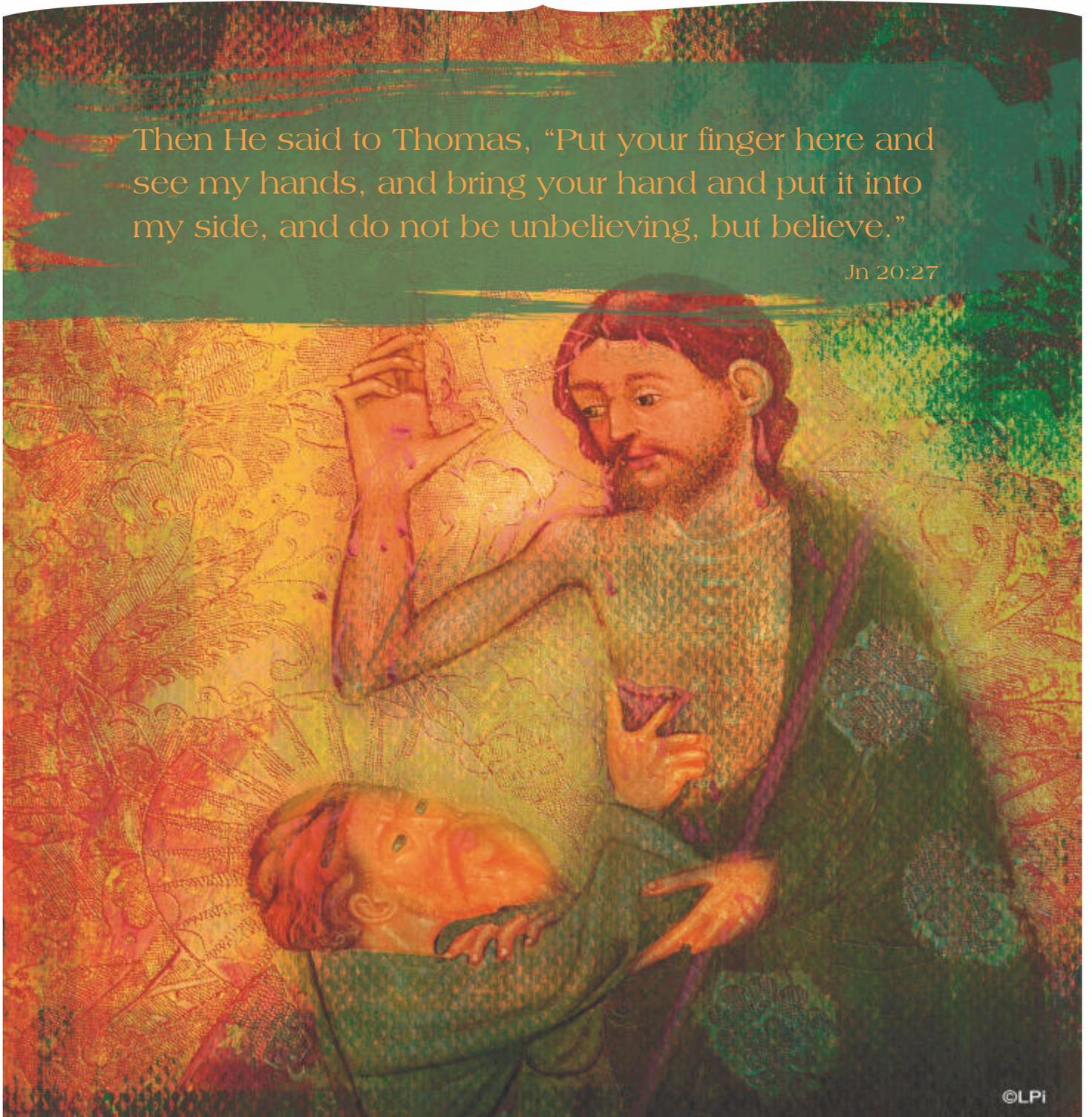
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WEBSITE: CATHEDRALBR.ORG

