

Dear Padre,

In the Apostles' Creed, we profess that Jesus "descended into hell." Is there any biblical reference to this? Do we know what he did when he was there?

Jesus Christ—who experienced death completely—descended to the realm of death. By his resurrection from the dead on the third day, he conquered death and the devil, “who has the power of death” (Hebrews 2:14). Other scriptural references include Acts 3:15, Romans 8:11, 1 Corinthians 15:20, and Hebrews 13:20. An ancient homily for Holy Saturday also attests to this belief: “God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began....Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow Adam in his bonds and Eve, captive with him....I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead.”

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “Jesus did not descend into hell to deliver the damned, nor to destroy the hell of damnation, but to free the just who had gone before him” (CCC 633). His descent was to proclaim the Good News to the spirits imprisoned there, bringing “the Gospel message of salvation to complete fulfillment” to all people of all times and all places (CCC 634). Thus, “the gospel was preached even to the dead” (1 Peter 4:6). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

It is not always easy to discern the Good Shepherd's voice. Be careful. There is always the risk of being distracted by the din of so many other voices. Today we are invited not to let ourselves be distracted by the false wisdom of this world, but to follow Jesus...the one sure guide....

REGINA CAELI, ST. PETER'S SQUARE, MAY 7, 2017

MONDAY

May 1
Easter Weekday
Acts 11:1–18
Jn 10:11–18

TUESDAY

May 2
St. Athanasius,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Acts 11:19–26
Jn 10:22–30

WEDNESDAY

May 3
Sts. Philip and
James, Apostles
1 Cor 15:1–8
Jn 14:6–14

THURSDAY

May 4
Easter Weekday
Acts 13:13–25
Jn 13:16–20

FRIDAY

May 5
Easter Weekday
Acts 13:26–33
Jn 14:1–6

SATURDAY

May 6
Weekday
Acts 13:44–52
Jn 14:7–14

SUNDAY

May 7
Fifth Sunday
of Easter
Acts 6:1–7
1 Pt 2:4–9
Jn 14:1–12

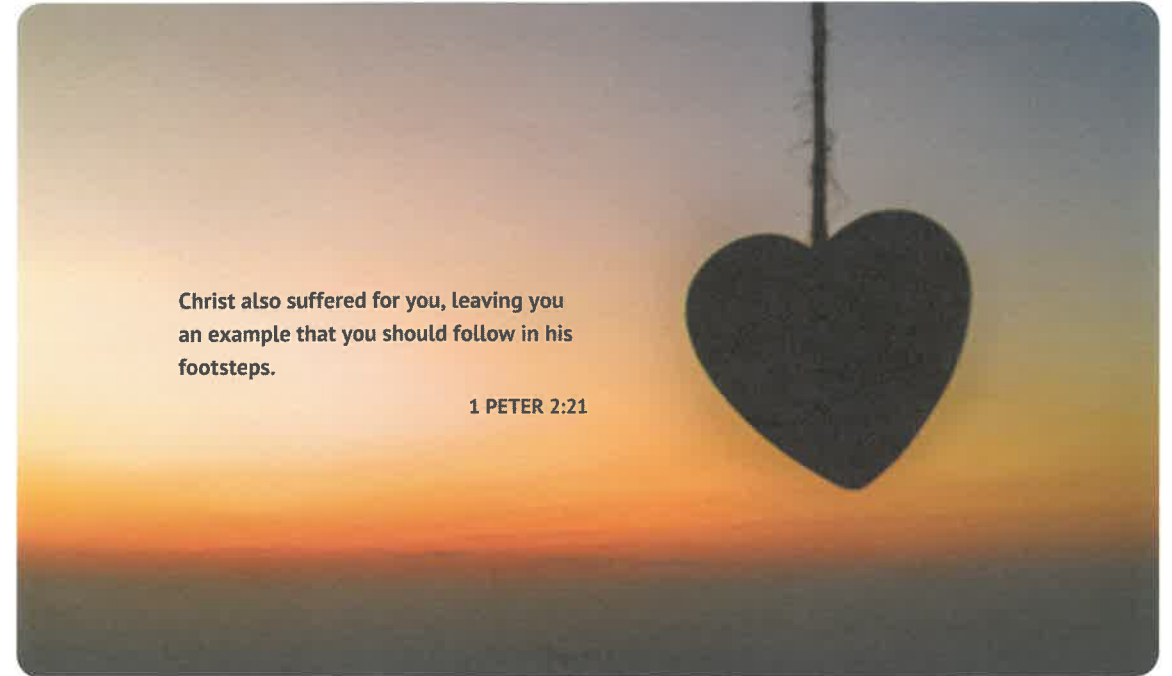
Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective
Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions.
Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 2:14a, 36–41 / 1 Peter 2:20b–25 / John 10:1–10



Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps.

1 PETER 2:21

Saved by Love, Not by Suffering

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

I'm not sure there is any value in suffering in and of itself. Nor do I think God wants us to suffer. That would make him sadistic. Nor is it, then, Jesus' suffering and death that saves us, but rather his love even to the point of suffering and death that saves us. It is his love that reveals the greatness of God's love for us that is so unbelievable. The basis of our faith is Jesus' trust in God, who would bring about life even through death. We also hear the wisdom of St. Peter today: “...If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God” (1 Peter 2:20). Such is the shepherd's voice that teaches us and leads us.

Does anyone ever choose to suffer for doing what is good? Yes. Every day. Spouses become caregivers for husbands or wives robbed of their memories. Each day people go to jobs that are pure drudgery, and they do so because they love their families. Some choose to live simply, to be countercultural in a consumer society. Others help their community by living in neighborhoods many avoid. Some parents willingly postpone a career in order to be present to their growing family. Teachers often go beyond expectations for students who need extra help. It is never the suffering of these people that captures and reflects the image of Jesus, but the love even to the point of suffering. ●

Reflect
When are you patient in suffering for the sake of doing good?
Who has done the same for you?



St. Joseph Neier

Rev. Thomas J. Wissler, Pastor

April
29 & 30
2023

Weekday: 6:30am

Office: 636.583.2806

Saturday: 5:00pm

Website: stjosephneier.com

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:00am

Email: parishoffice@stjosephneier.com

Confessions – Saturday

Father Tom's Cell: 636.744.5587

4:00pm – 4:40pm

Sarah's Cell: 314.808.0337



From Fr. Tom,

Data from religious practice studies has consistently shown when it comes to religion in a family, it is the father who has the most influence on how his family practices their faith. If the father is a faithful man attending church and living out the faith, his family will follow his lead. If he does not care about the faith, it becomes difficult for the rest of the family to practice their faith. Pick any Catholic parish and you will find many mothers with their children in church without the dad, for whatever reason. There is no doubt that sometimes children say to their moms, "Why do WE have to go to church when dad doesn't go." In other words, if dad doesn't think something is important, then why should the kids? All too often, attending church and living a life of faith falls squarely upon the mother's shoulders. This should not be the case! At their child's baptism, both parents profess their faith and promise to bring their child up in the practice of the faith. This Fourth Sunday of Easter is called "Good Shepherd Sunday." As Jesus is the good shepherd for us, his faithful, so should our earthly fathers be "good shepherds" for their families leading them to Christ through His church. There are many good and faithful dads out there. There are also dads who need to "step it up." Let us pray that we all be a faithful flock with Jesus our shepherd and that we may shepherd others to the care of Jesus.



Please pray for those who are sick in our parish and families:

Betty Bean
Shirley Beckman
Valerie Broeker
Anna Marie Brueggemann
Chris Elbert
Cynthia Faust
Lanny Girardier
Zachery Goosage
Benny Hammer
Andrew Hellebusch
Marcia Herbst
Brandon Huels
Olivia Jasper
Rick Just
Ashley Koelling

Get
Well
Soon

Marcus Lowe
Eldo Meyer
Jean Oldavi
Alice Rolf
Ashley Shelton
Marcia Shollenberger
Courtney Smith
Special Intention 1
Special Intention 2
Special Intention 3
Erica Sterling
George West
Sr. Georgiann Wildhaber, SSND
David Young
Sheri Zambruski



Please pray for those serving our country:

Adam Amato

Caleb Logsdon

Jamie
Brueggemann
Murphy

Michael Miller

Michael Murphy

Andy Davis

Reese Pellin

Sam Smith

Taylor Donner

Owen Struckhoff

Emily Guenther

Luke Stuesse

Thank you for your generosity!

