

# COME, LORD JESUS!

*Spiritual Insights  
Reports  
Formation  
Program Updates*



May  
Every Thursday  
Memorial Mass  
for the enrollees  
in the CLJ!  
Memorial Burse

May 4  
3rd Sunday of  
Easter

May 11  
4th Sunday of  
Easter

May 18  
5th Sunday of  
Easter

May 25  
6th Sunday of  
Easter

## *Peace and joy in our risen Lord!*

I have always been impressed with the fact that in the Gospel accounts of the resurrection, both for the vigil and Easter day itself, we are given only preliminary signs that Jesus had risen. The pattern of his self-revelation continues for us the way it began for the disciples. This is what I mean: we creatures of earth need to dispose ourselves in order to be prepared to receive a divine revelation. As sense-bound people of the world we must open ourselves to the spiritual world, the kingdom, where Jesus lives with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Faith and faith life are the means whereby we can open ourselves to these spiritual realms.

This is why a gradual unfolding has to happen. God takes the initiative by giving us certain signs of his presence. He does not show himself all at once. Having given us a hint as to his whereabouts, he awaits a response from us. Our follow-up must be to seek him. This action on our part disposes us for a further revelation from God. In this way, by mutual reciprocation, we gradually come to see our risen Lord with increasing clarity.

When Mary Magdalene caught sight of Jesus, she did not know him (Jn 20: 4). It was only when she heard the spoken word of Jesus calling her name that her faith was stirred, and she recognized his presence. In other words,

she, like the other disciples who witnessed the resurrection, was on the same faith level as we are. But Mary Magdalene merited being called by name because she was looking for Jesus.

See the pattern: Jesus did not reveal himself immediately even to his best friends. Each had to be awakened by signs of faith and prepared by responding: they had to seek him. So it is for us. We must look for our risen Lord in the breaking of the bread (Lk 24:35), and in his word (Jn 1:14); in needy persons (Mt 25: 35-36), in the least significant human being (Mt 25:40), like a gardener (Jn 20:15), or a stranger on the seashore (Jn 21:4); we must also seek out our glorious Lord in the faith community (Mt 18:20). Each time we take a step in faith to seek him in one of the sacraments, which he specifically left for us to find him, or make a sacrifice, or detach ourselves from this world, we attain a new degree of spirituality. Therefore, we are more capable of experiencing his presence, of becoming one with him, and so coming to know him.

The search is indeed rewarding (Mt 7:8); it leads us to the glorified Christ dwelling in us (Col 1:27)!

*Father Conley Bertrand*

*You will seek  
me and find me  
when you seek  
me with all  
your HEART.*

Jeremiah 29:13



## *The Value of Community*

As we reflect upon our glorious risen Lord, we see that Jesus continued to mingle in community with the apostles after he died. Upon rising from the dead, he returned to join himself again to his apostles and friends. He conversed with them and commingled with them familiarly (e.g. Jn 20:11-23). They did things together, like catch fish (Jn 21: 1-8), and enjoyed cooking and sharing a meal together on the seashore (Jn 21:9-14). It was on this occasion that Jesus fulfilled what he had promised (Mt 16:18) when he commissioned Peter to take his place as the good shepherd (Jn 21:15-17). He was to lead his sheep, care for and nourish them, and be their source of strength (Lk 22:32) and unity (Jn 10:16). As model shepherd their new leader must be ready to lay his life down in self-sacrifice for his group (Jn 10:17-18: 21:18-19). For the leader must prove himself or herself to be the greater in love and humility by serving others (Mt 23:11).

Jesus promised that he would continue to be present within the community he had formed. He would accomplish this through the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:15-23). He instructed his apostles to wait for this baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5). So, together, they devoted themselves to constant prayer, with Mary the mother of Jesus, his relatives and some women (Acts 1:12-14). Then the promised day came. The glorified Christ did indeed send the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost in tongues of fire that destroyed all division and brought about an impressive unity among greatly divergent peoples (Acts 2:1-12). The Spirit of God joined them together to such an extent that they shared all things (Acts 2:44). They were of one heart and one mind so that everything was held in common (Acts 3:32). They met by mutual agreement (Acts 5:4) and shared their meals together (Acts 2:46).

This community became a center of power to which the apostles returned to draw strength so that they could continue to speak God's word with boldness in the face of opposition and persecution (Acts 4:23-31). This is the community whose fervent prayers freed Peter from prison and from death (Acts 12:1-19). This is the community that maintained its fervor and strength by nourishing itself on the teachings of the apostles, the communal life, the breaking of the bread (the Eucharist) and the prayers (Acts 2:42). As a result, their number increased day by day (Acts 2:47). All of these, made up of all who do the will of God, became members of Jesus' new family (Mt 12:48-50).

