



The Messenger

Bringing Our Parish Community Together

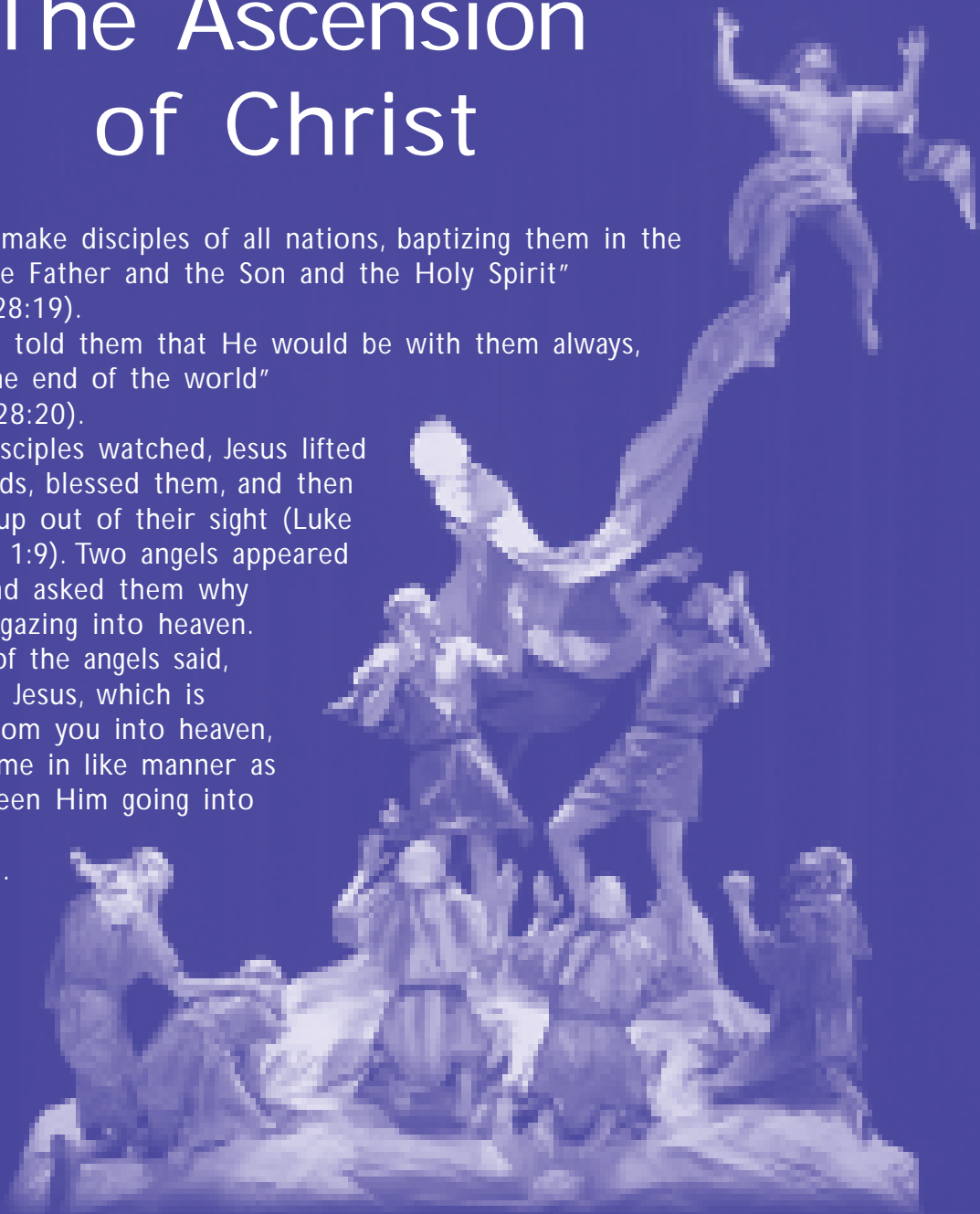
April 2005 • Vol. 8, No. 4

The Ascension of Christ

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit"
(Matthew 28:19).

Jesus also told them that He would be with them always, "even to the end of the world"
(Matthew 28:20).

As the disciples watched, Jesus lifted up His hands, blessed them, and then was taken up out of their sight (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9). Two angels appeared to them and asked them why they were gazing into heaven. Then one of the angels said, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him going into heaven"
(Acts 1:11).