Donations for General Fund April 17 – 23, 2023

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Regular Offering Envelopes: (61) | \$ | 4,089.00 |
| Regular Offering Loose: | \$ | 217.00 |
| Rental Income: (1) | \$ | 150.00 |
| Online Giving*: | (12) \$ | 543.88 |
| Total: | \$ | 4,999.88 |

* With Transaction Fees Removed.
(Number of Contributors)



Thank you for your generosity!

Donations for Restricted Funds: April 17 – 23

Catholic Education (2*)
\$63.67
*Online Giving

Easter Appeal for Retired Priests (3)
\$55.00

Prop. of Faith (1)
\$10.00

April 2023 "General Fund" Collections

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| April 2 | \$5,493.97 |
| April 9 | \$4,407.50 |
| April 16 | \$2,672.53 |
| April 23 | \$4,999.88 |
| April 30 | \$ TBD |

THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, May 1st

NO MASS | HAVE A VERY BLESSED MONDAY

Tuesday Morning, May 2nd

6:30AM | MARY CATHERINE FINK

Wednesday Morning, May 3rd

6:30AM | DENNIS NOELKER

Thursday Morning, May 4th

6:30AM | REV. ROBERT BANKEN

Friday Morning, May 5th

6:30AM | EUGENE BRUEGGEMANN

Jesus I Trust In You

MASS TIMES | THIS WEEKEND | NEXT WEEKEND

| | April 29 | May 6 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mass Intention: | Parish Family of St. Joseph | Parish Family of St. Joseph |
| Lector: | Theresa Straatmann | Amber Gerlemann |
| Eucharistic Ministers: | Anna Donner | Kathy Feth |
| | Cheryl Voss | Joan Kloepfel |

| | April 30 | May 7 |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Mass Intention: | Louis & Rose Schmuke | Al & Christine Miesner |
| Lector: | Jim & Chris Block | Amie Kohlbusch |
| Eucharistic Ministers: | Dennis Randolph | Jeanne Dierking |
| | Dolores Swoboda | Chris Block |

| | April 30 | May 7 |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Mass Intention: | Bob Wildhaber | Theo Feth |
| Lector: | Marilyn Rau | Jen Kissinger |
| Eucharistic Ministers: | VOLUNTEER | Jeff Baker |
| | Patti Greife | VOLUNTEER |

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- **Wednesday, May 3rd**
 - Forever Young Club – 1:00pm – ?? – Quilter's Room
 - PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall
- **Thursday, May 4th**
 - Eucharistic Adoration – 7am – 5:50pm – w/ Benediction after – Church
 - Quilters – 8am – 1pm & 7pm – 9pm – Quilter's Room
 - 4H – 7pm – Parish Hall
- **Saturday, May 6th**
 - Wedding Reception
- **Wednesday, May 10th**
 - PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall – LAST PSR CLASS FOR THIS YEAR
- **Thursday, May 11th**
 - Quilters – 8am – 1pm & 7pm – 9pm – Quilter's Room
 - Blood Drive (if we have enough donors) – 2pm – 6pm – Parish Hall

WCU Meeting

Happening
THIS MONDAY

Monday
May 1st @ 7pm

Basement of
Marian Activity Center

ST. JOSEPH NEIER

2401 NEIER RD, UNION, MO 63084

BLOOD DRIVE
WE NEED DONORS!!

