

St. Mary's Catholic Church

The Feast of the Ascension

May 24, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Today we celebrate the Feast of The Ascension of our Lord. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the Ascension of Jesus as: "The entry of Jesus' humanity into divine glory in God's heavenly domain, forty days after His Resurrection." This event of Jesus' Ascension is only mentioned in Luke 24: 50-53 and Acts 1:9-11. However, its real significance is **not** limited to a literal historical event. The real purpose is to emphasize the theological understanding that, after Jesus died on the cross, He was exalted by God the Father through His Resurrection and Ascension.



Some people like stories that have an orderly view of the world: a beginning, middle and an end. They like their stories to have a pattern and purpose that can be understood and a conclusion that ties up all loose ends. When the story is finished there are no more questions to be asked. Other people prefer their stories to be "open-ended" because they believe life is often like that. For those people life is a variety of loose connections and accidental happenings; having a development that can never be fully grasped. When the story is finished there are lots of questions that still need to be answered.

Depending on your point of view and preference, you can read the story of Jesus' Ascension as a story that completes everything **or** as a story that leaves everything open-ended. Of course the Ascension story **does** complete Jesus' mission on earth as it is the last act of the cycle of His life celebrating His return to the Father. The Ascension story is also open-ended since it marks the beginning of a new time when the apostles have to live in the absence of the Jesus they had known. The apostles have to come to terms with the fact that Jesus will no longer be physically present with them. They also have to take to heart Jesus' invitation to make Him known to all the nations as He commissioned them to: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

The mystery of Jesus' Ascension proclaims three powerful truths. First, the Ascension is about

Jesus returning to the Father's glory and what that means for the human race. Jesus **is** the universal Lord of all nations and cultures. Every part of this world comes within His redeeming, healing embrace. Second, the Ascension is **not** just about Jesus' absence in this world but rather it is about His presence in our world in a different way. Jesus is now present with us in a new kind of way in His spiritual sacramental presence. We now have contact with Jesus through our faith, sacraments, Scripture, prayer and the life of the Church. Jesus is still with us with the same redeeming power and cleansing love as He was with the Apostles two thousand years ago. Finally, the Ascension is **not** only about Jesus but it is also about **us**. Jesus is now in Heaven where we hope someday to be. Jesus tells us: "I am going to prepare a place for you." Our future destination is our union with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Feast of our Lord's Ascension is **not** about absence but rather about the new, spiritual presence of Jesus to all of us, wherever we are, through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Risen Jesus is as close to us as ever. Jesus may be physically gone from our sight but He will never be gone from our life! Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

Weekend Masses

Sat May 23	5:00 p.m	For our parishioners
Sun May 24	8:30 a.m.	Rosemary Meyer
Sat May 30	4:00 p.m	Ellen, Lillian, & Richard Von Lehmden
Sun May 31	10:00 a.m.	In thanksgiving

SUNDAY COLLECTION



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Readings for May 31, 2020

Pentecost Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 2:1 – 11

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3 – 7, 12 – 13

Gospel Reading: John 20:19 – 23

St. Mary's Catholic Church

The Feast of the Ascension

May 24, 2020

The Catholic Bishops have approved the opening of the Celebration of Mass on Pentecost Weekend (May 30 and 31). I will celebrate Mass at **4PM on Saturday May 30 and at 8am and 10 am on Sunday May 31st**. I have temporarily added an extra Mass at **8am** on Sunday Mornings so that we do not exceed **50% of fire code regulations per the "Stay Safe Ohio" order**. The "Stay Safe Ohio" order requires that we put a **limit** on the number of persons attending Mass so that we can create a healthy environment for the safety of all present.

IMPORTANT: The faithful of the Diocese of Toledo continue to be dispensed from their **Sunday obligation until further notice**. Please use your best judgment when considering the gradual return to Mass.

To read about the new guidelines that will be implemented at St. Mary's with the gradual return to Mass, please follow this link:
<https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/2319/documents/2020/5/RECONNECT.pdf>

If you currently serve as an Usher, Greeter, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, or Altar Server, and are planning on attending Mass during this gradual return, please come to a meeting on Thursday, May 28th at 6 p.m. to discuss how roles within the Mass will look different during our gradual return.



The Red Cross Blood Drive is Thursday, June 4th. Donors and volunteers are both needed for this. **To volunteer**, please sign up here:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9iGYjNkTASiQ29ZS2ZR MHBTUdrdijNKYWYONkRoaVBBWHJV/view?usp=sharing>



To schedule an appointment to give blood, please visit:
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>

To participate in Mass via TV, Live Stream, or Radio Broadcast, please follow this link to see the various options around the Diocese:
<https://toledodiocese.org/Live-Stream-Masses-Diocese-of-Toledo.pdf>

St. Gerard's in Lima live streams Mass throughout the week at 8:30 a.m. Monday – Friday, on Saturday at 5 p.m., and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. To view this live stream, go to their website: <http://www.stgerardchurch.org/> and click on the icon on the right side of the page that says "Live Webcast Watch Here"

Since we have to refrain temporarily from attending Holy Mass and the reception of the Most Holy Eucharist, this is a simple prayer that you can pray on a daily basis. The prayer is from St. Alphonsus Liguori's (founder of the Redemptorists) book entitled Visits to The Most Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe you are really present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you more than anything in the world, and I desire to receive You into my soul. But since I cannot receive Holy Communion at this moment, feed my soul at least spiritually. I unite myself to you now as I do when I actually receive you. Never let me drift away from you. Amen.

New Parish Hours:

In response to the Coronavirus/COVID-19, the church will be open for a limited amount of hours for individual private prayer on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Fr. John will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday from 3 – 4 p.m. or by appointment during the week. Please use your best judgment and refrain from coming if you, or anyone you have been in contact with, have symptoms.

We know that this time may be a time of financial uncertainty for many, but if you are able, please continue to remember our parish. You can send your envelopes in the mail, or give online by following this link:
https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMK1g0BDvsSG3VIWQCPJNNxD8upkiY7JIDavDsozUE7KG0nFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbbTpChmfNbhzhx8xPU2s5sRX7sm9wYZo2onRxYng5iCQvEEUgbeapsAG1d1O5A7L11HEasYeBPLeVLqkBUb4MjnA=&ver=3 Thank you for your continued support and generosity!