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*I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of
God and am sent to spread unto thee, and to
show thee glad tidings. Luke 1:19*

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We are always looking for people to
work on *The Messenger*. If you're
interested, please contact Bonnie
Orzolek.

Mistakes happen

By Mary Lynn Hendrickson

"Mom, what's a 'critic'?" my son asked last week. I looked at him quizzically but then said, "Well, there are two meanings that I know of. One is somebody who judges a movie, a concert, or a artistic performance and tells you what's good and bad about it. Another is somebody who complains a lot, who only talks about the negative in all that they see."

"Oh! You mean like Simon?!?" he replied excitedly, referring to that infamous critic he knows more from repeated viewings of 'Shrek 2' than from any installment of 'American Idol.' "Yeah, I guess..." I said, a little unsure of which meaning of "critic" my son was referring to, though I suspected the latter.

I thought of a conversation at Mass when the first reading made the Hebrews sound like a sea of Simons. A couple days without water and all they could see was the BAD part of being freed from slavery!

But as the last reading — and our own life — shows, sometimes that overly critical eye can be turned inward, too. We look at our lives at times and see nothing but the mistakes we make. As parents we kick ourselves for not being more patient. We blame ourselves for kids who turn out too meek or too lippy when they encounter problems at school. We "should" all over ourselves with repeated self-recriminations: we should have spent more time with our kids, should have limited TV and junk food more, should have read to them more — as though what we've done wrong counts more than what we've done right. And as though the end of our story has already been written.

When Jesus meets the woman at the well, you know she thinks the end of her story has already been written. You know Jesus' disciples think the same of her, too. And yet Jesus isn't willing to give up on her, for all her mistakes — five husbands and counting, so laden with shame and social rejection that she's at the well alone instead with other women from the village. Jesus sits with her and has one of the longest conversations recorded in the New Testament. She's among the first to experience the transforming power of his message: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me....My yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11). What happens next? A social screw-up becomes the means through which an entire village accepts Jesus. A failure becomes a hero.

Her story wasn't over, after all. And neither is ours. Yes, we sin. We make mistakes. But as the authors of 'The Spirituality of Imperfection' put it, "If a thing is worth doing, it's worth doing badly." Parenting is worth that risk — and so is love and following Jesus. All Jesus asks is that we never give up.

Elementary and Youth Faith Formation Events

April

Middle School GLAD
Sunday, April 10, 3 p.m.

High School GLAD
Sunday, April 10, 6 p.m.

High School
Pizza Chat with Fr. Pat
Sunday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.

K, 1st & 2nd Grade GLAD
Monday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.

3rd, 4th & 5th Grade
GLAD
Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.

Eucharist Assembly
Sunday, April 17, 2 p.m.

Confirmation Liturgy
Sunday, April 17, 5 p.m.

Youth Mass
Sunday, April 24, 3 p.m.

Middle School Taco Chat
Sunday, April 24, 5 p.m.

April 15 Italian Dinner Potluck 7 p.m.

Bring your
favorite Italian
dish to share!



Moment of Grace

Believe in Teen Magic

By Bonnie Orzolek

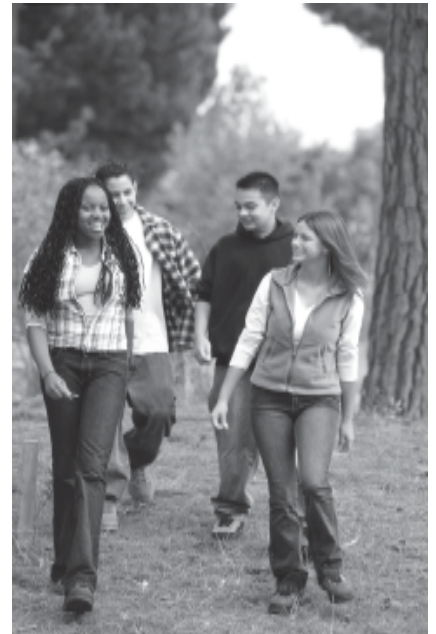
The other day I was sitting at a basketball game, talking idly to another parent. For some reason my short one year stint as a substitute teacher came up, and she asked me how I had liked it. "It was wonderful," I told her. And then I told her what I often tell people about my year as a substitute teacher: that in all of my teaching jobs, both elementary schools and high schools, I never had one disrespectful student.

