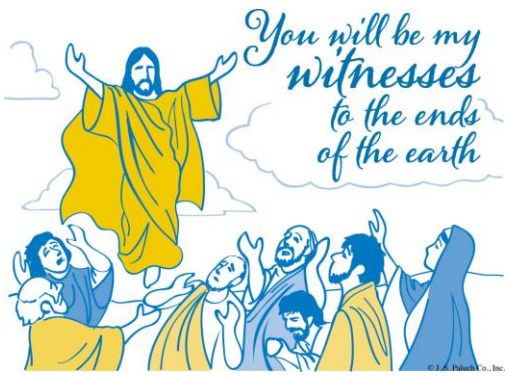
The Ascension of the Lord



God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.

— Psalm 47:6

FEET ON THE GROUND

"Until next week, keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars!" Not today's scriptural wisdom, but legendary DJ Casey Kasem's sage advice, heard across America for generations, American Top 40's challenging sign-off. Though Casey wasn't quoting scripture, today's Acts of the Apostles offers similar advice. As Jesus ascended, disciples "were looking intently at the sky." Wouldn't we prefer a soul-relaxing gaze into peaceful blue skies to a heart-breaking focus on this blood-stained earth? But heavenly questioners asked Jesus' first disciples, "Why are you standing there looking at the sky?" Earth awaited their mission! While our hearts should "keep reaching for" heaven, we need to "keep our feet on the ground." Ascension's scriptures and the Jubilee of Mercy remind us: the Jesus we revere as "ascended into heaven" lives right here among us on earth, awaiting our recognition and loving service. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The mystery of the Ascension has to do with holding in tension a sense of God's nearness, along with the burden caused by apparent signs of absence. The risen Jesus says to Mary Magdalene, "Do not cling to me," perhaps pointing out to her that his physical presence to the disciples was time bound and temporary. It was a gift for their transformation, and after forty days, he vanished from their sight and hearing, though never out of their consciousness.

They do not mourn at his going this time: there is no trace of the disciples who hid in fear at his crucifixion, no sense of the women who wept softly as they carried ointments to the tomb through the dewy morning light. Instead, the scriptural accounts show them full of joy, comforted by his promise to be with them forever, and open to the Spirit's power. They are joyful, energized, aware, and united with one another in love. They seem to grasp an awareness that if the mission to the whole world was a serious one, then the presence of the Risen Christ could not be pinned down to any one place or time, but had to be always and everywhere completely available. All peoples, all times, all cultures were opened to receive him in this moment of the Ascension. The energy of this feast is drawn not from absence, but renewed and deeper presence. —James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

PERSEVERANCE

Life would be so much easier for us if Jesus were still walking the earth among us. It would eliminate so many arguments and provide undeniable proof that Jesus lived, died, and rose again. But what would his physical presence mean to us? There would indeed be benefits: we really could ask the question, "What would Jesus do?" and get an answer! But there would also be enormous temptation to expect him to solve all life's problems directly. "Jesus, please stop the war in . . . ," "Lord, please find me a new job," "I beg you, Lord, to cure my friend." We might want to spend countless hours in his presence, neglecting our personal vocation and responsibilities. Jesus commanded his disciples to proclaim the good news to every nation. He promised that the power of the Holy Spirit would be given to them to help them persevere. This power would also help them do extraordinary things in his name. Then Jesus disappeared from their sight, and returned to his place at the right hand of God. We have never had the grace of knowing Jesus in human form. The disciples were promised they would be clothed with power from on high; by the same token we received a white garment at our baptism and were told we were now clothed in Christ. For those of us who were baptized as infants, the idea of being clothed in power meant nothing at the time. But this power was indeed given to us, to be nurtured and to come to fulfillment in our adult lives. For us to persevere as followers of Jesus we continually need the power of the Spirit. Let us set aside a time each day, as the first disciples did, to seek out the Spirit's power in prayer as we approach the feast of Pentecost.