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 11, 2021
VOL. 92, NO. 15

Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Jn 20:27



Worship with Us

MASSSES

Saturday Anticipated Mass 4 pm

Sunday

8:30 am & 10:30 am

Weekdays

(M-T-W-F only) 12:05 pm

Holy Days as announced

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 3 to 3:45 pm

Weekdays (M-T-W-F) 11:30-11:50 am

Always on request

Contact Us

OFFICE

412 North Street

Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5496

Monday-Wednesday-Friday

8:30 am to 12 noon

TELEPHONE

225-387-5928

Personnel and Staff

BISHOP

Most Rev. Michael G. Duca, J.C.L., D.D.

bishop@diobr.org

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pastor@cathedralbr.org

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I've had to finish this column a bit earlier than usual. The Parish Office's being closed over the long, four-day Easter weekend means an early submission deadline for *The Carpenter*. Yet still I have every confidence that by now all of us have enjoyed a **wonderful celebration of the Paschal Triduum!** In fact, by the time you receive this issue either by email, online or by picking up a "hard copy" in church, I hope the graces of that special time will have begun to work wonders in your life.

These need not be unusual wonders, either. I'm content with just **the usual miracles of springtime!** As the weather turns milder we can enjoy a few short weeks of outdoor exercise, gardening, visiting and so forth. Who doesn't prefer to "fire up" the grill and even dine *al fresco* in April and May, rather than wait until August! I think the main reason that "spring cleaning" becomes a ritual in so many households at this time of year is simply due to more endurable temperatures and thus lower perspiration levels!

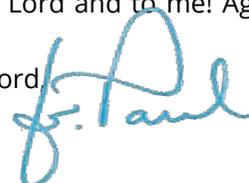
Still, the most **important graces of the solemnity and season of Easter** are spiritual. Although like you I was happy to put my Lenten penances away for another year, I do intend to "keep up the good work" and make sure the rest of 2021 is **more prayerful**. I've tried to identify a personal "charity of the month" since even before Ash Wednesday, and I intend to keep being **more generous** in that way. Fasting and other kinds of **increased self-discipline** are often the hardest to accomplish – at least they should be if we're serious about them! But I learned a long time ago that I'm happier – and generally able to sleep way better at night – if I'm looking forward to my next, lighter meal than if I'm regretting having had too many extra helpings!

One of my promises to myself is something I recommend to you: try to be a person of **renewed gratitude** this Easter season. Don't just "count your blessings," also make sure you **speak thanks aloud** to the ones who gave them, God and other people alike.

In that vein, I very much wish to express much **appreciation** for our wonderful Lenten, Holy Week and Easter Triduum services. Behind the scenes our Parish staff, decorators, and florist spend weeks in preparation and then hurry to get it all finished in the nick of time. During the liturgies themselves Bishop Duca; Deacon Gary; our few but tremendously loyal and generous altar servers, readers, and other lay ministers; and of course musicians David Summers, Andy Plaisance, and choir, as well as the occasional string quartet and "special event" brass and percussion – all of these make our worship so memorable and inspiring. It's really quite remarkable that it all comes together so well. Trust me, it looks a lot smoother than it really is!

Oh, but there's one more huge "thank you" to add: **to YOU, the faithful parishioners and friends of our historical St. Joseph Cathedral Parish.** Your prayers, presence and support really make it all possible. I will never really be able to express my personal gratitude adequately, but I also will never stop trying. You are all so very special to the Lord and to me! Again, happy Easter!

In the Risen Lord,



PSR SESSION THIS SUNDAY!



If your public-school children are enrolled in our **Parish School of Religion**, remember the **last meeting of all children and parents**, coordinated as usual by Mrs. Olga Johnson, will be *this* Sunday, **April 11**, at **9 am sharp**, in the large Assembly Room of the Parish Hall. It's best if you plan to attend the 10:30 am Mass afterwards.

These group sessions are important occasions which supplement the religious education YOU provide your children at home!

PRE-BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



Parents, are you expecting? Have you registered yet? The Church expects you to attend a **pre-Baptismal parents' seminar**, and the next one is scheduled here is *this coming Monday, April 12*, at 6:30 pm in the Parish Office. The godparents are welcome also, so please be sure to extend the invitation.

