

HOPE IS A GIFT THAT FLOWS FROM GOD AND BREAKS THROUGH LIFE'S CHALLENGES!

One of the concerns raised in the first Letter of Peter to the Christian communities is that of suffering. Encouraging its readers to stay committed to living the Christian life even in the midst of trial, the passage today from the third chapter gives the charge to ALWAYS be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope. The second part of this verse is also important: Do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear.

Why do we focus on the second part of this verse today? Because it speaks to the heart of evangelization. To be an evangelizer is to be a disciple who shares the faith with others. It does not mean being pushy and forcing faith upon people who know or briefly encounter. As we just heard, we need to be ready to explain why we have hope, and second, we must do it gently, or with respect for the other person. This, then, assumes that we have hope and that our expression of it is carried out properly.

Are you a person of hope? As Christians, in what do we hope? To be able to answer that question is the heart of evangelization. The reason for our hope is Jesus Christ! It gives us hope when we believe in his promise of eternal life. It gives us hope when we trust in God's love and mercy. We have hope because we are witnesses to all that God has done for us. The second part of the equation is our ability to express this hope in a way that respects the dignity of the person with whom we are talking.

One way we can share our faith with others is by living in hope. Even on our darkest days, when things seem all but lost, even in deep grief or sadness, we can dare to hope. Hope is not something we create, but it comes from God. It is not of human origin, but divine. That is one reason why it continues to exist even when we suffer tragedies. Hope is what has enabled martyrs over the centuries to endure their trials. The witness of hope in the midst of life's challenges can be a powerful message.

When we come together like we are doing today, to listen to God's word and to celebrate the Eucharist, we are renewed in hope, we are refreshed in spirit and we are able to give thanks to the One from whom our reason to hope flows. Let us pray that each of us, as we go out today, is able to celebrate the hope within, which is a gift received, and share it with those with whom we come in contact, so that our reason for hope is attractive and draws others to Christ.

A Prayer for Hope: *Heavenly Father, I am your humble servant, I come before you today in need of hope. There are times when I feel helpless. There are times when I feel weak. I pray for hope. I need hope for a better future. I need hope for a better life. I need hope for love and kindness. Some say that the sky is at its darkest just before the light. I pray that this is true, for all seems dark. I need your light, Lord, in every way. I pray to be filled with your light from head to toe. To bask in your glory. To know that all is right in the world, as you have planned, and as you want it to be. Help me to walk in your light, and live my life in faith and glory. In your name I pray, Amen.*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Mon May 22	Acts 16:11-15, Jn 15:26-16:4a
Tues May 23	Acts 16:22-34, Jn 16:5-11
Wed May 24	Acts 17:15,22 – 18:1, Jn 16:12-15
Thur May 25	Acts 18:1-8, Jn 16:16-20
Fri May 26	Acts 18:9-18, Jn 16:20-23, Phil 4:4-9, Jn 17:20-26
Sat May 27	Acts 18:23-28, Jn 16:23b-28
Sun May 28	Acts 1:1-11, Eph 1:17-23, Mt 28:16-20



YOUR	SUNDAY	TITHING	AND
CONTRIBUTIONS			
Regular Collections		\$	7,077.00
Nativity Maintenance		\$	680.00
Nativity Elem.		\$	685.00
Capital Improvement		\$	152.00
Miscellaneous		\$	1,448.25
TOTAL COLLECTION		\$	10,042.25
CASH NEEDED		\$	14,400.00

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 how God Calls us to Pray and Jesus teaches us to Pray with Father Mike Austin, and Ryan Canon will be leading us in our prayer service. 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 23rd. Borja (Mary), Bounds (Don & Zina Puz), Canonici (Jason & Stephanie), Chereskin (Alan Chereskin), Codella (John & Rachel), Gruich (April Croncich) and Koval (Ryan & Hailey). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

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.

