

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, MAY 21, 2023

STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO
ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER
ST. JOSEPH, PORT FELIX
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

PASTOR: FR. JONATHAN NNAJIOFOR 902-366-2927
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 902-358-2346

May 21, 2023 • Ascension of the Lord • Year A

No Shame in Doubting

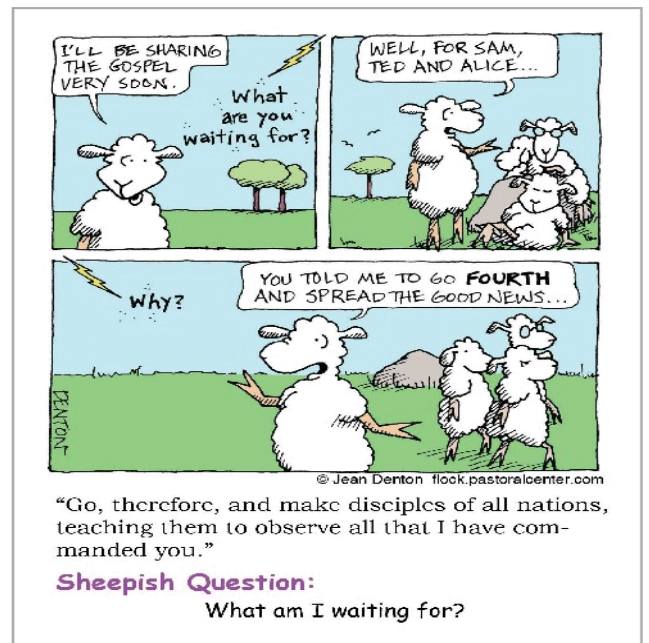
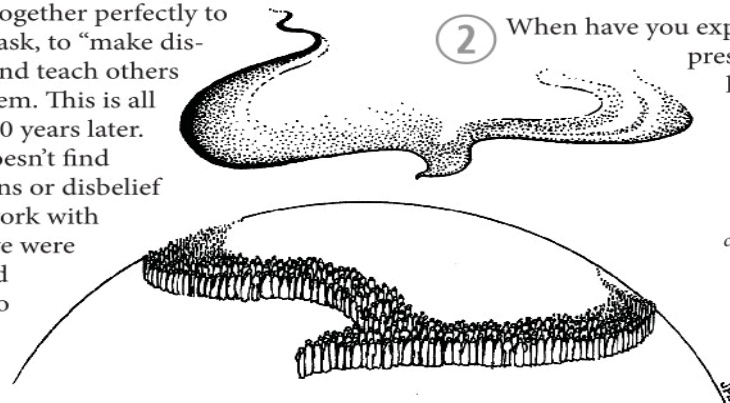
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Acts 1:1-11 - The Ascension of Jesus
- ▶ Ephesians 1:17-23 - A Spirit of wisdom
- ▶ Matthew 28:16-20 - Commissioning of the disciples

As we near the end of the Easter Season, we read about Jesus' ascension into heaven in both the first and second readings. The Matthew's Gospel account is from the last few verses of that book, while the other comes from the first verses of the Acts of the Apostles. Some of the details differ. For example, in Matthew's Gospel Jesus meets the disciples in Galilee where the Ascension takes place, while in Luke-Acts he is in Jerusalem.

Like multiple eulogists at a funeral, the Gospel writers recount events and conversations from Jesus' life with different details and wording at times. What eulogists choose to say speaks to their memories of the person. They aim to convey some truth about the person they knew and loved and some point they want to leave with the listeners, even if the exact details they remember aren't all factually accurate. Likewise, with the evangelists. Whether Jesus ascended from Galilee or Jerusalem is less important than the experience the disciples had of Jesus leaving them in glory, not in death.

Even after experiencing Jesus after his resurrection, the apostles remain fully human, still capable of believing in him and having their doubts at the same time. Fortunately, Jesus isn't into shaming; he doesn't scold them for doubting. He also doesn't wait until they pull themselves together perfectly to give them their next task, to "make disciples of all nations" and teach others what he has taught them. This is all good news for us 2,000 years later. It tells us that Jesus doesn't find fault with our questions or disbelief and that he can still work with imperfect vessels. If we were to skip ahead and read about what happens to the apostles next, we would see that they



worked powerful miracles, taught with great persuasion, and attracted thousands to the new Christian way of life, all despite having some doubts.

The final verse of this Gospel offers a promise that can still console today: "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Although we may not be able to physically see Jesus, he wanted future believers to know that his presence continues.