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

2PM - 6PM

**Blood
Donation
Can Be a
Life-saving
Experience**



SIGN UP ONLINE

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/account-login.html>

OR CONTACT THE

PARISH OFFICE

parishoffice@stjosephneier.com

636-583-2806

Union Knights of Columbus

Monday, May 1st

Board Meeting • 7:30pm – Lounge

Wednesday, May 10th

Council Meeting • 7:30pm – Hall

Sunday, May 14th

Breakfast

7:30am – 11:30am • All you can eat

Adults \$10 • Children (6-12) \$5

Children under 6 FREE

Saturday, May 20th

Pork Steak BBQ • Hall Parking Lot





Congratulations to the following family

**SUNDAY,
APRIL 23RD**

*Murphy Jarac
Dee*

Daughter of
Harrison & Myrickyl Dee
was Baptized!

**Happening
THIS THURSDAY**

please join us



*Eucharistic
Adoration*

Let's give thanks to Our Lord
Thursday, May 4th

7:00AM - 5:50PM
With Benediction After

**HIGH SCHOOL
SENIORS**



Class of 2023

St. Joseph's Ladies Sodality
scholarship forms are available
in the back of church.

Deadline for submission:
Postmarked by May 1, 2023

**Postmark
Deadline
MONDAY,
MAY 1st**

Join us!



**Forever
Young Club**

Next
Forever Young
Day is
**May
3rd
@ 1pm**

Always
the **FIRST**
Wednesday
of the month

Play Games
Tell Stories
Build
Friendships

**Happening
THIS WEDNESDAY**

Thank you to all who donated towards the
Ladies Sodality Baby Shower!!

We collected a wide variety of items for them, including:

- 31 Onesies/Outfits
- 13 Packages of Baby Wipes
- 8 Packages of Diapers
- 4 Containers of Formula
- 3 Blankets
- 1 Baby Wash
- 1 Baby Shampoo
- 1 A+D Ointment
- 1 Pair of Socks
- 1 Wrap Around Baby Carrier

AND \$428.00 in Cash Donations!

Your Other Mother was VERY thankful for our donations!



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR

*John
Eckstein*

*Amy
Gerlemann*

*Matty
Homer*

*Jaden
Horn*



CONFIRMATION

**CONFIRMED
THURSDAY**

*Lena
Schengbier*

**APRIL 20th
2023**

©LPi

Cemetery Clean Up

If your loved one has anything on their grave site that you would like to keep, please stop by to collect those items before Wednesday, May 10th.

We will not be removing any new flowers that have just been placed for Spring.



Please keep the 2nd Grade Class in your prayers as they prepare for

First Communion

Josie Brune Kinsley Donner
Cole Franek
Brantley Grus Ladie Schmidt

May 14, 2023 | 10am Mass
St. Joseph Neier Church

Happening
MOTHER'S DAY



Union Knights of Columbus

Mother's Day Breakfast

Sunday, May 14th
7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
700 Clearview Dr.
Union, MO 63084

Serving:
Eggs, Sausage, Ham, Biscuits and Gravy,
Potatoes, Pancakes, and Cinnamon Rolls

Adults - \$12 Kids - \$6
The public is welcome

Daughters of Isabella News

First Saturday Mass & Rosary

Saturday, May 6th, 8am
Rosary prayed @ 7:20am
Immaculate Conception Church

We hope many of you
can attend!

Happening
NEXT WEEKEND

Ladies Sodality Meeting

Sunday,
May 7th



Husbands are welcome,
and encouraged, to stay
and visit during our
meeting. 😊



"Through our prayers and sacrificial giving, we live out our Catholic faith. I am grateful for each of you who support the mission of the Appeal."

† Mitchell T. Rozanski

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis

2023 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

We will be collecting for this year's Annual Catholic Appeal after all masses the weekends of April 15 and 16, April 22 and 23 and April 29 and 30. Thank you in advance for supporting this annual fundraiser for our archdiocese. Even if you are unable to give at this time, please stop by the parish center and sign your pledge card. No contribution is too small.

Thank you,
Jim Noelker

Happening
This Weekend
Parish Hall

**Thank you to
all those who
have already
stopped by the
hall!**