We too, like the first apostolic community, are those who do God's will and have been immersed into Christ through baptism (Rom 6:3). We are deeply joined to him that we form one body with him and with one another (Rom 12:5). We are being built into a dwelling place for God in the Spirit (Eph 2:22) to form that perfect man who is Christ (Eph 4:11). By professing the truth in love, we grow to the full maturity of Christ (Eph 4:15). Jesus is in the process of creating one new person from those who previously had been divided (Eph 2:15). Through him the whole body is growing; and, with the proper functioning of the members joined firmly together, the community is building itself up in love (Eph 4:15).

*Father Conley Bertrand*



# ***Anniversary Mass***

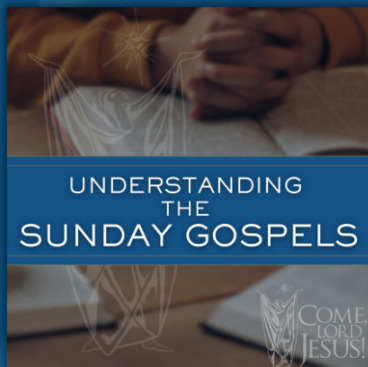
## ***Houma - Thibodaux***

## ***Lafayette / Baton Rouge Dioceses***

## ***St. Stephen Catholic Church / Berwick***







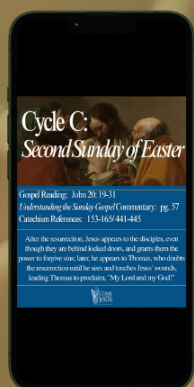
## NEW PODCAST

Listen to the upcoming Sunday Gospel Reading

Hear Fr. Bertrand read his commentary

Please follow, rate, review, and share!

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## JOIN US ON INSTAGRAM



Read a weekly summary for the liturgical week

See quotes from Fr. Bertrand's gospel commentary

Look at pictures from our week's Outreach Events!



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More to come!



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Read a daily gospel commentary



## NEW MEMBER WELCOME

**Abbeville, LA :** Karen Prejean, Annette Choate,  
Kay DeHart

**Eunice, LA:** Judy Young, Gail Thibodeaux,  
Pamela Lafleur

**Grand Prairie, LA:** Amy Lauret

**Gretna, LA:** Christie Richoux, Blair Constant,  
Austin Wolfe, Corrine Wolfe, David Kalil

**Kinder, LA:** Estalera Manuel

**Lafayette, LA:** Susan Chauffe

**Lake Charles, LA:** Mary Beth Huber, Pam Torres  
Debbie Hollingsworth, Sally Abate

**Ville Platte, LA:** Janella Vidrine

**Youngsville, LA:** Kathy Volkmann



## March 2025 Gift Bags Received

Thank you for your generosity!

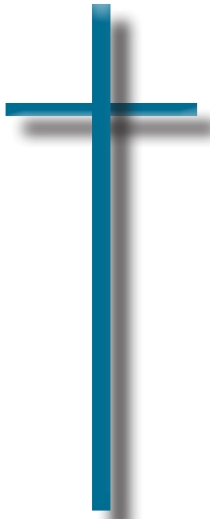
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## Leader Spiritual Formation Broussard / Milton / Youngsville





# Condolences



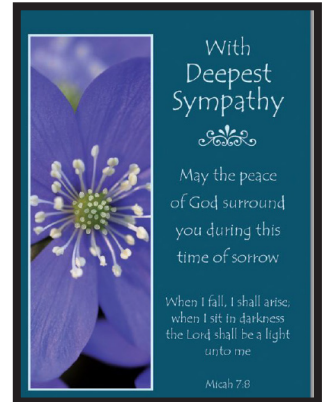
- To member Dee Schwartz of Carencro, LA on the death of her mother, Genny Dischler.
- To the members of "One Body" Group in Lufkin, TX on the death of their member, Cheryl Lamont.
- To leader Cheryl Guidry of Cecilia, LA on the death of her sister, Linda T. Guidry.
- To member Sandra Dupre of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her husband, Bobby Dupre.
- To the members of "Filled With the Spirit" a group in Ragley, LA on the death of their member, Margaret Sykes.
- To member Missy Hebert of Lafayette, LA on the death of her mother, Maydel LeBlanc.
- To members Doug and Lolo Robichaux of Jeanerette, LA on the death of Doug's mother, Janet Robichaux.
- To member Clark Schexnider of Parks, LA on the death of his father, Raymond Schexnider.
- To member Bonnie Davis of New Iberia, LA on the death of her sister, Betty Davis William.
- To member Cindy Daigle and Telezia Landry of Pierre Part, LA on the death of Connie Daigle, (Cindy's sister and Telezia's mother in law).

## Memorial Burse Donations MARCH 31 - APRIL 21, 2025

Sylvia Chauvin Borne  
Bobby Dupre  
Lucile Maroney  
Raymond Schexnider

Denise Constantin  
Paul J. Gravois  
Violet L. Menard  
Margaret Sykes

Genny Dischler  
Cheryl Lamont  
Janet Robichaux  
Betty Davis William



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