

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Jesus began His public ministry by saying; *“Repent and believe in the Gospel, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.”* Today, as we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of our Lord, we hear the closing words of Jesus; *“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.”* By these closing words, Jesus reminds us that our Christian faith and life are not personal, but something that must be shared with everyone; but, how many of us are conscious of this primary responsibility as a Christian or as a Catholic?

To make us aware of the seriousness of this responsibility only Jesus came to us through different sayings on each weekend’s Gospel after His resurrection. At first, Jesus tried to convince us about His resurrection by appearing to His disciples and promising them peace by showing them His five wounds. Secondly, Jesus taught us about the importance of the Word of God in our lives, by sharing and opening the minds and hearts of the disciples through the Word of God. Thirdly, Jesus reminded us about the importance of the Holy Eucharist by saying; *“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never hunger and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”* Fourthly, Jesus came to us as a good shepherd saying; *“I am the good shepherd, I know mine and mine know Me.....and I will lay down my life for the sheep...and they will hear my voice.”* Fifthly Jesus taught us to be united with Him by saying; *“I am the true vine, and you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”* Last weekend Jesus came to us reminding us about the importance of Love.

After having reminded us of our Christian responsibility, Jesus is ready to leave this world to enter into heaven. This is what we celebrate through the Ascension of the Lord. It marks the end of Jesus’ mission as God made man and now it is our turn to continue the mission here in this world, and so Jesus says; *“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.”* The Ascension also reminds us that we are on a journey and heaven is our final destination.

In our first reading, Luke gives us a brief summary of the life of Jesus up to His dramatic ascension into heaven. There are two messages of hope for us. The first is the promise of the Advocate: *“...But you will receive the Holy Spirit...and you shall be my witness...to the ends of the earth.”* This means is that Christ is not leaving us as orphans; instead, he

remains with us through the Holy Spirit *“till the end of time.”* The second is the promise of His return. So, today we also celebrate hope because Christ has gone to prepare a place for us in His kingdom, that one day He shall return to take us to be with Him.

However, it is important to note that while we wait and prepare for Christ to return, we are not supposed to remain idle like the apostles did at the scene of the ascension; instead we are expected to live productively. This is what the second reading and Gospel reminds us. In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us to lead a life worthy of Christ by saying, *“Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness and in patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the spirit by the peace that binds you together.”* When we come to the Gospel reading, St. Mark encourages us to be productive by reminding us of our mission; *“Go out to the whole world; proclaim the good news to all creation...”* As Christ evangelized and commissioned us, it is now our duty to evangelize our brothers and sisters thus, becoming more active in our ministries. To be an effective missionary of Christ in this world, let us ask the Eucharistic Lord to renew the Spirit that He gave us freely through His sacraments. **God Bless.**

Gaspar River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center
Youth Camp at Gaspar River Catholic is filling up! This summer Gaspar will follow all guidelines set forth by the state to ensure the safety of all campers and staff. There will be limited attendance this summer (currently 50% occupancy), additional hand washing/sanitation stations, campers will stay in small groups, masks will be worn, campers will be asked to monitor their health two weeks out until they arrive at camp, and additional daily cleaning and sanitizing of buildings and most everything at camp will be done outdoors. Visit www.gasparriverretreatcenter.org

The Lazarus Retreat
The Lazarus Retreat is open to 9th-12th graders and will be held Friday, June 4 – Sunday, June 6, 2021 at Blessed Mother Catholic Church in Owensboro, KY. The goal and theme of the retreat is an intentional invitation to our young people to life in Jesus Christ. For questions contact the office of Youth Ministry **(270) 683-1545**

Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions to Our Churches during this unfortunate time. God Bless & Be Safe.

Financial Report - May 9, 2021
St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,938.09 weekly
Regular Collection \$ 2,870.50 - 67.59
Emergency Fund \$ 275.00

Financial Report - May 9, 2021
St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,147.46 weekly
Regular Collection \$ 1,569.00 + 421.54
Emergency Fund \$ 50.00

Mass Schedule
May 16 - 23

Sunday - The Ascension of the Lord
-7:00am - Mass at St. Sebastian
People of the Parish
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Merrit & Janice Hobbs
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Ronnie Bickett

Monday - Easter Weekday
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Joe Bickett

Tuesday - Easter Weekday
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Delila Mae Payne

Wednesday - Easter Weekday
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Leon & Mary Jane Gibbons
-5:30pm - Mass at St. Charles
Rose Catherine Hardesty

Thursday - Easter Weekday
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Alvin Bickett

Friday - Easter Weekday
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Lisa Young

Saturday - Easter Weekday
-5:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian
Dr. Robert Kraus Family

Sunday - Pentecost Sunday
-7:00am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Joe Hayden
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Guy & Virginia Anderson
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Teresa Logsdon

Prayer List for Members of our Community
Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Lisa Jackson, Ethan Settle, Jimmy Clayton, Pat Calhoun, Sonny Renfrow, Kimberly Nowak, Todd Tichenor, Kimberly Stiles, Louis & Alice Weise, Callie Hayden, Mary Jewell, Tom Schutte, Evelyn Drury, Bill Abney, Debbie Dunn, Ben Dunn, Jacinta Tichenor Peters, Tommy England, and Lisa Vaught

Please Pray for our Military
MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zaremba, Major Jack Kaina, Major Bradley Summers, Lance Corporal Marine Joseph Ryan Hunter, Lt. Col. Michael Rezebek. A.B. Phillip Wilson, Specialist 4 Chaz McKay, Sgt. Adam Dickey, and Corpsman Aly Franklin

Guidelines for Resuming Parish Gatherings Outside the Liturgy

- *The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation remains in place.*
- *Effective immediately, the Diocese is adopting the Governor's new protocol regarding masking outdoors. Parishes and Schools MAY choose to NOT require a mask during OUTDOOR activities if the group size is less than 1,000. This applies to the Liturgy, picnics, playgrounds, sporting events, youth groups or any other outdoor activities.*
- *Nothing has changed for indoor gatherings. We have no way of knowing when protocols for inside activities will change, but we are reviewing the CDC and State's directives on a daily basis. Things are changing rapidly, but there are still some instances where transmissions and quarantines are occurring. So please continue to exercise caution and follow the guidelines for indoor gatherings until we receive further notification from the State. Please remember that here is always an assumed risk, even if they are considered low risk.*
- *Three-foot distance should be maintained between households.*
- *Children aged two and under are not required to wear a mask. It is imperative that everyone over the age of two be masked properly. Those unable to wear a face mask at the event, whether it be due to age (the CDC does not recommend those under the age of two to wear a mask), health condition, or preference, are asked to stay healthy at home. Conduct temperature and health checks for each participant.*
- *Choirs may resume but must be masked and placed three feet apart.*

"Do small things with great love."
- Saint Teresa of Calcutta

St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday

Marion Cooper - May 16
Brenda Pinkston - May 22
Lance Green - May 23
Daniel Watkins - May 23

St. Charles - Happy Birthday

Madalyn Ward - May 17
Dylan Rhodes - May 18
Candace Miller - May 19

Fundraising Chair Person is Needed - St. Sebastian
St. Sebastian Church is looking for a volunteer who can lead a fundraising committee. If you're interested please contact Fr. Jegin or any of the Parish Council members.

St. Sebastian - Happy Anniversary

Drew & Brianne McCarty - May 23

St. Charles - Happy Anniversary

Kevin & Judy Fee - May 20