Please register beforehand either by sending an email to office@cathedralbr.org or by making a quick phone call to **225-387-5928** – we need to know how many people will be attending! Please note that social distancing is usually not a problem, as the number of attendees is generally small, but masks are required.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, April 11

Masses – 8:30 and 10:30 am
Parish School of Religion – 9 am
First Communion Practice – 11:30 am

Monday, April 12

Baptism Preparation Seminar – 6:30 pm

Tuesday, April 13

Cathedral “Chat” Zoom Meeting – 6:15 pm

Wednesday, April 14

Choir Practice – 6:15 pm
KC Council Meeting – 6:15 pm

Friday, April 16

Larsen/Nguyen Wedding Rhsl. – 3 pm

Saturday, April 17

Farmers' Market – 8 am
Larsen/Nguyen Wedding – 1 pm

FIRST COMMUNION PRACTICE



This Sunday, April 11, following the 10:30 am Mass – at approximately 11:40 am – we will hold a **practice** for those children in our parish who are preparing to receive **the Sacrament of Holy Communion**.

Please pray for the young people who will be making their First Communion on Sunday, May 2. It's an exciting time for them, and we share in their excitement as we support them on their journey in the Catholic faith.

SAINTLY QUOTE

“He will provide the way and the means, such as you could never have imagined. Leave it all to Him, let go of yourself. Lose yourself on the Cross, and you will find yourself entirely.”

- St. Catherine of Siena

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

The regular collection over the weekend of March 27-28, along with donations mailed in during the preceding week, came to a total of \$6,063.00 (\$5,631.00 offered by 58 Identified Givers, with the other \$432.00 offered by anonymous donors). Thank you for your continuing support!

Remember that, most conveniently, you can use your bank's **"Bill Pay"** feature to give, or **mail in your contributions** directly to our Parish Office, at 412 North Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5496. But *don't* send cash through the mails!

Special donations are also welcome, whether *memorial gifts* remembering departed loved ones, or gifts honoring living persons. You are **especially** invited to **include the Cathedral in your will** or living trust, helping to provide for our future! On a smaller scale, you can **sponsor one or more floral arrangements** for our weekend and special event Masses.

And finally, there are **lots of other ways** that you can help us with the cost of things: altar linens, missals and lectionaries, vestments, hosts and wine, candles and oil, incense and charcoals, furniture, music materials, dry-cleaning of vestments and choir robes, statuary, and of course regular office supplies are expenses that we encounter throughout the year. Just contact the Parish Office ([225-387-0561](tel:225-387-0561) or office@cathedralbr.org) to give!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR "ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"



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SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Not only our own parishioners and friends but Catholics from throughout the Diocese of Baton Rouge are welcome to choose their Cathedral for the celebration of the Sacraments. These important spiritual events are always scheduled through our Parish Office (you can simply call us at [225-387-5928](tel:225-387-5928) or email us at office@cathedralbr.org).

INFANT BAPTISM

A pre-baptismal preparation seminar is required of parents, as well as their scheduling the baptism with the Parish Office.

ADULT BAPTISM

Preparation for full adult Sacramental Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) occurs as part of the Parish's RCIA process throughout the year.

FIRST PENANCE & FIRST EUCHARIST

Second graders, no matter where they attend elementary school, are prepared for these Sacraments within a special program here.

CONFIRMATION

In advance of the annual "Feast of the Holy Spirit" on Pentecost, special, brief preparation programs are held here each Spring, one for our parish's teenagers who are in the eleventh grade, and another for other adults who wish to be confirmed.

MATRIMONY

Various Church regulations require at least six months of preparation for any wedding. Our advice is to call well in advance of that time to reserve a wedding date and receive information: our facilities are often booked in advance 12 to 18 months ahead-of-time!

One's own parish priest or deacon is expected to supervise the mandatory Catholic pre-nuptial preparation and officiate at the wedding ceremony here. Our own wedding coordinator will be in charge of the rehearsal and wedding too.

A VOCATION VIEW



Easter! **Resurrection and new life, a new life shared from an empty tomb.** This has been the meaning of life for the Christian faithful for almost two thousand years. There is nothing more secure, nothing more lasting. Come and share the thrill of proclaiming this truth through a life as a priest or religious.