When I look back, this fact is amazing. Didn't we torment substitute teachers when I was in high school? Maybe I was just one lucky substitute teacher, but I tell you the truth when I say that the students I taught at both Clover Hill and Midlothian High Schools were always patient, helpful, and respectful to me. They were simply good kids, consistently, new class after new class.

I sighed when I told this woman that story. "You never hear that said about kids, what good people most of them really are," I said. She agreed. She told me about getting trapped for over an hour in the parking lot at Clover Hill High School during a surprise ice storm this past winter. Cars were sliding all over the place; Hull Street traffic was at a standstill. She said she watched carloads of teenage boys park their cars and then trudge through the snow, walking back to the school so that they could help push the cars that were blocking the school intersection. She was amazed that after waiting an hour or more in a congested intersection, these teens were getting out of their cars to help, instead of hurrying to their own destinations. Their energy and their willingness to help out

those in need impressed her. "'Would adults be that unselfish?'" she asked. She confessed that after waiting so long at the intersection, the last thing she wanted was to be delayed by getting out of her own car to help others. I recalled my own drive home in that ice storm, and how I passed many who were stranded, but never considered stopping in my one-sided determination to get off the slippery roads.

Sometimes teenagers can help remind us about where our priorities should be. We hear a lot about all the "'troubled" teens in our community, but we forget that the vast majority of teens are really fine human beings. Sometimes it would be nice if there were a way to tell them how much we admire their good qualities, and how much our community needs and appreciates their energy and good will.



Confirmation Prayers

By Barbara Schaedel

My favorite story in the Bible is about Doubting Thomas. Actually, it is not poor Thomas that I focus on, but rather the idea that the very people who learned from Jesus first hand, are now, in that story, quivering in their boots and unwilling to leave the room. How often have we felt like those disciples? How often have we questioned our faith and felt very shaken and afraid?

I am convinced that the only thing that could have prompted those disciples to leave that room was the very presence of the risen Jesus Christ. They knew that if Jesus was crucified, then they, too, faced the possibility of death. Would you face that if the Resurrection was not true?

Yet, the Holy Spirit comes upon those disciples in that room. His strength enables them to go forth and continue Christ's message of peace, love, and forgiveness, despite all of their questions and fears.

Our Confirmands will be receiving this same holy grace on April 17th. Having been on retreat with them, and seeing God working through them, I have little doubt that they, too, will find strength from the Holy Spirit just as the disciples did almost 2000 years ago. Please keep our Confirmands in your thoughts. Pray for them and all of us to have the strength and moral endurance to spread the Good News.

Parish Finances

July 2004 -
February 2005

Income

Regular Offertory	\$ 381,005.61
Other Income	\$ 37,139.43
Diocesan Collection	\$ 3,583.49
	\$ 421,728.53

Expenses

Personnel	\$ 202,965.92
Utilities	\$ 28,409.36
Administration	\$ 112,398.46
Liturgy	\$ 4,238.16
Rel Ed/Youth	\$ 12,408.18
Other Ministries	\$ 7,509.93
Diocesan Coll/Assess	\$ 52,478.62
	\$ 420,408.63
Financial Balance (+/-)	\$ 1,319.90

Social Concerns

Income	\$ 19,096.93
Expenses	\$ 19,096.93

February Debt Reduction

Building Fund Collection (Feb. 2005)	\$ 22,151
Loan Balance (Feb. 28, 2005)	\$ 1,075,111

The Lector and the Woman at the Well

By *Connie O'Neill*

Recently, I was scheduled for the third reading (the intentions) on the 3rd Sunday of Lent, which was Saturday at 5:00 pm on the 26th of March. This meant that I would not be part of the reading of that day's Gospel, a lengthy one commonly known as "The Woman at the Well". The plan was to have the first and second readers for that day assume and speak to the Gospel roles of Narrator and the "Woman." The part of Jesus would be spoken by Father Pat.

Most parishioners never notice that the Saturday evening Liturgy is sometimes preceded by understandable minor glitches, and only see that what follows is a wonderful, dignified celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass. This Saturday was no exception. By the time the clock ticked 5:00, the second reader had not yet arrived, and Eva said that I would have to do the reading of the "Woman" part, barring a miracle.

I said, "Eva, I can't do the part of the "woman" at the well, because as you see, I am a man." She looked at me and smiled. I continued, "Would you have Clark Gable doing Scarlet O'Hara in *Gone With the Wind*? Would you have Luciano Pavarotti doing Mimi in *La Boheme*?"

Eva, in her calming way, replied, "Connie, the people of St Gabriel will understand and accept the fact that you are a male who is just playing a female part."

