

ST IGNATIUS  
& ST LUKE'S  
24 May 2020



## THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

The sixth week of Easter and the Seventh Sunday of Easter is a liturgical time with a bit of an identity crisis. This past week was often referred to as Rogation Week before the revision of the calendar in 1969, and the Solemnity of the Ascension is traditionally celebrated on Thursday. But much of that has changed, or varies depending on where you live.

Last Thursday marked the fortieth day after the Resurrection and—following the accounts given in Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51 and Acts 1:2—is the day on which the Ascension of our Lord has been traditionally celebrated. Which diocese you are a member of, though, determines whether you celebrated Ascension Thursday or mark today as Ascension Sunday. In the United States, members of the Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter observe the solemnity on the customary Thursday, as do the ecclesiastical provinces of Boston, Hartford, New York, Newark, Omaha, and Philadelphia. All other dioceses in the US have transferred the assembly to today, the following Sunday.

Monday through Wednesday before Ascension Thursday marked the traditional minor Rogation days. The current General Norms of the Liturgical Year and Calendar which revised the Liturgical Calendar in 1969 did not abandon this liturgical tradition, but dates and celebration of Rogation Days are now determined by the local ordinary or authority. Thus the Rogations have fallen largely into disuse in this country. However, in the past, Ascension celebrations began with the three-day Rogation processions to ask for God's mercy, and the feast itself included a procession of torches and banners symbolising Christ's journey to the Mount of Olives and entry into heaven and an all-night vigil. At that final procession, the English customarily carried at the head a banner bearing the device of the lion and at the foot a banner of the dragon, to symbolize the triumph of Christ in His ascension over Satan.

In the Eastern Church this feast was known as *analepsis*, the taking up, and also as the *episozomene*, the salvation—denoting that by ascending into His glory, Christ completed the work of our redemption. The terms used in the West, *ascensio* and occasionally *ascensa*, signify that Christ was raised up by His own powers. Tradition designates Mount Olivet near Bethany as the place where Christ left the earth.

In the liturgies, generally the day is meant to celebrate the completion of the work of our salvation, the pledge of our glorification with Christ, and His entry into heaven with our human nature glorified.

## THE FIRST NOVENA

*And while staying with them [Jesus] charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "You heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."—Acts 1:4-5*

Many Catholics prepare for Pentecost by praying the Novena to the Holy Ghost, in which we ask for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the fruits of the Holy Spirit. This novena can also be prayed at any time during the year, but it is traditionally prayed beginning on the Friday after Ascension Thursday and ending on the day before Pentecost Sunday to commemorate the original novena—the nine days that the apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary spent in prayer after Christ's Ascension and before the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

### ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

*To be recited daily during the Novena*

On my knees before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses, I offer myself soul and body to You, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Your purity, the unerring keenness of Your justice, and the might of Your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In You I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light and listen to Your voice and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You, by Your compassion, to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced Feet of Jesus and looking at His Five Wounds, and trusting in His Precious Blood and adoring His opened Side and stricken Heart, I implore You, Adorable Spirit, Helper of my infirmity, to keep me in Your grace that I may never sin against You. Give me grace O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and the Son, to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant heareth." Amen.

### PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*To be recited daily during the Novena*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who before ascending into heaven did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal, the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth, the Spirit of Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven, the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation, the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints, the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and the Spirit of Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence toward God and may dread in any way to displease Him. Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciples, and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen.

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: John Hogan, Deirdre McQuade, Danny Hart, Amy Howard, Mary Morehead and family, Curtis Bailey, Leondre Massey, Sister Constance Ward, George Cochran, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Patricia Ransom, Jacqueline Chancio, Beverly A. Woods, Kerianna Prather, Victoria P.; M.M., R.M., K.M., C.M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., H.G., and J.G.

*Please call or email the office to add a name to the prayer list. **Before calling, please be sure you have spoken to the person [or a member of his family] about adding the name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.***

Names of those who are sick or suffering will be kept on the list for one month; to keep a name on the list for longer, you must email the parish office.

## MASS READINGS THIS WEEK

**24 May** *Feast of the Ascension, Observed [ADW]*

Acts 1: 1-11; Psalm 47: 2-3, 6-9;

Ephesians 1: 17-23; Matthew 28: 16-20

**25 May** *Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

Acts 19: 1-8; Psalm 68: 2-5acd, 6-7b; John 16: 29-33

**26 May** *Philip Neri, Priest*

Acts 20: 17-27; Psalm 68: 10-11, 20-21; John 17: 1-11a

**27 May** *Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop*

Acts 20: 28-38; Psalm 68: 29-30, 33-36; John 17: 11b-19

**28 May** *Eastertide Feria*

Acts 22: 30 & 23: 6-11; Psalm 16: 1-2a, 5, 7-11; John 17: 20-26

**29 May** *Paul VI, Pope*

Acts 25: 13b-21; Psalm 103: 1-2, 11-12, 19-20b; John 21: 15-19

**30 May** *Eastertide Feria*

Acts 28: 16-20, 30-31; Psalm 11: 4-5, 7; John 21: 20-25

**31 May** *Feast of the Pentecost*

Acts 2: 1-11; Psalm 104: 1, 24, 29-31, 34;

1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7, 12-13; John 20: 19-23

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 23 May**

*Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church*  
Mother's Day memorials

**Sunday, 24 May**

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*  
Pro populo

**Monday, 25 May**

*Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church*  
*Gregory VII, Pope*  
*Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, Virgin*  
Timothy D. Enright +

**Tuesday, 26 May**

*Philip Neri, Priest*  
Rev. Charles C. Green +

**Wednesday, 27 May**

*Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop*  
Natividad Francisco + [Rosemary Collier]

**Thursday, 28 May**

*Eastertide Feria*  
Eddie Jackson + [Rosemary Collier]

**Friday, 29 May**

*Paul VI, Pope*  
Leslie Lee + [Lester Lee]

**Saturday, 30 May**

*Eastertide Feria*  
Easter Flower memorials

**Sunday, 31 May**

*Whitsun*  
Pro populo

Fr. Vidal will be saying private masses daily until the coronavirus protocols permit public celebration once more. Mass intentions will therefore be covered.

### St. Ignatius Finance Council

Florian Hocke - *Co-Chair*

Jackie Chancio

Deacon Clark Glenn

Joseph Somerville

Clifford Woods

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*historic*  
**ST IGNATIUS**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

### **Rev. John Vidal**

Administrator, St. Ignatius  
Pastor, St. Luke's

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Fran Doyle ♦ James Guinivan

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Patrick Delaney - *ex officio*

Susan White - *ex officio*

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David Lewis ♦ Franco Madan

Susan White - *ex officio*

Karen King - *ex officio*

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