



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

office@stjohnskitchener.ca
519 745 7855
85 Strange St., Kitchener

HEAVEN'S CONQUEST

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - MAY 17, 2026

The Ascension of the Lord is being celebrated today. It is a feast we know well, but which can raise several questions — at least two. The first question: Why celebrate Jesus' departure from earth? It would seem that his departure would be a sad moment, not exactly something to rejoice over! Why celebrate a departure? First question. Second question: What does Jesus do now in heaven? First question: Why celebrate? Second question: What does Jesus do in heaven?

Why we celebrate. Because with the Ascension, something new and beautiful happened: Jesus brought our humanity, our flesh, into heaven — this is the first time — that is, he brought it in God. That humanity that he had assumed on earth did not remain here. The risen Jesus was not a spirit, no. He had his human body, flesh and bones, everything. He will be there in God forever. We could say that from the day of the Ascension on, God himself "changed" — from then on, he is not only spirit, but such is his love for us that he bears our own flesh in himself, our humanity! The place awaiting us is thus indicated; that is our destiny. Thus wrote an ancient Father in the faith: "What splendid news! He who became man for us [...] to make us his brothers, presents himself as man before the Father to bear with himself all those who are joined with him" (cf. St. Gregory of Nyssa, Discourse on the Resurrection of Christ, 1). Today, we celebrate "heaven's conquest" — Jesus, who returns to the Father, but with our humanity. And so, heaven is already a little bit ours. Jesus opened the door and his body is there.

The second question: So, what does Jesus do in heaven? He is there for us before the Father, continually showing our humanity to him — showing him his wounds. I like to think that Jesus, prays like this in front of the Father — showing him his wounds. "This is what I suffered for humanity: Do something!" He shows him the price of redemption and the Father is moved. This is something I like to think about. This is how Jesus prays. He did not leave us alone. In fact, before ascending, he told us, as the Gospel says today, "I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt 28:20). He is always with us, he looks at us, and "he always lives to make intercession" (Heb 7:25) for us. To show the Father his wounds, for us. In a word, Jesus intercedes. He is in the best "place", before his Father and ours, to intercede on our behalf.

Intercession is fundamental. This faith helps us too: it helps us not to lose hope, not to be discouraged. Before the Father, there is someone who shows him the wounds and intercedes. May the Queen of heaven help us to intercede with the power of prayer.

POPE FRANCIS — May 23, 2023

Weekday Masses: Father Francisco Cruz will be on the Annual Priests' Seminar next week. *There will be no Mass Tuesday, May 19th, Wednesday May 20th, Thursday May 21st and Friday May 22nd.* There will be no Sacrament of Reconciliation during those days.

Misas durante la semana: El padre Francisco estará participando en el retiro anual de sacerdotes desde el *martes 19 hasta el Viernes 22 de mayo*. No habrá Misa ni sacramento de la Reconciliación durante estos días.

Vigilia de Pentecostés: El proximo sábado 23 de mayo después de la Misa de 7PM, el grupo de la Renovación Carismática animará una vigilia de oración para pedir, junto con María y los apóstoles, el don del Espíritu Santo.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

The Ascension of the Lord

Saturday, May 16 **5:00 PM**

+Karl Friedrich +Mary & Michael Williams

Sunday, May 17 **9:00 AM**

For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, May 19 **NO MASS**

Wednesday, May 20 **NO MASS**

Thursday, May 21 **NO MASS**

Friday, May 22 **NO MASS**

Pentecost Sunday

Saturday, May 23 **5:00 PM**

+Dolores Sedlmeir +Karl Friedrich

Sunday, May 24 **9:00 AM**

For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

La Ascensión del Señor

Sabado 16 de mayo **7:00 PM**

+Luz Mariela Gallego

Domingo 17 de mayo **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**

Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 19 de mayo **NO HAY MISA**

Miércoles 20 de mayo **NO HAY MISA**

Jueves 21 de mayo **NO HAY MISA**

Viernes 22 de mayo **NO HAY MISA**

Domingo de Pentecostés

Sabado 23 de mayo **7:00 PM**

Domingo 24 de mayo **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**

Por la Comunidad Parroquial

MARRIAGE TIP All people have busy times in their lives when they seem to need more hours in a day than the actual twenty-four hours allows! It is essential then that we stop long enough to ask ourselves what really matters to us and then to ensure we adjust our schedules accordingly. A spouse should not be on the short end of receiving your time and attention (nor should your family). Set up a date night regularly, be sure to eat at least one meal (even if it is early morning breakfast) together most days, take time to pray together and attend church together. Life is hectic but sacrificing time with the one you love will not help you get more done, it will only help to distance you from the one you need most.

Preparación para el sacramento de Confirmacion: Comenzará el próximo sábado 23 de mayo a las 5:00pm. Escribir a oficina@parroquiaguadalupe.ca para registrarse.

May is the month of the Rosary:

we all are encouraged to pray the Rosary everyday in union with the Blessed Virgin Mary, by ourselves, in family, or with friends.

Mayo, mes del Rosario:

Durante este mes dedicado a la Virgen, recemos el Rosario todos los días, individualmente, en familia o con amigos.