I said, "Oh yeah, what about my pals in the Knights and their wise guy remarks, raking me over the coals? Ed Ostrowski will be unmerciful," I groaned. "And what about the women of WINGS joking about my machismo. Cindy Calloway will make my life unbearable!"

Just then the 5:00 Mass miracle occurred. After fighting horrendous Highway 360 traffic jams, the second reader arrived. SHE had rehearsed her part and SHE was magnificent in her reading of her part in "The Woman at the Well."

Ah yes, another happy ending at the 5:00 Mass. Oh, by the way: left unsaid is that one reason for this happy ending is that St. Gabes thankfully operates on Eastern Standard Apuzzo time.

Respect Life News

On April 6, the Respect Life Ministry met at Barbara Schaedel's house to discuss upcoming events. On the weekend of April 9 and 10, the Respect Life Ministry will kick off a "Baby Bottle" Fundraiser to benefit the Crisis Pregnancy Center. Please pick up a bottle after Mass that weekend. During the month of April, fill the bottle with coins and bills, or you may insert a check payable to the Crisis Pregnancy Center. Pray as a family for the continued good work of the center. The money will be collected after Masses on Mother's Day Weekend (May 6-8). This is a fun way to involve your whole family as we reach out to help women and babies of our community. Thank you for your support!



The Walk for Life

will be on Saturday, May 7, 2005. The proceeds will go to help fund the Crisis Pregnancy Center. If you are interested in participating, contact the center directly (673-2020) or call Barbara Schaedel at 739 - 2175. It is a short walk and lots of fun. Bring the whole family!

April Schedules

April 9 & 10

April 16 & 17

April 23 & 24

April 30 & May 1

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Cathy Kelley - 5:00
Susan Glynn

David & - 5:00
Mary Ann McCrum
Michael Kilroy

Ellen Williams - 5:00
Rona Weishapl
Chelsea & Kaitlin Dinges

Jan & Dana Kuhn - 5:00
Katherine Orth

Jim Eck - 8:30
Maureen Prince
Andrew Godhum

Mark Jablonski - 8:30
Kelly Cleary
Sara & Clare Jablonski

Lori Donovan - 8:30
Wanda Rue

Mark & Karen Davidson - 8:30
Kenzie, Kailyn & Karlyn Lockie

Debbie Martin - 10:30
Margaret Poe
Marijane Strolla
David Brukasz

Beth Harbula - 10:30
Andrea Dodson
Carol Loviza
Katie Harbula & Ryan Loviza

Scott & Patty Morton - 10:30
Karen Cornman
Catherine & Sarah Faszewski

Lisa & Stu Gorton - 10:30
Brad Gorton
Michael Thomas

Cantor

Katie Schick - 5:00
Janet Joyce -8:30
Georgia Perron -10:30

Norma Bliley - 5:00
Eva Hall - 8:30
Jennie Joyce -10:30

Kathy Anderson - 5:00
Michelle Chimento -8:30
Traci Bonds & Colleen Dawes -10:30

Norma Bliley - 5:00
Janet Joyce -8:30
Peter Dawes -10:30

Eucharistic Ministers

Team 2 - 5:00
Team 3 - 8:30
Team 4 - 10:30

Team 5 - 5:00
Team 7 - 8:30
Team 6 - 10:30

Team 3 - 5:00
Team 1 - 8:30
Team 2 - 10:30

Team 6 - 5:00
Team 4 - 8:30
Team 5 - 10:30

Nursery

5:00
Sally Hinski
Catherine & Rachel Kobal
Caitlyn O'Donnell

5:00
Brenda Escamilla
Traci Bonds
Logan Cochran
Ryan Goode

5:00
Eileen Petree
Kaitlynn Petree
Kailyn, Karlyn
& Kenzie Lockie

5:00
Tammy Harrow
Dylan, Tori Rose & Remy Biase
Jillian Malatesta

8:30
Lisa Blair
Heather & Megan Hlavaty
Matthew Sak

8:30
Janice Goodbody
Chelsea & Kaitlyn Dinges
Amanda Latham

8:30
Halina Marek
Katherine Marek
Julie Maurer
Kimberly Lincoln

8:30
Brenda Escamilla
Ashley Alvarez
Lindsey & Steve Forte

10:30
Mary Angela Lopresti
Katie & Theresa Poe
Brittany Gambardella
Ashley Alvarez

