

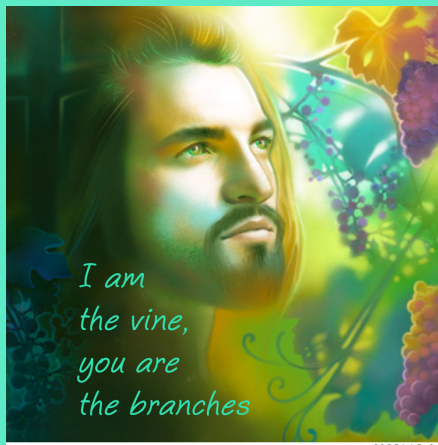
Most Blessed Sacrament Parish News

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April 28-29, 2018
Volume XXXIII No. 17



5th Sunday of Easter



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The church was being built up, and grew in numbers (Acts 9:26-31).

Psalm — I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people (Psalm 22).

Second Reading — Let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth (1 John 3:18-24).

Gospel — Remain in me, as I remain in you. I am the vine, you are the branches (John 15:1-8).

LIVING BRANCHES

The Gospel and second reading for this Fifth Sunday of Easter emphasize the need for us to remain in Christ, and he in us. This shared life finds expression in the image of the one vine and many branches. We become living branches of the vine, members of the Body of Christ through baptism, Eucharist, and confirmation, sacraments of sharing God's own life. The First Letter of John describes the fruit of this vine as active love of neighbor: "And his commandment is this: we should believe . . . and love one another" (1 John 3:23).

Our first reading from Acts shows us an example of someone who shares in Christ's life in the person of Saint Paul. Paul's fearless witness, even at the risk of his life, is proof to everyone that the risen Lord's Spirit truly fills him with life and is bearing fruit in him.

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Parish Staff

Pastor.....Fr. Phil Spano
Mass Assistance.....Fr. Donald Blanchard
Parish Life Coord.Deacon Don Musso
Permanent Deacon..... Deacon Mark Berard
Receptionist.....Andrea Leger
Secretary.....Caryn Didier
Bookkeeper.....Darlene Moscona
Director of Music.....Kathy Duplessis
and Ministry
Youth Director.....West Giffin

Director-Christian Form.....David Planché
Christian Formation phone...(225) 751-5867
Secretary-Christian Form...Theresa LeBoeuf
Child Protection Office.....(225) 753-5526

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:30 p.m./Confessions 3:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 9:45 a.m., & 11:30 a.m.
Monday 8:45 a.m. - Communion Service
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 8:45 a.m.
Thursday School Mass - 8:15 a.m.

MBS SCHOOL

Principal: Cheri Gioe
School Phone 751-0273/Fax: 753-7259

Extended Care: Sheena Gauthier 751-0023

MBS Early Learning Center

Director: Laurina Conger 752-8829

Parish Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
(Closed 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)
Friday: 8:00 a.m. - Noon

•**BAPTISMS:** Twice a month, after 11:30 Mass. Call office during pregnancy to sign up and for class information.

•**MARRIAGE:** Law of Diocese requires 6 month preparation period prior to wedding. Call church office for more information.

•**FUNERAL:** Please call the priest for prayer and before setting date/time.

•**RCIA:** If interested in becoming Catholic, call the church office.

FAITH-FILLED COMMUNITY OF MERCY, BLESSINGS, & SERVICE

MBS Adult Co-Ed Volleyball League

Due to the extensive work being done on our baseball fields this summer we will not be able to host our adult co-ed summer softball league. In place of this league we are going to host an adult co-ed summer volleyball league! Please see the registration form for more information. Forms are available on the MBS School website at mbsbr.org under Athletics. Please email any questions to the MBS Athletic Director, Christine Rabalais, at chrabalais@mbsbr.org.

Catholic Daughters - Court of Divine Mercy

Court of Divine Mercy (MBS's Catholic Daughters) will be meeting on Tuesday, May 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the St. John Room. All ladies of the parish are invited. Court of Divine Mercy is a group of Catholic women who are dedicated to a unified faith in Christ as demonstrated through charitable good works to the community and the Church.

