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THE CARPENTER

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SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST
MAY 23, 2021
VOL. 92, NO. 21



Worship with Us

MASSES

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

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bishop@diobr.org

PASTOR

Very Rev. Paul D. Counce, J.C.L., M.C.L.

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



My dear Parishioners and Friends,

As I sit down and write this column for *The Carpenter*, I've just returned from the **Parish picnic** held last Sunday at the pavilion and grounds of *Magnolia Mound* just south of here. Over 40 children and grandchildren were wonderfully noisy and rambunctious: they especially liked being able to run around, play games, smash piñatas, and eat candy and ice cream. We grownups – at least 80 of us! – just liked sitting and eating in the shady breeze, and visiting without masks!

It really was a **wonderful, fun and yet simple thing** to do. It's been so long since we've been able to visit like that. While a full life of faith is always founded on private prayer, shared worship, active ministry, and generous charity, it also necessarily includes **fellowship** within community. Spending time with each other reinforces our commitment to Christ and one another, and is just as uplifting as magnificent liturgical music or inspiring sermons. So thanks must go out to *Mrs. Bobbie Carey* and the Parish's *Development Committee* which she chairs. All they needed was to be given the idea, and they ran with it: it was a great time had by all.

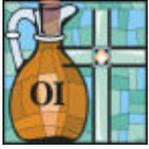
This weekend we'll celebrate the great **Solemnity of Pentecost**, and light our sanctuary fire to remind ourselves of the workings of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit empowered the early Church to begin the conversion of the world. What is Christ's Spirit doing in our times, I wonder? I guess we'll see! Over the past 12 years here in St. Joseph Parish we've been inspired to care for our historic Cathedral as well as for the welfare of the poor and needy among us. The Spirit's prompted us to be constant in prayer and an example to the rest of the Diocese of Baton Rouge in liturgical – and especially musical – excellence. I know that Father Cary will be counting not only on the Holy Spirit but also upon you to **keep the Spirit's fire alive** here on Cathedral Square!

In fact, when a good friend of mine in a nearby diocese retired a couple of years ago, he left behind him an exceptionally good letter to his parishioners. In it he begged them to **treat the next pastor properly**. He did not suggest they give him lots of money, or even be sure to keep coming to church. He did not say that volunteering to do more was what was needed first of all. No, what he did say was to **communicate ideas and feelings!** Nobody can read minds – not even priests! – so **we depend on you to tell us** what you want and want you'd rather avoid, what you like and what you dislike, what you think would be an improvement and what you think is worth dropping, and so forth. Now the pastor can't always agree with everyone. He's constrained by the teachings of the Church, after all: the truth always triumphs, even if nobody wants to agree with it! He's often limited by practicalities, since, for example, you can't spend money you don't have. And choices often can't all be done at once, but instead must be prioritized in proper order. But I guarantee that without information even the best leaders will fail, since **decisions always must be based on facts, not guesses or wishes.**

So be honest, be kind, be fair and be thorough in sharing your ideas with Father Cary, and indeed with any other decision-maker you ever have to work with. It's best!

Always in Christ,

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



Our Parish's communal administration of the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** will be held in the Cathedral **next Sunday, May 30**, immediately after our 10:30 am Mass. Catholics over the age of 7 who are either seriously ill or anticipating significant surgery, or truly weakened by old age, are eligible to receive this Sacrament.

The Redemptorist order has graciously loaned us two relics of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. These are available for veneration during the administration of the Sacrament, and everyone attending receives a special blessing with it. We encourage your prayers seeking his intercession!

PIVOTAL PLAYERS SERIES



Please consider joining parishioner Carol Asher as she facilitates the **Pivotal Players** series for the next three Sundays (May 23, May 30 and June 6) at 9 am in the Parish Hall. She is using Bishop Barron's video series, the contributions of such leading luminaries as Flannery O'Connor, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Benedict of Nursia and Bishop Fulton Sheen. It's sure to be interesting and enlightening!

MEMORIAL DAY



As usual, on **Memorial Day** - Monday, May 31, this year - there will be **no daily Mass or confessions** here at the Cathedral. As with most downtown businesses and government buildings, the Parish Office will be closed as well. Please remember in your prayers all those who in our military made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Pentecost Sunday, May 23

Masses - 8:30 and 10:30 am
Confirmation at the 10:30 am Mass

Wednesday, May 26

KC Assembly Meeting - 6:15 pm

Saturday, May 29

Farmers' Market - 8 am

CONFIRMATION



While the ongoing pandemic means that again this year we will not be hosting a diocesan-wide Confirmation Mass, Bishop Duca will administer the **Sacrament of Confirmation** here *this* Sunday, May 23, at the 10:30 am Mass for three of our own teenagers: **Jayla Patrick, Jayson Moffett, and Drake Tooraen**. Also, **Carlington Cain** is a candidate for full communion, as a conclusion to her RCIA experience she will profess her faith and join the Church, as well as being confirmed and making her first holy communion.

