

# THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 21, 2023

www.stjohnberchmans.com

## THE GIFT OF ENLIGHTENMENT

The key to unlocking the scriptures is in Paul's letter to the Ephesians as we pray, "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened." People see and hear things but simply have a hard time believing they are true. In our first reading from the very beginning of the Acts of the Apostles, Luke starts where his Gospel left off—the ascension of Jesus. For as long as Jesus spent preparing the disciples, they were still foggy about what was happening, and spent time staring at the sky wondering where he went. In today's Gospel, the disciples still doubt Jesus to the very last minute. In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul speaks to the new Christian community, but could be preaching to each of us in the pews as he says, "I can explain it to you, but I can't make you believe. This is where faith comes in." May we all pray for the gift of enlightenment today!

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## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** - Jesus tells the disciples that they will be witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:1-11).

**Psalm** - God ascends amid great cries of jubilation and trumpet blasts (Psalm 47).

**Second Reading** - May the Father of glory give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Eph 1:17-23).

**Gospel** - Jesus instructs the Eleven to baptize and teach people of all nations (Matt 28:16-20).

## EL DON DE LA ILUMINACIÓN

La clave para abrir las Escrituras está en la carta de Pablo a los Efesios cuando reza: "Que los ojos de sus corazones estén iluminados". La gente ve y oye cosas pero simplemente le cuesta creer que son verdaderas. En nuestra primera lectura del principio de los Hechos de los Apóstoles, Lucas comienza donde lo dejó su Evangelio: la Ascensión de Jesús. Durante todo el tiempo que Jesús pasó preparando a los discípulos, éstos seguían sin entender lo que ocurría, y se pasaban el tiempo mirando al cielo preguntándose a dónde había ido. En el Evangelio de hoy, los discípulos siguen dudando de Jesús hasta el último momento. En la carta a los Efesios, Pablo se dirige a la nueva comunidad cristiana, pero podría estar predicando a cada uno de nosotros en los bancos cuando dice: "Puedo explicároslo, pero no puedo haceros creer. Aquí es donde entra la fe". ¡Que todos recemos hoy por el don de la iluminación.

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## LECTURAS DE HOY

**Primera lectura** — Este Jesús que les han llevado volverá de la misma manera que ustedes lo han visto ir al cielo (Hechos 1:1-11).

**Salmo** — Dios asciende en medio de grandes gritos de júbilo y trompetas (Salmo 47).

**Segunda lectura** — Dios sentó a Jesús a su derecha en el reino de los cielos (Efesios 1:17-23).

**Evangelio** — Me ha sido dado todo poder en el cielo y en la tierra. Vayan, pues, y enseñen a todas las naciones (Mateo 28:16-20).



## Please Pray for the Sick

### Prayer List Updates



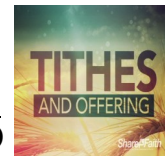
Syl Vasquez, Jr.	George Garnica	Gayle Beaver
Sarah Contreras	Adam Alonzo, Jr.	Rick Peña
Marty Carrera Tobias	Raymond Serna	Lori Bañuelos
Frances Lozano	Mary Martinez	Jesus Lopez
Irma Urias	Mark Martinez	Joe Villanueva
Mary S. Martinez	Cecilia Rodriguez	Edith Flores
Galilea Romero	Albert Rodriguez	Isaiah Vasquez
Flora Torres	Albert Casillas	Esther Nicholson
Iris Luna Sullivan	Robert Sanchez	Valerie Vigil
Sandy Guerra	Santos Tello	Rena Heard
Abraham Guerra	Vanessa Quintero	Marty Wind
Emma O. Velasquez	Mary Alice Vasquez	Maldonado Family
Leticia Martinez	Heath Herring	Margie Zuniga
Kenny De La Rosa	Joe Cevallos	Joyce Ochoa
Raymond Sarabia	Oscar Arcos	Ann Marie Eickenroht
Frank Rodriguez	Juanita Martinez	Rosemary Flores
Julissa Rodriguez	Maria Rios	Jennifer Flores
Miliana Bullock	Virginia R. Lucio	Anthony Ramirez
Lydia Soriano	Guadalupe Rodriguez	Carmen Garza

We thank God for the healing of so many sick parishioners. Please be courteous and call the Parish Office if your loved one is no longer suffering or sick. Thank you.

