

GOD COMES TO US THROUGH HIS SON, JESUS, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Is religion all about how we get to God or all about how God comes to us? Catholics believe God reaches us through Jesus Christ who gives us the way to God, the truth that comes from God, and life with God.

Christ, then, is the key. He is not just another religious figure in human history. He is central in answering the question "How do we get to God?" But he is central in a way we do not often recognize.

Today's Gospel account puts us in the proper setting. In it, we find Jesus at the Last Supper giving final thoughts to his apostles just before he is about to suffer and die. He is saying goodbye to them and they are confused and upset. In the passage just before today's Gospel, Peter asks, Master, where are you going? And Jesus replies, Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my father's house there are many dwelling places...I am going to prepare a place for you. Thomas pipes up with, How can we know the way? Jesus' reply is, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.

That's the big clue, and it tells us that we're asking the wrong question when we ask, "How do we get to God? How do we find God?" The truth is that God finds us! In Christ, he is among us, searching for us, calling us to himself.

God has come looking for us in his son, Jesus Christ. It's not we who figure out how to get to God. God is already here.

Back in the Book of Genesis, in the eleventh chapter, we learn of the tower of Babel. Do you remember the story? It was all about a tower we humans tried to build in order to reach heaven. God knocked it down. He knocked it down because it was of our making, fitting our specifications. It was built on human arrogance, and that is exactly the reverse of reality. The reality is that God comes to us, we do not get to God. We do not pridefully achieve heaven; all we can do is humbly receive it.

To receive Christ is to receive the Father. To receive Christ one must be moved by his Spirit. But do we know exactly who has received him or precisely how they have received him? Jesus says, In my Father's house there are many dwelling places, which means there's room for anyone. God decides who abides there: we don't.

So it's not a question of how we get to heaven. It's a question, rather, of how we receive and accept God's presence in us.

Now let us go to him in his sacraments. Where he now lives, there are many dwelling places, plenty of room for us all, in all of our diversities. The question, "How do we get to God?" has been answered. The only unanswered question is, "Will we accept him and then share his love with others?"

BISHOP KIHNEMAN'S HOMILIES

Bishop Kihneman's homilies will be available each week in audio form on Nativity BVM Cathedral's website. To access these homilies, visit nativitybvm.podbean.com.

THANK YOU TO NATE HETTINGER

We offer our thanks to Nathan Hettinger, a Masters Graduate Student from USM, who conducted our Cathedral Choir for the past nine months. Nate is returning to his home state to continue his graduate work and to work at the University.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon May 15	Acts 14:5-18, Jn 14:21-26
Tues May 16	Acts 14:19-28, Jn 14:27-31a
Wed May 17	Acts 15:1-6, Jn 15:1-8
Thur May 18	Acts 15:7-21, Jn 15:9-11
Fri May 19	Acts 15:22-31, Jn 15:12-17
Sat May 20	Acts 16:1-10, Jn 15:18-21
Sun May 21	Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Pt 3:15-18, Jn 14:15-21



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular Collections	\$	13,702.00
Nativity Maintenance	\$	1,380.14
Nativity Elem.	\$	55.00
Capital Improvement	\$	683.00
Miscellaneous	\$	1,061.65
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	16,881.79
CASH NEEDED	\$	14,400.00



We want to extend a very Happy Mothers Day wish to all of the mothers and mothers-to-be in our Nativity Parish!

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

R.C.I.A.

This week the RCIA class will be learning about Evangelization with Greg and Penny Payne. 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.

BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for May 16th. Lapasinski-Zhe (Christina), Michailos (John & Nikol), Robertson (Shawn & Mirna), Wilson (Arch & Jaqueline), Wood (Joseph & Amanda), Bailleux (Matthew & Robing Viglianco) and Ballinger (Theresa). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
May 20 4:00 pm 1. Gerrie Weldon 2. Andrea Gilich 3. Kalin Lloyd 4. Helen Languirand 5. Liz Joachim May 21 7:00 am 1. Jim Compton 2. Marcia Mayfield 3. Dale Dorcik 9:00 am 1. Belinda Corley 2. Judy Trahan 3. Bobby Weaver 4. Barry Gilmore 5. Linda Bourgeois 11:00 am 1. Deacon Ben 2. Deacon Ron 3. Rocky Greathouse 4. Nanette Burke 5. Linda Welter 5:30 pm 1. Roland Creel 2. Tricia Creel 3. Kristy Arguelles	May 20 4:00 pm Michael Bruffey May 21 7:00 am Joe Koonce 9:00 am Steve Theobald 11:00 am Don Marie 5:30 pm Matthew Manint CANTORS May 20 4:00 pm Dennis Burke May 21 9:00 am John Welter 11:00 am TBA	May 20 4:00 pm Simon Randall Sofia Carreon May 21 7:00 am Clayton Stoddard Ave Stoddard 9:00 am Justin Useforge Jamie Useforge Army Gollott, IV Emma Theobald 11:00 am Greysen Ross McRae Ross Aidan Tarrant 5:30 pm Jacob Arguelles Nicholas Arguelles Sydni Wills

MASS INTENTIONS

	6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon May 15	Kathleen Hebert	John Harvey
Tue May 16	John Harvey	Clare Sekul Hornsby
Wed May 17	Andrew Cvitanovich	Stanley Dellenger
Thur May 18	Collins-Sims Fly.	Vietnamese Families
Fri May 19	Glenn/Joyce Pisarich	John T. Collins
Sat May 20	8 Chester Balius Fly.	4 Thomas Andrews
Sun May 21	7 - Kathleen Hebert	9 - F. T. P.
	11 - Sue Ellen Fallo Welch	5:30 William Smith

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

*A Celebration of Ministry will be held on Tuesday, May 16th at 1:30 p.m. to pray with and celebrate the ministry of Nativity Staff members who are retiring or who are leaving the school. We give thanks for the ministry of Mrs. Daphne Hilton, Mrs. Nanette Burke, Mrs. Bianca Wooden, Mrs. Cathy Creel and Mrs. Sue Kostmayer and ask God's blessing on them and their families. Friends, family members and former students are more than welcome to join the faculty, staff and students in this celebration. *The Nativity School Fourth graders, led by Mrs. Jennifer Vincent, invite you to attend their Mississippi Museum on Wednesday, May 17th at 2:00 p.m. in the school gym. Come and learn more about our state from these talented children! *The Nativity School Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Nanette Burke, will hold their annual Spring Concert on Thursday, May 18th at 1:30 p.m. in the school gym. All are welcome to come and enjoy the music shared by these 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders.

*The annual Peace, Love and Saints celebration will be held on Friday, May 19th at the school. Activities and field events will begin at 9:30, a family picnic will be held at noon and afternoon water activities will complete the day as we celebrate all that the children have accomplish this year as Nativity Saints! *The annual Peace, Love and Saints 5K run will be held on Saturday, May 20th. For more information, please visit the school's website at www.nativitybvm.org

*Nativity School will once again host the Summer Saints program, for children in 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.

FIRST COMMUNION

We congratulate our First Communion Children who took the Body of Christ for the first time on Saturday, May 13th. May the Lord dwell in your heart and your mind and may you take the Body of Christ often.

ST. MICHAEL CHURCH ANNUAL DRAWDOWN

Parishioners from St. Michael Church will be present after this weekend's Masses selling tickets to their \$10,000.00 drawdown. Let's support our good neighbor to the east.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 15 Women of Mary, 5:30 p.m.

May 16 - Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. - SHC
 Bingo Mania 5:30 p.m.

May 17- **Cleaning Team "C"**

Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.
 CCD Class, 5:30 p.m. until 6:30, SHC.

May 18 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.

Nativity School Choir, 1:30 p.m., in the gym

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old.

We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy. We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways. We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away. We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen.

CCD CLASS INFORMATION

CCD classes are on Wednesday, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center. Our last class for the year is May 17th.

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Catholic Kids Camp 2017: June 12th - 16th, 9:00 a.m. -12-p.m. Ages 4-11 participants! 12 and up volunteers! For more information contact Jane Sema 228-217-1392. Or jsema@osstalphonus.org.