



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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HE ASCENDS TO HEAVEN, BUT HE DOES NOT LEAVE US ALONE

ASCENSION OF THE LORD - JUNE 1, 2025

Today in Italy and in many countries, the Ascension of the Lord, that is, his return to the Father, is being celebrated. In the Liturgy, the Gospel according to Luke narrates the final apparition of the Risen Christ to the disciples (cf. 24:46-53). The earthly life of Jesus culminates precisely with the Ascension, which we also profess in the Creed: "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father". What does this event mean? How should we interpret it? To answer this question, let us focus on two actions that Jesus performs before ascending into Heaven: first of all, he announces the gift of the Spirit, and then he blesses the disciples. He announces the gift of the Spirit, and he blesses.

First of all, Jesus says to his friends: "I send the promise of my Father upon you" (v. 49). He is talking about the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, he who will accompany them, guide them, support them in their mission, defend them in spiritual battles. We thus understand something important: Jesus is not abandoning the disciples. He ascends to Heaven, but he does not leave them alone. Rather, precisely by ascending towards the Father, he ensures the effusion of the Holy Spirit, of his Spirit. On another occasion he had said: "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counsellor will not come to you", — that is, the Spirit — (Jn 16:7). In this too, we see Jesus' love for us: his is a presence that does not want to limit our freedom. On the contrary, he leaves space to us, because true love always generates a closeness that does not stifle, is not possessive, is close but not possessive; Indeed, true love makes us protagonists. And in this way, Christ reassures, "I will go to the Father, and you will be clothed with power from on high: I will send you my Spirit and with his strength, you will continue my work in the world!" (cf. Lk 24:49). Thus, ascending to Heaven, instead of remaining beside a few people with his body, Jesus becomes close to all with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes Jesus present in us, beyond the barriers of time and space, to make us his witnesses in the world.

Straight afterwards — it is the second action — Christ raises his hands and blesses the apostles. It is a priestly gesture. Ever since the times of Aaron, God had entrusted the task of blessing the people to priests (cf. Nm 6:36). The Gospel wants to tell us that Jesus is the great priest of our life. Jesus ascends to the Father to intercede on our behalf, to present our humanity to him. Thus, before the eyes of the Father, with the humanity of Jesus, there are and always will be our lives, our hopes, our wounds. So, as he makes his "exodus" to Heaven, Christ "makes way" for us. He goes to prepare a place for us and, from this time forth, he intercedes for us, so that we may always be accompanied and blessed by the Father.

Brothers and sisters, let us think today of the gift of the Spirit we have received from Jesus to be witnesses of the Gospel. Let us ask ourselves if we really are; and also, if we are capable of loving others, leaving them free and making room for them. And then: do we know how to make ourselves intercessors for others, that is, do we know how to pray for them and bless their lives? Or do we serve others for our own interests? Let us learn this: intercessory prayer, interceding for the hopes and sufferings of the world, interceding for peace. And let us bless with our eyes and our words those we meet every day!

Now let us pray to Our Lady, blessed among women, who, filled with the Holy Spirit, always prays and intercedes for us.

POPE FRANCIS — May 29, 2022

First Friday of the Month, June 6 Eucharistic Adoration will start at 10am, concluding with Benediction before the 11am Mass.

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

Ascension of the Lord

<u>Saturday, May 31</u> +Pauline Craig	5:00 PM
<u>Sunday, June 1</u> For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	9:00 AM
<u>Tuesday, June 3</u> St. Charles Lwanga	11:00 AM
<u>Wednesday, June 4</u>	11:00 AM
<u>Thursday, June 5</u> St. Boniface	11:00 AM
<u>Friday, June 6</u> +Anneliese Perschonke	11:00 AM

Pentecost

<u>Saturday, June 7</u> +Jonny Fusari	5:00 PM
<u>Sunday, June 8</u> For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	9:00 AM

MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

Ascensión del Señor

<u>Sabado 31 de mayo</u> +Pedro Fernandez	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 1 de Junio</u> Por la Comunidad Parroquial	11:00 AM & 1:00 PM
<u>Martes 3 de Junio</u> San Carlos Lwanga	12:00 PM
<u>Miercoles 4 de Junio</u>	12:00 PM
<u>Jueves 5 de Junio</u> San Bonifacio	12:00 PM
<u>Viernes 6 de Junio</u>	12:00 PM

Pentecostés

<u>Sabado 7 de Junio</u> +Marvin Castillo Courtade	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 8 de Junio</u> Por la Comunidad Parroquial	11:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Viernes Primero del Mes (6 de junio): El Santísimo Sacramento se expone para adoración silenciosa después de la Misa de 12:00 pm hasta las 2:00 pm y nuevamente de 5 a 7p.m.

A las 6 de la tarde se tendrá una Hora Santa, que concluirá con la Bendición con el Santísimo a las 7pm.

Mientras el Santísimo esté expuesto, se ofrecerá el sacramento de Reconciliación.

Vigilia de Pentecostés

Proximo Sábado 7 de junio a partir de las 10AM concluyendo con la Misa de las 7PM.
Traer lunch para compartir.

“Al llegar el día de Pentecostés... todos quedaron llenos del Espíritu Santo.”
Hch 2,14

MARRIAGE TIP: Though we may love our spouse, there will be moments when we may disagree or struggle to be loving. These are moments when we must remind ourselves of our commitment to each other and the importance of working things out, instead of ignoring them and moving on. When troubles arise, it is important for each person to commit to taking time to discuss the issue when both people are calm, so your brain is at its maximum capacity to be rational. Research says that starting the conversation gently (no accusing, judging, or sarcasm) and taking responsibility for some part of the problem is the best way to work the situation out and move forward with love that is even stronger.

ENHANCING SELF-ESTEEM - This program provides the opportunity to increase your self-awareness and to learn specific skills for building a positive self-esteem, which will assist you to feel stronger in all areas of your life. Issues covered during the course include taking responsibility for your own thoughts and feelings, positive ways to behave assertively and setting realistic goals for your future. The program will be offered once again this fall and is held at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West Hamilton. Cost is \$35 for materials. Registration will be on line soon so to register go to hamiltondiocese.com and look for the date under Upcoming Events, or contact Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, or e-mail familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com.