

The Ascension of the Lord
May 24, 2020

He was lifted up,
and a cloud took him from
their sight.

— Acts 1:9



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Saint Michael Catholic Community

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Sacraments

Daily Mass (M-TH 1200-1230)
DGMC North Entrance First Floor
Hospital Chapel (707) 423-3652

Sunday Mass

0900 and 1200

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesdays 1630-1730 or
by appointment

Marriage and Baptism

Contact the Parish Coordinator

TO DONATE

Use the Chaplain Corps' online
offerings. Go to:

<https://www.acceptiva.com/afcc/>

Click on Travis AFB

Spring Bible Study

Join Zoom Meeting Tuesdays at 1000
<https://zoom.us/j/5781857258>

Bible Study 26 May 20
Guide for Pentecost Sunday, 31 May

Which Pentecost? Compare the following two accounts of the coming of the Holy Spirit from our first reading and our Gospel for 31 May.

Acts 2:1-4

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

John 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

A. Questions

1. How are these two passages similar/different?
2. What is the focus in the Acts account? The John account?
3. What is given as evidence of the Spirit being given in each account?
4. Why are there two different accounts?



5. Look at Acts 8:14-17 and Acts 10:44-48. You may need to look at the verses preceding them. What are the similarities/differences between these passages and those we have already read today? (Hint: look at Acts 1:8.)

B. John's Gospel

1. What is the order of the Lord Jesus' acts in today's Gospel? Why this order?
2. What is the significance of Jesus breathing on the disciples? Can you relate it in some way to the Chrism Mass that happens before Holy Week? Can you relate it to the Creation story? How could this breath be an analogy for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation?
3. Jesus' entrance is somewhat shocking. Why is this included? What are we learning about the resurrected body of Jesus Christ? Consider Ephesians 4:10: The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. Does this have any implications for our eternal future? How does it relate to bilocation among the saints?
4. It says the doors were locked for fear of the Jews. How does Jesus' breathing on them address this fear? What is this saying about the Holy Spirit? Check out this link: <https://www.stjmod.com/7-gifts-of-the-holy-spirit.html>



5. Why does the Lord offer them peace twice?
6. Why does he show them his hands and his side? What is the obvious conclusion about the Lord (also considering his unusual entrance into the room)? How do we "see" the Lord's hands and his side, the evidence of his resurrection? Thomas did not see and refused to believe until he "saw it with his own eyes." How does this relate to our faith?
7. How have you experienced Jesus Christ "breathing" on you? How have you experienced the Holy Spirit coming to you as on Pentecost? Was it emotional, sacramental, etc.?
8. The Holy Spirit has been looked upon as the silent Person of the Trinity. Why is this so? What is the Spirit's "mission"?
9. What would you like the Holy Spirit to bring about in your life? What's keeping this from happening?
10. What about the exceptional manifestations of the Holy Spirit we have seen or experienced in the Charismatic revival? What are the strengths/weaknesses of such movements? In case he forgets, ask Fr Jeff to discuss the Church of Corinth over the century after I and II Corinthians was written.



Venerable Pierre Toussaint's Story

Born in modern-day Haiti and brought to New York City as a slave, Pierre died a free man, a renowned hairdresser, and one of New York City's most well-known Catholics.

Plantation owner Pierre Bérard made Toussaint a house slave and allowed his grandmother to teach her grandson how to read and write. In his early 20s, Pierre, his younger sister, his aunt, and two other house slaves accompanied their master's son to New York City because of political unrest at home. Apprenticed to a local hairdresser, Pierre learned the trade quickly and eventually worked very successfully in the homes of rich women in New York City.

When his master died, Pierre was determined to support himself, his master's widow, and the other house slaves. He was freed shortly before the widow's death in 1807.

Four years later, he married Marie Rose Juliette, whose freedom he had purchased. They later adopted Euphémie, his orphaned niece. Both preceded Pierre in death. He attended daily Mass at St. Peter's Church on Barclay Street, the same parish that Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton had attended.

Pierre donated to various charities, generously assisting blacks and whites in need. He and his wife opened their home to orphans and educated them. The couple also nursed abandoned people who were suffering from yellow fever. Urged to retire and enjoy the wealth he had accumulated, Pierre responded, "I have enough for myself, but if I stop working I have not enough for others"

Prayer to Venerable Pierre Toussaint

O virtuous Pierre Toussaint, son of Haiti, pray for all the poor and afflicted. Pray especially for your brothers and sisters in Haiti as they seek freedom from the oppression of poverty and calamity. Through your prayerful intercession, strengthen the weak, enrich the poor, comfort the downcast and inspire courage and hope among all those who struggle each day. Amen.

Pierre originally was buried outside St. Patrick's Old Cathedral, where he was once refused entrance because of his race. His sanctity and the popular devotion to him caused his body to be moved to the present location of St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue.



Pierre Toussaint was declared Venerable in 1996.

Reflection

Pierre was internally free long before he was legally free. Refusing to become bitter, he daily chose to cooperate with God's grace, eventually becoming a compelling sign of God's wildly generous love

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SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord;
World Communications Day
- Monday: St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII;
St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi;
Memorial Day
- Tuesday: St. Philip Neri
- Wednesday: St. Augustine of Canterbury;
Shavuot (Jewish observance) begins at sunset
- Thursday: Julian Calendar
Ascension
- Friday: St. Paul VI

"PUSHED" OUT ON MISSION

There is a delightful character in the original Dr. Dolittle Tales called the "Pushmi-Pullyu." It is a beast with two identical halves, with a head at each end. No matter which direction the beast walks, one end is the "push me" and the other is the "pull you." Today's feast is a bit like that in the life of the church. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, it is the ascension of Christ that calls for the Holy Spirit, which consequently sends or "pushes" the church out on its mission. This is the message that we hear from the angels today as they tell the friends of Jesus not to look up into the clouds, but to get busy. It is the message of Jesus himself in Matthew's Gospel, as he sends them out to baptize. He also tells them, "I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). And it is this message, confident in faith that Jesus has ascended to shouts of joy, that "pulls" us along to our final destiny. The life of the faithful disciple, sent into the world on mission, will one day know the same risen, ascended glory.

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AMS Family Faith Assessment

This is an online learning process to support Catholic military families as they grow in faith. The Assessment is designed as a resource to engage family catechesis at home to support what is being taught in religious education at each grade level, K-8. Go to:

<https://amsfamilyfaithassessment.com/travis>

Need help with your password or user name? Contact Roger Olaes
rolaes16@gmail.com

Expected Outcomes

Parents and children will have fun playing and learning talk about God, read Sacred Scripture, challenge each other, attend Mass, pray, share time, and serve others as a family.