Questions of the Week

- 1 How has Jesus used you to be his hands, feet, ears, eyes, and heart, despite your imperfections?
- 2 When have you experienced a sense of Christ present with you, even though he no longer physically walks the earth?

Word of the Week • Copyright © 2020 Ann Naffziger. Published by the Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday, May 27 - 4:30 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul - ♥For the Faithful
- 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph - †Rita David

Sunday, May 28 - 9:30 a.m. - St. Agnes Hall - †*William 'Junior' Peitzsche*
- 11:00 a.m. - Star of the Sea - †*Beattie Horne*

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Thursday, May 25 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony Chapel - ♥*For the Faithful*

COMMUNION CALLS - If you know of someone who is unable to get out to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office to have their name added to the list.

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS - *The Ascension of Christ*

The ascension of the Lord might be seen, on the one hand, as a feast that celebrates the completion of the Lord's work on earth. On the other hand, it might be seen as a feast that celebrates the beginning of the work of the Church. The Lord has done what he was meant to do; he had the courage of his convictions and even went to his death for them. He is now raised and has gone to his rightful place. What matters now is that the Church continues the work that he inaugurated. We are called to preach that same forgiveness, love, and repentance that Jesus brought from God. Since God, in Jesus, saves, sends, and blesses, the Church must, in continuation of God's action do the same. In what ways do you manifest these missions in your life as a Christian? To preach and to love are tasks that must be accompanied by words and deeds (actions).

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Star of the Sea (30)	905.00
Cemetery (6)	360.00
Anonymous Donation	3,500.00
St. Agnes (28)	329.00
Loose	19.00
Cemetery (1)	50.00
Anonymous Donation	1,000.00
St. Joseph (14)	160.00
Loose	10.00
Cemetery (1)	50.00
Bldg Fund	1,000.00
St. Vincent de Paul (8)	160.00
Initial (1)	5.00
Anonymous Donation	500.00

We wish to acknowledge a Grant of \$1,000.00 from MODG to St. Vincent de Paul Church. We wish to thank District 4 Councillor Dave Hanhams for his assistance. Much appreciated.

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Summer Fun Ticket Draw - will be held in May and June. There will be three draws, one for a Patio set, one for a Barbecue package and one for an outdoor pizza oven. Anyone wishing to buy or sell tickets should contact Flo Flemming. Draw date: July 1

Ministries Schedule, May 28

Lector -Donna Lewis

Cleaners - May 28 - June 3 - Baker Girls

We are inviting parishioners to serve as Sacristans, Ushers and Altar Servers for Funeral. Please contact Fr. Jonathan for

Groundskeeper Position, Star of the Sea - we are desperately seeking a responsible person to take care of the parish cemeteries and grounds. This is seasonal work, wage can be negotiated.

Please contact the parish office.

more information.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS

Prize Bingo - will be held in late June, Queensport Fire Hall, date will be announced. Donations are needed and would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Donna Jackson or Alice Hendsbee for further information.

The Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine in Mabou has been open and very much visited during the winter months. The gift shop at the Shrine is now open for the season. The hours for the gift shop are 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, everyday including Sundays and Holidays.

The Shrine is always open. We are looking forward to seeing you all again.

ST JOSEPH NEWS

Regular Weekly Bingo continues on Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

Card Plays - Tuesday at 7:30 p.m

Banana Split and Ice Cream Sundae - will be held Sunday, May 21, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 for a Split and \$3.00 for a Sundae.

Parish Picnic will be held Saturday, July 1, more information to follow.

ST. AGNES NEWS

Bingo - Sundays at 7:00 p.m in the parish hall.

Groundskeeper Required - We are seeking someone to mow and maintain the parish cemetery. Please contact the parish office.

Thank You - to Lloyd and Darlene Keefe for your faithful commitment to mowing the parish cemetery. You did a great job,

special thanks extended to you both.
Club 100 tickets - are available from parish volunteers, draw date is May 28. All proceeds to St. Agnes Parish. Thanks for your support.

NOTES

Our Cemeteries - At this time we also wish to remind parishioners & family members of the maintenance fee of \$50.00 (minimum amount) per year. This fee is payable to the parish cemetery where your loved one is

buried. It can be placed in the Cemetery Envelope from your box of collection envelopes or placed in an envelope marked "Cemetery" at any time during the year and can be paid in installments. This contribution is used for the upkeep of the parish cemeteries. Thanking you in advance for your support. Please note: Cemeteries are the property of The Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Antigonish