First Communion

It is with great joy that our parish family welcomes our 2nd graders as we celebrate First Eucharist this weekend. We ask our parish family to pray for this group of children and their families, as they come to this Sacramental milestone in their lives.

Both celebrations for First Eucharist are at 1:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday, April 28-29 . Check in begins at 11:30 a.m. in the St. John Room and everyone must receive pew banner and packet before going to church. The photographs will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the group photo will be at 1:15 p.m. For this special celebration, how wonderful for our 2nd graders that they "taste and see the goodness of the Lord" as they join Jesus in the Eucharist. We pray that this day will lead to lives of holiness and complete dependence upon the Lord as our children continue to grow in wisdom, age, and grace! Everyone is invited to attend.

Diocesan Prayer for the Selection of a New Bishop

*Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for your sheep. As the Good Shepherd, you call other leaders to guide and care for your flock. We pray that you send forth your Holy Spirit to inspire your Church in selecting a new Bishop for the Diocese of Baton Rouge. May he be a shepherd, after your own heart, who will lead us to deepen our love for you and for each other. May he guide us to create the unity you intend for our entire human family as one flock with one shepherd. We pray this in your name, Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and Lord.
Amen.*

Shipwrecked

MBS Vacation Bible School 2018

Vacation Bible School will be held the week of **June 25-29 from 9:00-12:00 noon**. All MBS children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade (2018-19 school year) are eligible to attend. At *Shipwrecked VBS*, kids will deepen their faith by discovering that Jesus cares about them and rescues them in life's toughest circumstances. The week will be filled with Scripture, games, drama, crafts, music, snacks and a lot more!

A non-refundable \$35 registration fee will include a t-shirt for each child and a music CD for each family.

ONLINE REGISTRATION for **students** will be held **May 6-20th**. Online instructions are:

Go to the Church website at

www.mbsparish.org

Click on "Vacation Bible School". Enter "Shipwrecked" website.

Click on "Register Participant" and "Continue".

Follow instructions to fill in child's name, address, 2018-19 grade level, t-shirt size, etc.

Return to Church website to make your payment using Pay Pal.

ON-SITE REGISTRATION for **adults** and **students** will be held **Sunday, May 6 after all Masses in the foyer of MBS church**. A check for the registration fee must be paid at this time.

VBS registration will close on May 20th or when a maximum of 100 participants are registered. All fees must be paid by this time so supplies can be ordered. **NO late registration** will be accepted.

TEEN VOLUNTEERS: (entering 9th -12th grade) **MUST register in person on Sunday, May 6** and submit a non-refundable \$10 t-shirt fee. **TEENS must be able to work the ENTIRE week**. Teen spots are limited (35 max.). On-line registration **will not** be accepted for teens.

FULL TIME ADULT VOLUNTEERS will receive a discount on one child's registration fee and a free t-shirt.

All volunteers 18 years or older must undergo a background check process. Please contact the Office of Child Protection at **753-5526** for more information.

For any other matters, **please contact Judy Carr, VBS coordinator at 335-6563**.

A Letter From Fr. Phil Spano

Dear Parishioners,

Every year since I have been privileged to serve as pastor of Most Blessed Sacrament Church (2011) there have been multiple capital improvements and repairs on our church/school property that we have had to attend to as an MBS Church responsibility. With the assistance of our staff, maintenance personnel, building committee consultants, and the parish finance committee, we have tackled a multitude of projects. Some are obvious, some are not so obvious, yet they're serious nevertheless. Because of the generosity of so many past and present MBS parishioners and, in my opinion, frugal management of our temporalities, we have been able to fund these from savings on hand with the Diocese of Baton Rouge without having to approach you with "money talks". Under Fr. Mike Collins' pastorate, the new church (now 12 yrs. old), the church administration/meeting rooms building, the restoration of the old church into St. Ursula Hall Activity Building, the enlargement of the pre-school, and the purchase of a priest residence were all accomplished and paid for over the years. By 2011, a little over \$3,000,000 was in an MBS savings account with the Diocese. That's a quick summary of the financial path we've been on.