10:30
Theresa Biagioli
Chelsea & Lauren Biagioli
Amanda Rosswog
Katie Lemza

10:30
April & Lincoln Swineford
Megan Kohut
Heather & Shannon Grosse
Amanda Loviza

10:30
Robert & Jessica Wise
Anthony & Kaitlyn Coppola
Natalie Albers
Chris Nicosia

Lector

5:00
Jeanine Grabham -reader 1
Joe Tylus - reader 2
Barbara Senatore - reader 3

5:00
Tommye Finley - reader 1
Steve Haut - reader 2
Kathy Haut - reader 3

5:00
Jay Cowan - reader 1
Kathy Anderson - reader 2
Ed Ostrowski - reader 3

5:00
Koni Garafalo - reader 1
Tara McGee - reader 2
Sean O'Hara - reader 3

8:30
Peter Dawes - reader 1
George Henfling - reader 2
Erin Dawes - reader 3

8:30
Gary Fritz - reader 1
Curt Killar - reader 2
Greg Mroczkowski - reader 3

8:30
Connie O'Neill - reader 1
Joan Gripshover - reader 2
Marty Rodgers - reader 3

8:30
Craig Willard - reader 1
Mike Pitek - reader 2
Mike Bryner - reader 3

10:30
Mike Barone - reader 1
Tom Evans - reader 2
Roseanne Biase - reader 3

10:30
Dawne Gulla - reader 1
Frank Gulla - reader 2
Erin Shea-Bower - reader 3

10:30
Carol Sherman - reader 1
Jeff Lobb - reader 2
Jay Rosencrance -reader 3

10:30
Norma Bliley - reader 1
Patsy Rohrer - reader 2
Patrick Mahoney - reader 3



March Feast: Forgiveness

By Kathleen Casey

During the March Feast, we talked about forgiving as God forgives and healing relationships by forgiving others. But I think self

forgiveness can be one of the most difficult tasks. We hear how difficult it is for Peter to forgive in two related stories.

In John's gospel account of the last supper, Jesus predicts that Peter will deny him three times before dawn. Later that night, as their world was spinning into chaos, Peter stands near a charcoal fire and denies Jesus three times. How must he have felt, having betrayed the person he knew to be the son of the living God? How could he ever be forgiven such a sin?

Later, after the resurrection, Jesus appears to his disciples and they share an intimate breakfast together by yet another charcoal fire. John is tying these stories together by the setting of the charcoal fire. During that meal, Jesus asks Peter three times, "Peter do you love me?" Peter is confused at the repetition of the question and each time pleads with Jesus to believe "Yes, Lord you know that I love you".

The sin was predicted and already forgiven by Jesus at the last supper, but he was allowing Peter to erase the previous three denials with three testimonies of love. Jesus replaced one charcoal fire with another and symbolized the reunification with a shared meal. Peter's denial was not just of Jesus, it was also a denial of himself, of who he truly was. Peter denied his identity as the friend of Jesus and as a beloved son of God. Only after Peter forgave himself could he become the one Jesus knew him to be: "the rock on whom I will build my church".

In the hospital where I work, I see firsthand people struggle to forgive themselves. When infants are born very prematurely, the mothers are filled with many mixed emotions. One that is always present is guilt about not being able to carry the child to term.

I tried to teach one mother how to feed her child but she would not touch or hold the infant. I assumed at first that she

was afraid because the baby looked so fragile. But as the days went on she continued to watch us care for and feed her baby but refused to do it herself. Tears were always just under the surface and she often would leave the unit quickly in an effort to regain her composure. As we talked, she poured out her guilt about the poor choices she had made during the pregnancy. She wondered aloud how she would ever be able to forgive herself. She loved her baby but her guilt would not allow her to hold, touch or care for her baby. Until she could forgive herself, she was not able to be the mother that she was called to be. I suggested that she tell her baby how she felt. Over the next few visits she poured out her heart to her child, expressing her grief, regret and remorse. She held the baby's hand and she cried. After that, she visited frequently as she and her baby grew together.

In the same way, Jesus patiently waited as Peter expressed his love, and in time Peter became the expression of that love. He became the leader of a growing movement of love. Peter could lead this movement based on forgiveness and redemption because he had been forgiven and redeemed.

You might recall a time in your life when your failure to forgive yourself kept you from being in a relationship with someone. What would need to happen for you to forgive yourself and start the healing process?

 **Next Feast:**
May 1st,
2nd and 3rd



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