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@osstalphonusus.org.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
May 27 4:00 pm 1. Jim Coskey 2. Kathleen Coskey 3. Gerrie Weldon 4. Ann Kavanagh 5. Gayle Mavar May 28 7:00 am 1. Vicki Howard 2. Colleen Kavanagh 3. Danny Kavanagh 9:00 am 1. Barbara Ziz 2. John Brauchle 3. Maggie Landry 4. Marianne Sherman 5. John Sherman 11:00 am 1. Deacon Ben 2. Deacon Ron 3. Mary Wimberly 4. Judy Steckler 5. Sandy Steckler 5:30 pm 1. Annette Luther 2. Teresa Ballinger 3. Jim Shugart	May 27 4:00 pm Rose Anne Kimbell May 28 7:00 am Sr. Mary Jo Mike 9:00 am Liz Wilkinson 11:00 am Michelle Sekul 5:30 pm Janice Fields CANTORS May 27 4:00 pm Phil Frisby May 28 9:00 am Nicholas Radolfich 11:00 am Choir	May 27 4:00 pm Simon Randall Sabree Sanders May 28 7:00 am Makayla Pfarrer Wyeth Stewart 9:00 am Morgan Newman Rhys Newman Rush Newman Sofia Carreon 11:00 am Michael Pfarrer Hadyn Hollis Aidan Tarrant 5:30 pm Samantha Sharplin Breanna Smith Taylor Yasar

MASS INTENTIONS

	6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon May 22	John Harvey	Louis Germanis
Tue May 23	Michael/Joanne Evans	Kathleen Hebert
Wed May 24	Arch L. Chronister	Jean Kridle
Thur May 25	John Harvey	Mary Rosella McAuliffee
Fri May 26	Gaspar/Mary Pisarich	Thomas Edward Connell
Sat May 27	<u>8</u> Collins-Sims Fly. <u>4</u>	Josephine Esposito Allen
Sun May 28	<u>7</u> - Frank Amelio <u>11</u> - John Oertle	<u>9</u> - F. T. P. Frederick Picciano

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Patsy Smolcich, 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

*Nativity School will honor its 6th graders and their families at a luncheon in their honor on Monday, May 22nd at 12:15. We congratulate these students on a job, very well done!

*PreSchool and Kindergarten students will have a concluding program and celebration on Tuesday, May 23rd at 9:00 a.m. in the school gym. All are welcome to attend. ***A special graduation Mass will be celebrated with the Sixth Graders and their families on Wednesday, May 24th at 9:00 a.m. in the Cathedral.** *Nativity School will conclude its school year with a special 9:00 Mass at the school followed by an awards assembly. We are grateful for the love, prayer and support that we have received throughout this school year.

*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. *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.

*Congratulations to Jeannette Cook, the May winner of the Nativity School Raffle. This is the first time that someone has won TWICE in one year! Our final drawing will be held on June 1st. Thank you for your support! Tickets are now on sale for the 2017-2018 raffle. *Please continue to save your Box Tops for Education. We recently received a check for \$237.40.*Our school also recycles aluminum beverage cans..this helps our environment and also helps our school. We recently received \$95 due to recycling!

NEW WINE GROUPS TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER, 2017

The Catholic Diocese of Biloxi will again offer a 3 year program called "New Wine" beginning in September of this year. The program provides education and formation for adults interested in being involved in lay ministry. Interested individuals should contact Father Dennis no later than June 9, 2017.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 22 Women of Mary, 5:30 p.m.
 May 23 - Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC
 Bingo Mania 5:30 p.m.
 - RCIA at 6:00 p.m., SHC
 May 24- 6th Grade Graduation Mass, 9:00 a.m. Cathedral
Cleaning Team "D"
 Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.
 May 25 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.

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.

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.

BEST WISHES TO BOB CHISM

Bob Chism, who has ministered to Nativity Cathedral in music, will be retiring after many years of working in music. We thank him for his gift of talent which he so generously shared with us at Nativity for the past four years. We wish him rest and relaxation in his retirement years and God's blessings upon this golden age of his life.