Since the construction and renovation of these parish properties, we needed major repairs, improvements, some new small construction, etc., and they were handled and communicated through the church bulletin and/or school newsletter since I've been here. MBS is now at a point that I need to address some issues more directly, so please bear with me.

A year ago it was discovered that some serious foundational issues in the MBS School courtyard were going to have to be addressed. After consultation, they were going to be taken care of, and at the same time, a redesign to accommodate school/parish gatherings in the courtyard would be implemented. Improving long term maintenance and safety concerns were a part of that scope. Please remember just how old MBS School and "old church" properties are. Providentially, that project had to be delayed which allowed for a greater study of our grounds. The work of our building committee discovered additional major concerns such as drainage problems, the need for utility rerouting, ADA accessibility, life safety-code violations, inclement weather bus/car drop off provisions, etc.

I'm bringing this to parishioners' attention because I am called to be a wise steward of the church's properties and finances. Pastors and parishes are required to follow Diocesan protocols with regard to building, capital improvements, and serious repairs/replacements for the Bishop to grant approval. Also, having been a priest in five parishes with schools, I know it's important that church parishioners know that its parochial school is a ministerial outreach of its church's ministry regardless of any personal connection to the school. Except for those who go to mass, our Catholic school impacts the greatest number of people in any one ministry. Our properties and buildings on the school campus serve a number of church parish ministries in addition to Catholic school education. Some examples: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Daisies, National Charity League, Men's Club, School After Care, Parish/School Athletics, Parish School of Religion (CCD, PSR), Confirmation Preparation, Retreats, Peer Team Ministry, Youth Group Ministry, \$10,000 Raffle, MBS Church Fair, Vacation Bible School, Thanksgiving Meal, Christmas Socials, Challenge Youth for Girls, Conquest Youth for Boys, Civic/Neighborhood Meetings, and more. Our MBS Church and School properties and buildings are necessary to serve the local people of God in a wide variety of ministries and ways - at present, approximately 2,900 families.

Another issue to address, especially for those who have been parishioners for over fifteen years or so, is connected to the "first phase" that MBS went through which I highlighted in the opening paragraph - the building of a new MBS Church and related projects. Many parishioners pledged financial support to this campaign very generously. It continued and still continues through the first weekend of the month second collections at all masses. These monies go into parish savings with the Diocese and are available for serious repairs, capital improvements, and new construction. A "second phase" that was spoken about without any real specifics surfaced a type of parish activity building for future construction. The renovations of the former church (St. Ursula) were to enable it to function as an activity building for parish/school gatherings as MBS paid off its new construction debt and began building savings knowing that the Diocese of Baton Rouge requires at least half of the cost for any new construction to be on hand in a savings account. There are no specifics or immediate plans for that new construction, even though it remains as a future project priority. The consensus of our building and finance committees, with which I agree, is that our first priority is to begin work as soon as the school year ends on what I have outlined on Parish/School property projects.

The cost of this project will be approximately \$755,000 to \$800,000. Our MBS savings accounts, which have funded previous maintenance projects each year since 2011, is over \$5,000,000. Your generosity over the years and at present allows MBS to fund a multitude of ministries, buildings, properties, and projects without having to borrow money from the Diocese. I can't thank MBS parishioners enough for your Stewardship of Prayer, Service/Ministry, and Offerings/Finances. Even with this gratitude, I encourage you to increase in prayer, service, and offering if your circumstances allow for it. Bring what you give back to God (in giving to your Church Family) greater consciousness and intentionality in your prayerful decisions. Even though MBS has done well, please help our present and future growth through a generous spirit.

