

IN A WORLD OF COMPETING VOICES, LISTENING TO CHRIST TAKES PRAYERFUL EFFORT, PATIENT ENDURANCE AND CORAGEOUS DISCIPLESHIP.

John’s Gospel has very few parables when compared to the others. But what it does have is a series of I AM statements by Jesus that function almost in the same manner. Where a parable uses an image, like the mustard seed, to teach about the kingdom of God, these I AM statements reveal to us Jesus’ truest identity by echoing back to the time when God first revealed himself to Moses at the burning bush as a relational God.

Here we have one of those I AM statements: I am the gate. Having restored the blind man to full spiritual and physical health in the previous chapter, Jesus teaches the crowd, including the Pharisees, about the true meaning of faith, and compares the true shepherd with the false one. Unlike the true shepherd whose voice the sheep recognize and follow, the false shepherd, no better than a thief, remains a stranger to them for he lacks any real concern for their well -being.

These are bold words, as Jesus admonishes the Pharisees for their lack of faith. They have become like thieves – misrepresenting the truth of faith and misleading the Lord’s flock. Later, Jesus will describe himself as the Good Shepherd, but for now he is content to describe himself as the gate or entry into the sheepfold. As the only gate, Jesus is proclaiming himself as the only means of salvation for the world: *Whoever enters through me will be saved.* Unlike the false shepherd who brings destruction and death, Jesus promises abundant life.

It is this abundant life in Christ which we hear about in the other readings. But let us remember that life here is not merely earthly existence, but life in its fullest meaning: human, emotional, relational and spiritual. Peter after Pentecost is full of the Spirit, and proclaims Christ as the source of this life before a crowd containing many, people who only a short time before had called for Jesus’ death.

Cut to the heart, they respond not with excuses but genuine remorse and repentance. What are we to do? They ask. This is a good question for us this Easter season: what must our response be to Christ’s resurrection: apathy and indifference, or repentance and renewal? Clearly, we are called to ongoing repentance and renewal. Even we who have been baptized and are seasoned Christians share this call. In the ups and downs of life, we are tested in endurance and faith, and yet it is only to the faithful follower that the gift of eternal life is granted.

In our contemporary society, the call of Christ can easily be crowded out by many other voices. How easily we can be enticed away by the must-have shouts of the world, the constant ring of cell phones, or the many inner voices that call us to various addictions and self-serving life decisions. This Easter, let us re-commit ourselves to listen more closely to Christ, and to see in him the one and only gate to an abundant life.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Mon May 8	Acts 11:1-18, Jn:11-18
Tues May 9	Acts 11:19-26, Jn 10:22-30
Wed May 10	Acts 12:24-13:5a, Jn 12:44-50
Thur May 11	Acts 13:13-25, Jn 13:16-20
Fri May 12	Acts 13; 26-33, Jn 14:1-6
Sat May 13	Acts 13:44-52, Jn 14:7-14
Sun May 14	Acts 6:1-7, 1 Pt 2:4-9, Jn 14:1-12



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS		
Regular Collections	\$	10,576.25
Nativity Maintenance	\$	741.00
Nativity Elem.	\$	5.00
Capital Improvement	\$	15.00
Miscellaneous	\$	1,459.75
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	12,797.00
CASH NEEDED	\$	14,400.00

COMMUNION VISITATION

Jesus says of you and me, “You are the salt of the earth”. No one should be deprived of the Most Holy Eucharist because they are homebound, elderly, have no means of getting to Mass and/or sick in their home. Sister Jackie Tarrant, RSM will gladly bring the Eucharist to you in your home. Together we can be “salt of the earth”. Sister can be reached at the rectory at 228-374-1717.

CSA FOR 2017

All of us are called to bring hope to our brothers and sisters in need. A special way to bring hope to others is by supporting the Catholic Sharing Appeal. Help us make our CSA goal for this year.

PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

When planning a baptism, marriage, or for subsidized tuition rates for our Catholic Schools, you must demonstrate that you are a practicing Catholic and that you attend Mass. Using envelopes helps maintain a record of Mass attendance. The parish registration form can be found online at www.nativitybvmcathedral.org., or at the entrance of the Cathedral in the vestibule.

NATIVITY YOUTH MINISTRY

Vacation Bible School will be held June 19-23, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon daily. Students that are currently in grades K-5 may attend. There are slots for 50 children. Spots are not secure until payment and paperwork are received. Youth, in grades 6-12, and adults are welcome to volunteer. The cost is \$30.00 and includes a snack and activities daily and a t-shirt. Paperwork may be picked up from the back of the church following Mass. Please complete paperwork and mail it, along with payment to Nativity Rectory: **Nativity Youth Ministry VBS, c/o Kristy Arguelles, 870 Howard Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530.** If you have any questions, please contact Kristy: nativityyouthministrybiloxi@gmail.com

