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THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD  
MAY 16, 2021  
VOL. 92, NO. 20



*The Ascension of Christ by Pietro Perugino, 1495-98, oil on panel.*

## 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](mailto:bishop@diobr.org)

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[pastor@cathedralbr.org](mailto:pastor@cathedralbr.org)

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



My dear Parishioners and Friends,

Well, last week certainly was a busy one, although pretty much “behind the scenes” the whole time, as the secrets were kept at first and then exploded as expected a few days later. As you learned here in this space a week ago, my time as pastor of St. Joseph Cathedral Parish is coming to a close on June 30. And as you probably learned both at Mass and in the deluge of publicity put out by the diocesan communications secretariat last weekend, **Father Cary Bani will become the pastor** here on July 1.

Many longtime parishioners and friends of the Cathedral will remember Father Cary, who'll be 64 later this summer. He's a very good friend of Father Jerry Young, our pastor from 1997-2009, and often visited here then. He's even better known for being a **medical doctor**, although he left his career in radiology behind when he was **ordained a priest in 2007**. His most recent assignment was as pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in the lovely little town of Saint Francisville north of here. But I think it's best to let him introduce himself once he gets here, although if he wishes to write something already for publication even sooner here in *The Carpenter* before he arrives that will be fine too.

In the meantime there's a fair amount of **work still to be tended to** on Cathedral Square. Sadly, the recent morning thunderstorms have exposed at least **two more leaks** in our venerable Cathedral's 150-year-old roof. I hope we can fix them before Fr. Cary arrives, although these kinds of things are notoriously difficult to locate and repair.

In fact I've got to buckle down and see what else needs to be done by me before I leave and start work anew at the Catholic Life Center. Although I will be glad to give up the reins of oversight and administration here, and as a result perhaps my daily routine will become a tad more predictable, as I said here last week I am not going to be retiring. My **return to full-time work in canon law** with our diocesan Tribunal is important, especially over the next couple of years during which the bishop and I hope for it to transition into a primarily lay-led office. Once I get moved and settled – and enjoy a week at Gulf Shores with my family in July! – I will certainly have a good deal of Tribunal work waiting for me.

But *this* weekend (Sunday, May 16) we're going to have a **special Mass and picnic** especially for our children and grandchildren! The 10:30 Mass is here, of course, but the picnic will be at the Pavilion at Magnolia Mound. Are you bringing your lawn chairs, your energy, your smiles and your appetites? It will be a great way to visit, and you know, also to begin saying goodbye (or at least, “Till we meet again”).

Always in Christ,

## COLLECTIONS



This weekend, May 15-16, we take up the annual **Catholic Communication Campaign** collection. Your support helps the CCC connect people to Christ via the internet, television, radio, and print media. In this way it builds Catholic communities here in the United States and around the world. Half the funds collected remain here in the Diocese of Baton Rouge to support local at "getting the Good Word out"!

Be a part of this campaign to spread the Gospel message. Support the collection today! Visit [www.usccb.org/cc](http://www.usccb.org/cc) to learn more. **Thank you** for helping to spread Jesus' teachings through your generosity!

## FIRST COMMUNION!

Congratulations to these precious youngsters, who received the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist for the first time on Sunday, May 2: pictured here with Father Paul: (left to right) Trace Levy, Meredith Neubauer, Johnny Moffett, Lillian Barilleau, and Heath Kocen



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, May 16

Masses – 8:30 and 10:30 am

**Cathedral Picnic** at Magnolia Mound Pavilion – 12 pm

### Wednesday, May 19

Choir Practice – 6:15 pm

### Saturday, May 22

Farmers' Market – 8 am

## CHILDREN'S PICNIC



Everyone is welcome to join us at our first ever **Cathedral Picnic** following the 10:30 am Mass next Sunday, May 16 – that is, approximately from 12 pm to 2 pm or so!

The picnic location will be at the **Pavilion at Magnolia Mound** (2161 Nicholson Drive). The complimentary lunch of *Dearman's* hamburgers, chips, cookies and drinks will begin at noon. For dessert we will enjoy the *Red River Bank Ice Cream Truck*, which will be serving its delicious, creative treats!

Fun activities are planned, including face-painting and games. But please feel free to bring your own lawn chairs, games and sporting activities, as there is lots of green space to spread out on and enjoy!

The 10:30 am Mass will be a special *Children's Mass* and Father Paul will invite our young ones to the sanctuary to listen as he delivers a special homily just for them.

Please bring your younger children and grandchildren, and enjoy this opportunity to celebrate our youth! But even if you're by yourself, it will no doubt be a fun time for everybody if you just try to be "young at heart!"

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

The regular offertory collection for the weekend of May 8-9, along with donations mailed in during the preceding week, came to a total of \$10,439.00 (\$10,223.00 of this given by 82 Identified Givers, with the other \$216.00 offered by others in the unidentified, "loose collection"). We also gladly received another \$1,430.00 for our *Maintenance Fund* from 28 Identified Givers – it's never too late to give! Thank you for your generosity!

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 (225-387-5928 or [office@cathedralbr.org](mailto:office@cathedralbr.org)) to give!

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't forget to **follow us** on our social media sites – and let us know if you'd like to help provide content.