To do so, simply contact *Father Josh Johnson*, our diocesan Director of Vocations recruitment, by email to jjohnson@diobr.org, or telephone to 225-336-8778, or by visiting www.diobr.org/vocations on the internet.



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

*Generous God,
You show us the way that leads to everlasting life.
Through holy baptism you have called us to proclaim the Good News.
Guide and give wisdom to those discerning a priestly or religious vocation.
Bless and strengthen those who have made a lifetime commitment of service in the Church.
Enrich our Church with dedicated married and single people, as well as with priests, deacons, and consecrated religious.
Filled with your Holy Spirit, we ask this blessing that we, your holy people, may follow Jesus, our Good Shepherd, now and always.
Amen.*

ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL PARISH'S "VISION STATEMENT"

"To be the Mother Church, the servant of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, and a community celebrating the loving presence of Christ with strength, compassion and caring for all God's people."

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday/Sunday, April 17-18, 2021

	4 pm Fr. Paul Counce	8:30 am Fr. Paul Counce	10:30 am Fr. Paul Counce
Readers	Courtney Debetaz (1) Joseph Maggio (2)	Stephanie Dauzat (1) Erin Fulbright (2)	Margaret Hart (1) Bryan Vincent (2)
Servers	Kurt Mihalik	Kate Lee	Dickie Howze Sean Molony Caitlyn Thompson
Sacristans	Father Paul Counce	Erick Swenson	Dickie Howze
Coffee & Donuts		Clay & Lauren Cazes	

MINISTRIES IN NEED!



The ongoing pandemic caused us to cancel our annual Stewardship of Ministry appeal last year, but volunteers to assist in our ministries are ALWAYS welcome! Just call the Parish Office at [225-387-5928](tel:225-387-5928) and we'll tell you how! Here are a few where help is needed:

Altar Servers: we can always use additional help in this ministry – and both adults and children are welcome!

Coffee & Donuts: one of the most delicious ministries, and it's a great social opportunity as well. Grab a friend or your spouse, and form a team!

Bulletin Editor: our current editor has decided to move on after a ten-year stint. Would you like to use your creative skills and help us put together this informational outreach? And if you'd like a little more information about how much time it takes, or more information about how it is put together, just give us a call!

Funeral Coordinator: This ministry hasn't been an active one for some years, but it sure is very helpful for the clergy and families involved. Having someone to help with these occasions can truly offer comfort to grieving families and assist the Parish staff as well.

Don't worry – we will teach you everything you'll need to know about any area in which you can – and choose to – help. And none of them are overly complicated or require previous experience or advanced degrees! What is always needed is a generous and dependable heart!

Pray about where and how you can help, and then pick up the phone!

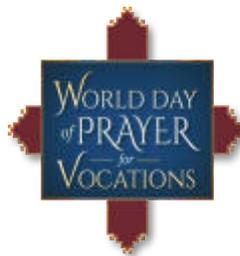
CONGRATULATIONS!



Please join us as we congratulate – and welcome! – the newest member of our Catholic faith community, **Mr. Steven Vaughan**. He received all three Sacraments of Initiation – baptism, confirmation and eucharist – at the great Vigil of Easter on Saturday, April 3.

Please continue to keep him in your prayers, as all faith journeys are lifelong affairs. And, by all means, when you see him please share with him the warm welcome that our wonderful Parish family is known for!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



On Sunday, April 25, we celebrate the 58th anniversary of the annual **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**, also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday" from the Gospel of the day

We wish to fulfill publicly the Lord's command to "*Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest*" (Matthew 9:38 and Luke 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, and in secular institutes.

Resources for promoting vocations can be found by visiting the national bishops' website at www.usccb.org. And you can always add the *Prayer for Vocations* on page 5 of this issue of *The Carpenter* to your daily faith regimen!

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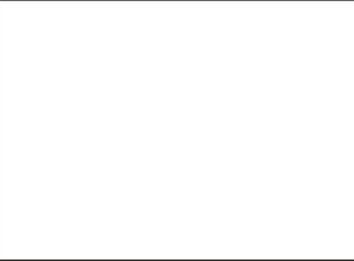

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