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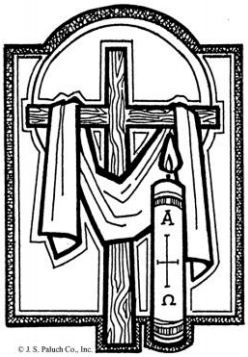
READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday:	Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday:	Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday:	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26
Friday:	Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19
Saturday:	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25
Sunday:	Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39 Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17; Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

Saturday, May 31st -



5:00PM-IHM – +Belinda Gomez, Tomas y Guadalupe Morales; In Thanksgiving for Pugh Ashley's birthday

Sunday, June 1st - IHM
8:30AM – Por la gente de Nolan County
11:00AM –+Manuel & Petra Aguilar
In thanksgiving for Gilda Lizeth Solis' birthday

Tuesday, June 3rd 9:00AM - HF
+Si and Gloria Acuña

Wednesday, June 4th 6:00PM–IHM
+Jovita & Benjie Olguin; Jennifer & Roger Gomez

Thursday, June 5th 9:00AM - HF
In thanksgiving for the recovery of baby Leilah Covos, for the benefactors and prayers answered, and the restoration of power for Shawna Covos

Friday, June 6th 9:00AM - HF
+Maria M. Guerrero

Saturday, June 7th -
5:00PM-IHM – For Guadalupanas living and deceased; In thanksgiving for the birthday of Sofia Montealvo; +Belinda Gomez, Tomas & Guadalupe Morales
7:00PM-St. Albert Por la Gente de Nolan County

Sunday, June 8th - IHM
8:30AM – +Cirilo, Victoria y Lucia Chavira; +Martina Herrera; +Rodrigo DeLoera
11:00AM – In thanksgiving for the birthdays of Julia Madrigal, Judit & Justin Cerveny, Auxilio & Mary Grace Gonzalez, Miguelito & Natalia Rangel, Emilie Acevedo; +Ezequiel, Albina, Delia y Teresa Gonzalez; Rafael y Concha Acevedo

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Living God's Word - We may feel that our faith is too new or that we don't pray enough to witness the forgiveness of sins available through Christ. But we who have been clothed and anointed with the Spirit don't need anything else. We can go forth with confident hope to witness that Christ will keep his promise of eternal life.

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May 24/25, 2025 COLLECTION DATA

ENVELOPES/CHECKS……$4429.00
LOOSE PLATE……1112.30
BUILDING FUND.....981.00
TOTAL COLLECTION…….$6522.30

Thank you for your generosity

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

June 7, 2025 – Finance Comm June 14, 2025 – Grupo

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS to all our June celebrants!

SIGN UP at the church entrance for the Pentecost Sunday Procession, next Sunday, June 8th! The procession will begin from Holy Family @6:00pm to Immaculate Heart Church, concluding with a meal in the hall. We need a head count to make the necessary food preparations!

WHY AM I CATHOLIC?-Deacon Bill's sharing session is every Tuesday at his home, @6pm. All are invited!

WEDNESDAY – Confessions begin at 5:15pm followed by Mass at 6:00pm & Adoration until 7:30pm @IHM. Confession will also be available during Adoration.

FIRST FRIDAY – June 6th, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 8:00pm until 10:00 pm at Holy Family. Confession is available.

FATHERS' DAY – DIA del PADRE - is Sunday, June 15th. "Fathers' Day Mass Remembrance Envelopes" are available at the church entrance. Please turn them in to the office by Wednesday, June 11th.

ULTREYA– meets Monday, June 2nd, 7:00pm at IHM Hall. All are welcome! You don't have to be a cursillista to attend.

¡ATENCIÓN! ¿Quiere aprender más sobre la fe? Entonces, está invitado a participar en las clases de catecismo para adultos en español. El curso comenzará a finales de abril y se prolongará durante todo el verano hasta que se hayan impartido todas las clases. La primera clase será miercoles 30 de abril, 2025, a las 7:00p.m. en el Salón de Inmaculado Corazón en 507 W. Alabama Ave. El catequista será Victor Rubio Jr. Note mas informacion en la entrada de la iglesia.

PARISH MOVIE GROUP – meets at Holy Family Hall, this Sunday, June 1st, from 4:00pm-6:00pm.