Please pray for all of them as they taken this important spiritual step!

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 scheduled here is set for *Monday, June 14*, at 6:30 pm in the Parish Office. The godparents are welcome also, so please be sure to extend the invitation to them as well.

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.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

The regular offertory collection for the weekend of May 15-16 along with donations mailed in during the preceding week, came to a total of \$6,871.00 (\$6,469.00 of this given by 68 Identified Givers, with the other \$402.00 offered by others in the unidentified, "loose collection"). The annual *Catholic Communication Campaign* collection brought in \$820.00 from 9 Identified Givers. Thank you for your generosity and for helping to connect Catholics across our community and the whole world!

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](tel:225-387-5928) or 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).

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



God the Father, Creator. God the Son, Redeemer. God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier. When we **“go out to make disciples of all nations”** we have a lot to tell! God is present everywhere, and does a lot!

Would you be willing to proclaim the truth of God’s love and presence in your life as a priest or religious? If so, contact our diocesan Director of Vocations recruitment, *Father Josh Johnson*, by emailing jjohnson@diobr.org, telephoning him at calling 225-336-8778, or visiting www.diobr.org/vocations on the internet.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR “ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

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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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Saturday/Sunday, May 29-30, 2021

	4 pm Fr. Paul Counce	8:30 am Fr. Paul Counce	10:30 am Fr. Paul Counce
Ministers of Holy Communion	Jane Skerkoske	Wayne Hampton	Margaret Hart
Readers	Todd Gaudin (1) Bridget Gaudin (2)	Erin Fulbright (1) Sharon Lambert (2)	Bryan Vincent (1) Tom Acosta (2)
Servers	TBD	Colette Clebert Cooper Clebert	Dickie Howze Sean Molony Caitlyn Thompson
Sacristans	Father Paul Counce	Erick Swenson	Dickie Howze
Coffee & Donuts		Julie Brignac & Melanie Montanaro	

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

As the beginning of “Hurricane Season” draws near (it runs from June 1 through November), the greatest threat of hurricanes exists along our Gulf Coast. We encourage all parishioners to **prepare in advance** of any potential threat by doing some **emergency planning**.

The first step is to **make a household plan!** Then put that plan into *writing*, taking into account the following points:

- ◆ Consider quick exit routes from every room in your home to safer places; pick a place outside the home to gather in case of emergency evacuation.
- ◆ Choose and inform an emergency contact person who lives outside your immediate area.
- ◆ If you have pets, plan in advance for their care and be aware that many refugee shelters cannot accept pets.
- ◆ Review and update your plan regularly.

Second, **put together an “emergency kit”** to have on hand, containing:

- ◆ Water (figure on one gallon per person per day)
- ◆ Food (non-perishable, high-protein items and ready-to-eat canned food)
- ◆ Flashlights (don’t forget the extra batteries!)
- ◆ First Aid kit
- ◆ Medications (remember both non-prescription and prescription kinds)
- ◆ Radio (battery-operated or hand crank)
- ◆ Tools (hammer, pliers, manual can-opener, etc.)
- ◆ Clothing (have a change of clothing for everyone, including shoes)
- ◆ Cash and coins
- ◆ Sanitary supplies (including feminine items, toilet paper, diapers, wipes, and perhaps bleach or other strong disinfecting agent)
- ◆ Emergency telephone numbers
- ◆ Pet Supplies
- ◆ Map (cell phone navigation may or may not be available)
- ◆ At least one extra mobile phone charger
- ◆ Other items useful for families with special needs (infants or elderly).
- ◆ Identification documents such as passports or drivers’ licenses, and information about insurance policies

Store the emergency kit in a safe, convenient place known to all members of the family (preferably a cool, dark place in a waterproof and air-tight container, as well as plastic bags inside of it!). Change water and food supplies at least every six months. **Advance preparation** can save lives and property, so get prepared!

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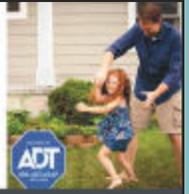
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service activities

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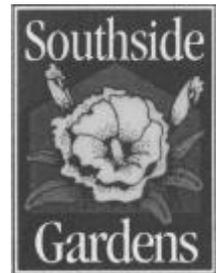
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