## STEWARDSHIP FOR THE WEEK

### ENDING MAY 14, 2023

5 PM Mass	-\$ 724.00
9 AM Mass	-\$1,146.00
11 AM Mass	-\$1,437.00
Good Samaritans of SJB	-\$ 370.00 2nd Coll.
Mother's Day	-\$ 655.00
On Line	-\$ 140.00
Mail In	-\$ 560.00
Gift of Giving	-\$ 246.19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,279.19</b>



## SECOND COLLECTION

MAY 20 - 21, 2023

Altar Flowers

## 2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending May 14, 2023	\$ 246.19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 9,041.01</b>

# Announcements



**Saturday, May 20**

5:00 p.m. † Baldemar B. Rodriguez - Socorro & Raquel  
 † Jason Escobedo - Family

**Sunday, May 21**

9:00 a.m. † Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family  
 † Dolores Crittall - Connie Carberry  
 Kathy Flores - SJB Family  
**For Health** Joe Villanueva - Family  
**For Health** Rosemary Flores

11:00 a.m. Janie Ortiz - David Perez  
 † Gloria Lloyd - Children  
 † Lorenza Castro - Family  
 † Suzanne S. Gutierrez - Maria L. Gonzales  
 † Herminia Marin - Daughter

**In Thanksgiving** Ann Marie Eickenroht - Family

**Monday, May 22**

**Tuesday, May 23**

12:00 p.m. † Suzanne Gutierrez - Dora Duran  
 † Margarita Moreno - Dora Duran

**Wednesday, May 24**

8:15 a.m.  
**In Thanksgiving** Kathy Flores - SJB Family  
**For Health** Edith Flores - SJB Family

**Thursday, May 25**

12:00 p.m. † Teresa A. Moreno - SJB Family  
**For Health** Carmen Garza - Granddaughter

**Friday, May 26 - ST. PHILIP NERI**

12:00 p.m. † Rene Forey, Sr. - Sr. Blanca Coronado  
**For Health** Angelique Dikete - SJB Family

**CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER**

*Prayer for the Church*

We pray you, O almighty and eternal God,  
 who through Jesus Christ  
 have revealed your glory to all nations,  
 to preserve the works of your mercy,  
 that your Church, being spread through the  
 whole world,  
 may continue with unchanging faith  
 in the confession of your name. Amen.



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

We have raised \$8,000 for the run this year. The money will be used to provide scholarships for our students at St. John Berchmans.

For the past three years, I have been running either a half marathon (13.1 miles), 10k (6.2 miles) or 6.2k (3.9 miles) to raise the money for scholarships and school expenses. I am officially announcing that this year is my last year to run and raise money. We hope to find other means and ways to financially support our school. It takes a village to raise a child.

Keep us in your prayers as we, priests of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, commence our annual retreat tomorrow, Monday, May 22nd thru Friday, May 26th, 2023.

Our pilgrimage to the Holy Land is scheduled for next month from June 12th thru 21st, 2023. We have a total of 9 participants. Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare for a trip of a life time.

This update is to maintain you informed regarding *Dikete Education Opportunity Foundation*. My annual trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo is the only way to keep me abreast of the situation in my hometown of Kananga where the elementary school Mumianinyi is located and your sponsored children live. It is vital that the *Foundation* stay alive assisting underprivileged students and for this reason a few revisions have arisen.

Upon returning to my hometown of Kananga, the elementary school Mumianinyi that I attended was among the few selected schools destined for a total rebuilding by the government in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The old building has been demolished and a brand new elementary school is emerging. Students will be returning to a new building by the beginning of the academic year 2023-2024 which will commence by September. The government will also provide desks for the new school. That is great news and a very special blessing for the community. Only 35 desks have been fabricated and delivered to the second school the *Foundation* has been supporting. The slow pace is due to a high demand of desks by many other schools throughout the region.

The government has also guaranteed free tuition for all elementary school students; however, middle school and high school students' tuition fall on the responsibility of the parents. We have lost a considerable number of graduates from elementary school as they make their way to middle and high schools. These students are now obligated to sell in the streets and forego an education because they cannot afford the tuition that ranges between \$40 and \$50 depending on the school they may be attending.

The *Foundation's* new vision consists of supporting underprivileged students, especially girls, who are graduating from elementary school and heading to middle school. We intend to assist them for the next six years until they graduate from high school. The \$50 you generously sponsor will pay the tuition for the entire academic year of a middle school and high school student. Please know that your sponsorship is vital in a student's education. Your sponsor-

# Announcements

## PASTOR MESSAGE CONTINUED...

may be assisting students on their way to becoming a doctor or other profession. I rely on your generosity and continue believing in our effort to make "A Difference in a Child's Life." Remember your donation is tax free and you will receive a letter for your accountant in December to verify your exemption. I am very proud of the fact that our *Foundation* is able to subsist because it adapts to the needs of the children and does not remain stagnant. This success is completely achievable because of you, my sponsors. I know your sacrifice in assisting is difficult especially in our country's economic state. Thank you for your sacrifice and please consider sponsoring a child for the 2023-24 academic year.

Please pray for my daughter, Angelique Dikete, as she continues to recover from her major surgery.

May God bless you always,  
Fr. Fidèle Dikete, Pastor




### Sunday, May 21

9:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass - Church  
11:00 a.m. Mass - Church

### Monday, May 22

### Tuesday, May 23

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

### Wednesday, May 24

8:15 a.m. School Mass - Church  
10:00 a.m. Adult Faith Enrichment - Formation House  
2:00 p.m. 15 Minute Coffee with Fr. Fidèle  
7:00 p.m. Adult Faith Enrichment - Formation House

### Thursday, May 25

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel  
6:00 p.m. Vigil Team Meeting - Formation House

### Friday, May 26

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

### Saturday, May 27

8:00 a.m. Church cleaning  
5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR:

JASON ESCOBEDO  
CARMEN GARZA

It is to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ, and is a profession of their love and affection.



## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to [osantoyo1104@gmail.com](mailto:osantoyo1104@gmail.com) and will be finalized for approval by Father Fidèle. We ask that you submit your requests at least two (2) weeks in advance for placement in the bulletin.



## NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

We encourage all newcomers to register and get to know your parish community. Please contact our Parish Office at 210-434-3247 to fill out a registration form.



## ST. JOHN BERCHMANS VIGIL TEAM

Is in need of new members: male, females or couples.

This ministry goes to the funeral homes when one of our parishioners is called to the Lord.

You will be trained and provided with a notebook containing all the prayers to be recited.

There will be a meeting for present and new members on **Thursday, May 25th at 6:00 p.m. in the Formation House.**

We hope to see you there. For more information, please contact Oralia Cantu or Dora Duran (210) 287-7346. Thank you!



**1** Make an act of faith  
Come up with your own prayer or use a traditional one to express to the Lord our faith in his real presence in the Eucharist.

**2** Make an act of love  
Say a prayer that expresses your love and gratitude to the Lord. Thank Him for his infinite love as well.

**4** steps for  
**Spiritual Communion**  
CatholicLink

**3** Express your desire to receive him  
As you are not able to physically receive the Lord, express your desire to receive Him in your heart.

**4** Invite Jesus to come into your heart  
With a humble and contrite heart we ask the Lord to come to us just as He would if we were able to receive the sacrament.

## REST IN PEACE

We offer condolences and sympathy to our parishioners and their families who have experienced the loss of their loved ones:

† DEBORAH SOLIZ  
† TERESA ANN MORENO  
† RICARDO BONILLA III



We welcome anyone to assist us with cleaning our beautiful church every:



Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**  
Ministry Scheduled for  
Saturday, May 27, 2023  
BOY SCOUTS





**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**“HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER”**

The basic meaning of the Ascension is that HE returned to Heaven, to the angels, to the glory he had before the foundation of the world. (John 17). He ascended up into heaven, in his resurrected bodily form. He went from the human place on earth to the Father’s place in heaven. His rightful place was in glory!

And so he prayed that his Father would glorify Him with the glory that he had before the foundation of the world. Jesus said that in his Father’s house there were many “rooms”, and that he was going to prepare a place for us, that where he was, here we might be also (John 14).

What a marvel that is! His mission here was not merely to rescue us from judgement; it was to bring us home with him, so that we might be with him evermore. How amazing is the love of our Lord!

**The ACTS Community has 12 boxes of fish left over from the Fish Fry.**

There are 10 lb. boxes with approximately 40-45 pieces of fish in each box. The boxes are \$50, or can be split between two people for \$25 each.

We are trying to clear out the school’s freezer before the end of the school year. If anyone is interested, please contact Dolores Guardiola at 210.380-0192 or any ACTS Core member.



**CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEEDS YOUR HELP!!**

Guided by Catholic Social Teaching, **Catholic Charities of San Antonio** remains committed to serving all people who require assistance. As it continues to provide humanitarian support to asylum seekers and other people in need, Catholic Charities is requesting clothing donations for adults and clothing and toys donations for individuals who continue to arrive in our city. Your donations of new and gently used clothing can be dropped off at:

**St. Stephen’s CARE Center, 2127 S. Zarzamora Street. Thank you!**

**RESPECT AND REVERENCE**

While we are in Church we must give utmost respect and reverence to God. We genuflect by placing our knee on the floor or a profound bow before we enter and when we leave the pew or when we cross in front of the Tabernacle. Some people due to advanced age or other infirmity may not be physical able to genuflect. What may be appropriate for them would be a profound bow from the waist. This shows our respect for the God who called us into being.

Other signs of respect are: **speaking only in whispers** when inside the Church (both out of respect for God and for others who are praying). **Arriving on time** for the Liturgy and **not leaving early**. Participating in the liturgy, to the best of our ability, including responding to the prayers and singing. **Not chewing gum, eating food, candy, or drinks** in Church. Also **not wearing a cap** and coming **dressed appropriately**.

Please let us help each other to respect the house of the Lord and also one another as we come to pray and worship God.

**LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA**

- Lunes: Hch 19:1-8; Sal 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33
- Martes: Hch 20:17-27; Sal 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a
- Miércoles: Sof 3:14-18a o Rom 12:9-16; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Lc 1:39-56
- Jueves: Hch 22:30; 23:6-11; Sal 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26
- Viernes: Hch 25:13b-21; Sal 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19
- Sábado: Hch 28:16-20, 30-31; Sal 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25
- Domingo: Hch 2:1-11; Sal 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

**PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA**

- ¿Cuándo he dudado de mí mismo y de mis habilidades o disposición para hacer la misión que Jesús me encarga?
- ¿Cómo me ha ayudado el Espíritu Santo a supercar esas dudas?