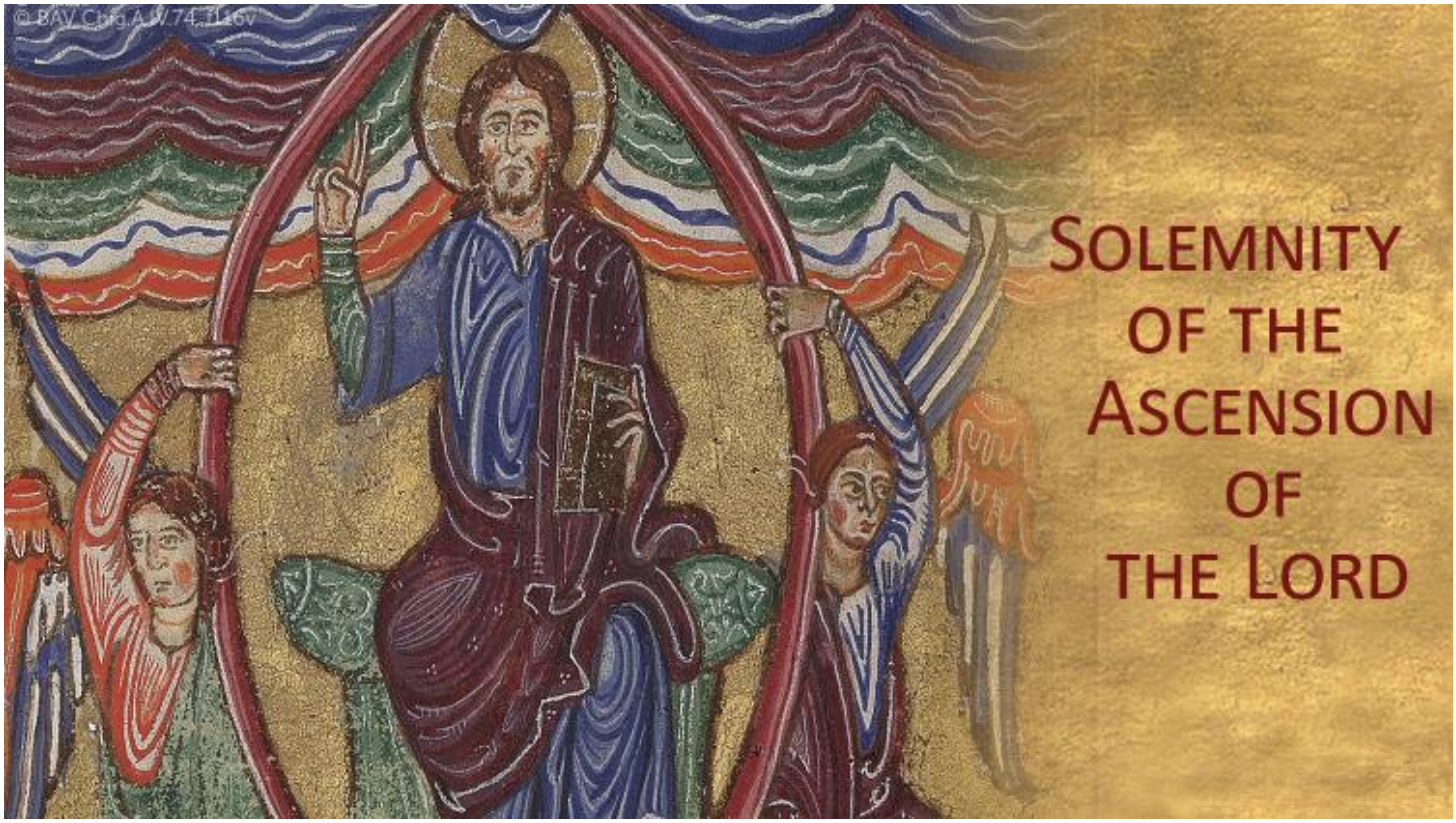
BAPTISM – To schedule, please call the office

NOTE: MASS CHANGES –

- Beginning Sunday, June 22, 2025, the 8:30AM Spanish Mass will be moved up to 8:00AM
- Mass will be celebrated @ Holy Family at 9:30AM beginning June 22nd and every 3rd Sunday of the month thereafter.
- No Sunday morning confessions on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Same schedule for the other weekend Masses.

"JAMAICA 2025" -- September 28th

If you haven't picked up your raffle tickets, please stop by and get them after Mass. The raffle is the biggest contributor of our Jamaica funds. The prizes are great! We're in this together; let's make it our best Jamaica ever!



The Ascension is a liturgical Solemnity celebrated by all the Christian Churches. It falls on the fortieth day after Easter Sunday. Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Augustine make reference to it, but it was probably Saint Gregory of Nyssa who influenced the propagation of the feast. Since it falls on Thursday, in many countries, this Solemnity is transferred to the following Sunday. With his Ascension into heaven, the presence of the "historical Christ" comes to an end, and the presence of the Body of Christ, the Church, is inaugurated.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."
Then he led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God. (Lk. 24:46-53)