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
May 13 4:00 pm 1. Deacon Ben 2. Mary Wimberly 3. Ann Kavanagh 4. Jim Coskey 5. Kathleen Coskey	May 13 4:00 pm Rose Anne Kimbell	May 13 4:00 pm Sabree Sanders Sofia Carreon
May 14 7:00 am 1. Deacon Ben 2. Danny Kavanagh 3. Colleen Kavanagh	May 14 7:00 am Marcia Mayfield	May 14 7:00 am Makayla Pfarrer Wyeth Stewart
9:00 am 1. Deacon Ben 2. Maggie Landry 3. John Brauchle 4. Marianne Sherman 5. John Sherman	9:00 am Terry Simons	9:00 am Annabelle Landry Veronika Landry Julia Landry Triston Davis
11:00 am 1. Deacon Ben 2. Deacon Ron 3. Sondra Williams 4. Johnny Williams 5. Rocky Greathouse	11:00 am Peter Abide	11:00 am Michael Pfarrer Simon Randall Aidan Tarrant Hadyn Hollis Greysen Ross McRae Ross
5:30 pm 1. Deacon Ben 2. Angela Cannon 3. Jim Shugart	5:30 pm Youth Ministry	5:30 pm Samantha Sharplin Breanna Smith Taylor Yasar
	CANTORS	
	May 13 4:00 pm Peter Abide	
	May 14 9:00 am Phil Frisby	
	11:00 am Choir	

MASS INTENTIONS

	6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon May 8	Kathleen Hebert	Fr. William John Connell
Tue May 9	Gladys Schmidt	Chester Balias Fly.
Wed May 10	Andrew Cvitanovich	Joan Llado
Thur May 11	Kathleen Hebert	June O'Gea
Fri May 12	Herbert & Bertha McDonnell	Kathleen Hebert
Sat May 13	8 Sam J. Ardoline	4 Gabe/Doris Kasovich
Sun May 14	7 - Mary Lou Ardoline/Merle Sherman	9 - F. T. P.
	11 - Sue Ellen Fallo Welch	5:30 Collins-Sims Fly.

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Mickey Roberts, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Danny Boney, Sr., Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte and Greg Hotaling, Richard "Red" White, Jack Joachim, Jr., Eugene LaCaze, Don Viator, Mabel Viator, Marian Semski and Michael Zorich.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Interested in a wonderful, theatrical performance? You are invited to attend Nativity School's Arts Alive performance of "Home is Where the Haunt Is-the Reunion." The performance will be held on Wednesday, May 10th at 6:00 p.m. and on Thursday, May 11th at 9:00 a.m. Both performances will be in the school gym. The Arts Alive program, led by Mrs. Wanda Stewart and Mrs. Kelly Pennell, involves children in grades 3-6 in the arts. Please consider attending! You will be amazed at their performance!

*The Nativity School NPA group is sponsoring a family Movie Night on Friday, May 12th at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym. "Monsters University" will be the featured film and the evening will include food, friends and fun! Come and enjoy this final celebration of our 60th year as a school!

*Nativity School will once again host the Summer Saints program, for children entering prek 3 through 6th grade. The camp will begin on Monday, June 5th and will be held through July 28th. For more information, please contact our school office (432-2269) or visit our school's website at www.nativitybvm.org.

*Registration continues for the 2017-2018 school year. Although two classes have waiting lists, openings remain in most grades. For more information or to arrange a tour of the school, please contact Sr. Mary Jo at 432-2269 or visit the school's website, www.nativitybvm.org.

FIRST COMMUNION PRACTICE

There will be a practice for First Holy Communion in the Cathedral, on Thursday, May 11th, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. All First Holy Communicants (School and CCD) and their parents need to be present. First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, May 13th at 10:00 a.m., in the Nativity Cathedral.

ANNUAL MEN'S CLUB PARTY HONORING TEACHERS

Our Men's Club will be hosting its annual party honoring our School and CCD teachers on Monday, March 8th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the Sacred Heart Center. You will be honored with a wonderful meal to show our appreciation for all you do for our students.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 8 Women of Mary, 5:30 p.m.

May 9 - Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC

Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.

Bingo Mania 5:30 p.m.

May 10- **Cleaning Team "B"**

Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.

CCD Class, 5:30 p.m. until 6:30, SHC.

May 11 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.

First Holy Communion Practice, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for May 9th. Bradberry (Thomas & Catherine), Cloud (Brandon & Emily), Collins (Shaniel & Shelly Ann), Corley (James & Karen), Gnapp (Robert & Erica), Hargrove (Roger & Stephanie) and Ladnier (Samantha).

REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.

R.C.I.A.

This week the RCIA class will be learning about Holy Orders and Matrimony with Deacon Ben and Mary Wimberly. Please continue to pray for our new Catholics and their sponsors as they continue their journey of faith together. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

CCD CLASS INFORMATION

CCD classes are, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center.

HOLY HOUR

Due to a scheduling conflict with First Holy Communion practice, we will not have Holy Hour this week.