## 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](mailto: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



After the Risen Lord ascended into heaven, His disciples continued His work on earth. To adapt another Scriptural phrase about them: **“Blest are the ones found working when He returns.”**

If you think you’re feeling a call to a life-call in a Church vocation, contact our diocesan Director of Vocations recruitment, *Father Josh Johnson*, by emailing [jjohnson@diobr.org](mailto:jjohnson@diobr.org), telephoning him at calling [225-336-8778](tel:225-336-8778), or visiting [www.diobr.org/vocations](http://www.diobr.org/vocations) on the internet.



## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR “ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

**Thomas W. Acosta, Jr.**  
**Attorney at Law**  
 911 Seventh Street  
 Port Allen, LA 70767-2113  
 225-383-2302

## 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.*

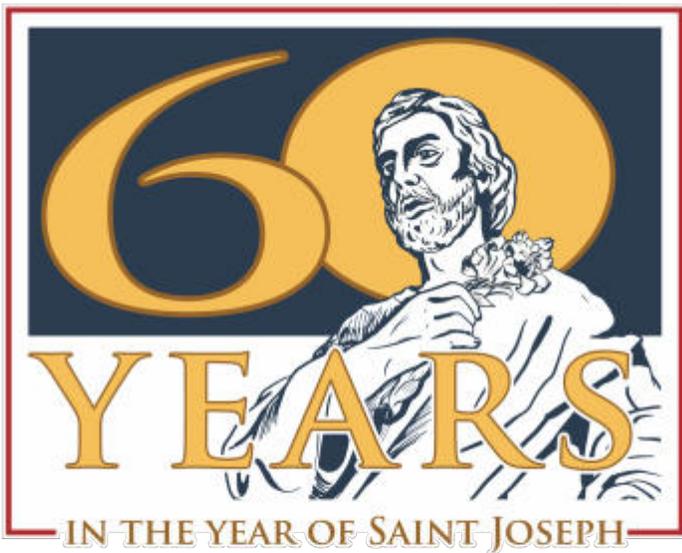
Our **Parish Calendar**, weekly issues of *The Carpenter*, and much more information are all available on our website: [www.cathedralbr.org](http://www.cathedralbr.org)

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

### SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

Saturday/Sunday, May 22-23, 2021

	4 pm <b>Fr. Paul Counce</b>	8:30 am <b>Fr. Paul Counce</b>	10:30 am <b>Bishop Michael Duca</b>
<b>Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Bill Koren	Buddy Morris Carolyn Morris	Deacon Gary Mooney Mary Acosta
<b>Readers</b>	Courtney Debetaz (1) Joseph Maggio (2)	Michele Nardini (1) Kelly Wilkinson (2)	Billy Rimes (1) Tommy Darensbourg (2)
<b>Servers</b>	David Diez	Kate Lee	Dickie Howze Kurt Mihalik Sean Molony
<b>Sacristans</b>	Father Paul Counce	Erick Swenson	Dickie Howze
<b>Coffee &amp; Donuts</b>		Michael & Celeste Moss	



In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pope Francis' proclamation of the *Year of St. Joseph* and our diocese's 60th Anniversary of its founding in 1961, the Diocese of Baton Rouge is celebrating **"60 Years in the Year of St. Joseph"** from May 1, 2021, through to March 19, 2022.

Throughout the year, there will be many opportunities to **learn more** about the history of our local Church and celebrate her patron through videos, news stories, liturgical celebrations and more.

For more about "60 Years in the Year of St. Joseph," just visit [diobr.org/60years](http://diobr.org/60years) and follow [@DioceseBR](https://www.facebook.com/DioceseBR) on Facebook.

Noble St. Joseph,  
who by sacred trust guarded and protected  
Jesus and His Blessed Mother, we humbly  
ask that guided by your paternal devotion,  
we too may courageously safeguard the  
defenseless.

Devoted St. Joseph,  
who by the work of your hands cared for all  
the needs of the Holy Family, we humbly  
ask that guided by your compassion, we too  
may provide for the needs of those in our  
homes, communities, and the world.

Obedient St. Joseph,  
who by humble heart responded to the  
voice of an angel, we humbly ask that  
guided by your confidence, we too may act  
upon God's prompting in our lives.

Righteous St. Joseph,  
who by great virtue committed your entire  
life to Mary and Jesus, we humbly dedicate  
our lives under your fatherly care to the  
Blessed Mother and our Lord Jesus,  
now and forever.

Amen.

St. Joseph,  
holy patron of the Diocese of Baton Rouge,  
pray for us!



## HOSPITAL INFORMATION

If you or a loved one is admitted into either of our local Regional Medical Centers, Our Lady of the Lake or the Baton Rouge General, and is in immediate need of ministry, both have a **priest chaplain** on staff, who is available 24 hours a day. Make your request known to one of the nursing staff and they will happily assist you. The Pastoral Care Departments of other area hospitals will also do their best to assist in emergency situations. And please **let us know** if a parishioner is admitted to any hospital, especially by way of the emergency room, by contacting the Parish Office at 225-387-5928 or [office@cathedralbr.org](mailto:office@cathedralbr.org)!

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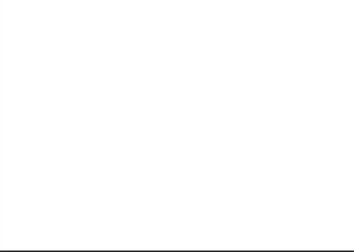
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