The Diocese of Baton Rouge and MBS Church have had a rich history of encouraging Catholics to be "identified" contributors by using church envelopes, checks, and/or using the direct draft service. This is not about how much one gives. It's not mine or anyone else's business, but between the giver and God. Being identified helps your sense of ownership and connection, and overall, it helps our finance committee and staff with the budgeting process. The regular "Stewardship" is the first collection passed which finances regular operations, both planned and unplanned. Any extra monies (if any) available after bills/expenses are routed to our building and savings account or sometimes used to pay unexpected repairs, etc. The first weekend of the month second collections are put into savings for present and future MBS building and development (a connection to the original "campaign"). MBS has a multitude of ministries, present needs, and hopes and dreams for our future. We need all parishioners to do their part in building the local Kingdom of God in our church family.

Please know of my prayers, support, gratitude, and availability even as I ask for your understanding and support.

Fr. Phil

FAITH-FILLED COMMUNITY OF MERCY, BLESSINGS, & SERVICE

Most Blessed Sacrament Church Mission Statement

The mission of Most Blessed Sacrament Church is for members to witness the real presence of the Lord in word and sacrament, and that they may live out the message from the gospel and serve one another as followers of Jesus Christ.

This Week's Events . . .

Saturday, April 28, 2018

1:30 pm First Communion Church

Sunday, April 29, 2018

1:30 pm First Communion Church

Monday, April 30, 2018

6:00 pm Adult Confirmation Mtg. School Library

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

7:00 pm Catholic Daughters Mtg. St. John Room

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice Church

Thursday, May 3, 2018

7:00 pm Men's Club Mtg. Cafeteria

7:00 pm Scripture & Spirituality St. Mark Room

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Sat. April 28	4:30 pm	Maisie & Isadore Rodrigue Leander Melancon, Sr. Leander Melancon, Jr. John de Fuentes Betty Eckert Peter & Verdi Couvillion Audrey & Cleveland Banquer CJ & Corine LeBlanc Jake Cross
Sun. April 29	8:00 am	Walter Hebbler, Sr. Jason Hollier Neil Lovell
	9:45 am	Edmonia Bernard Peter Lombardo David Bowman Theresa Miley Angelina Barthel Ed & Rosemary Evans The Cantey Family Cora Demarco Sanfilippo Vickie Horcasitas Carolyn Tiger
	11:30 am	For The People
Mon. April 30	8:45 am	Communion Service
Tues. May 1	8:45 am	Gabrielle Marcantel
Wed. May 2	8:45 am	
Thurs. May 3	8:15 am	Kasey Kidder Joyce Stoner
Fri. May 4	8:45 am	Jacquin & Brun Families Michael & Cody Holmes Andrew Phu Do

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING - April 14-15, 2018

Identified Contributors	\$23,644.00
April 15th Bank Drafts	\$ 5,312.00
Unidentified Contributors	\$ 2,535.00
Total	\$31,491.00

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16;
Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21;
Jn 14:27-31a or (for the memorial)
Gn 1:26 — 2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24;
Ps 90:2-4, 12-14, 16; Mt 13:54-58
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-5; Jn 14:6-14
Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21

Masses - April 28-29, 2018	4:30 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	9:45 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
Celebrant - Subject to Change	Fr. Phil	Fr. Phil	Fr. Blanchard	Fr. Blanchard

April 28-29, 2018 5th Sunday of Easter

	Servers	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers
4:30 pm	C Ransome, C Ransome, HG Vautrot	M Gaudet, A Ransome	B Willis, C Willis, J Sutherland, G Landry, R Brouillette, S Brouillette, Deacon M Braud, B Landry
8:00 am	C McCullough, M Laudun, J Breaux	K Eads, V Schexnayder	V Clause, S Daugherty, E Daugherty, CL Mendoza, K Hollier, M Robichaux, A Blount, E Barber
9:45 am	D Peeler, A Martin, L Leger	D Ourso, D Davis	E Moran, L Evans, K Talbot, J LaBar, D Decell, K Decell, R Rossi, W Golden
11:30 am	C Rico, K Wilkerson, JP Bourgeois	C Ryan, B Ragusa	A Byrne, S Gremillion, D Passman, T Passman, MK Aucoin, S Keagle, J Ruh, J Johnson

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

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Thursday 5:00

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