



Ascension of the Lord

St. Mary's Catholic Church

May 16, 2021

Hamburg, VA.

Today we celebrate a special day in the history of the Church. On the day Jesus ascended to heaven to remain with his Father, he commanded his disciples to carry on his ministry, proclaiming the good news to the whole world. Now we are that whole world. Now we are those disciples. May Christ, whom we encounter as we gather together and receive in the Eucharist on this holy day, strengthen our resolve to spread the good news in our world today.



Cycle B -- Reflections on the Readings

Solemnity of Ascension

Acts 1:1-11 Eph 1:17-23 Mk 16:15-20

Theme: Christ Beyond Our Sight Today's first reading and the gospel give us the central theme of our celebration. Ascension is not to be understood as a departure, a farewell, but as a new presence of the Master who manifests himself through signs.

Jesus was lifted from the human space to the Divine place

St. Mark gives the essence of ascension by writing that the Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God (V.19). This does not mean simply that the risen Lord had not, until then, gone to the Father. Nor does it mean that Jesus was taken up into heaven elevator-like. We must realize that heaven is at the bottom level quite as much as at the top. The movement is not from the ground up into the clouds, but from the human place to the divine place.

Implication of being at the right hand of God

In human words Jesus is said to be at God's right hand as a figurative expression to indicate a divine place that reveals Jesus' status as Christ and Lord. He is seated rather than kneeling or standing at the right hand of the Father because sitting was then considered a position of power and authority. These expressions symbolize Jesus' close relationship to God and his role as God's agent. That is truly the thing that is completely unheard-of. The disaster of death has been turned into the triumph of life. It is "good", because it concerns not only Jesus, but all those who fear it. They, too, are destined for life.

Jesus' ascension as our hope

Jesus' ascension does not mean that he has departed from us. He has gone from our sight in order that he may more perfectly come to us. Jesus' ascension is to show us who we are, where we are going, and what we must do now.

Our commemoration of Jesus' ascension is a call to active service in spreading the Good News, to sustained effort without discouragement or depression. St. John Chrysostom said, **"There is nothing colder than a Christian who does not care for the salvation of others."** And prayer will help us to fill our role in the world with insight, wisdom, enlightenment, and all the other gifts which Paul prayed for on behalf of the Ephesians.

As we think of today's liturgy, let us ask two important questions of ourselves. One is, "Am I doing anything to make God's kingdom a reality in places that I reached, like my home, my parish, my workplace?" The other is, "Does the quality of my service give me grounds of hope to get to heaven?"

Let us pray with the Church that we may follow where Jesus has led and find our hope in his glory. May we take advantage of the Pentecost novena this week for a greater renewal of the Holy Spirit within us. Shalom!

Ascension Day prayer

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, right before your Ascension into heaven you told your apostles to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth upon receiving the Holy Spirit. May I be similarly inspired to spread your Gospel message in word and deed, according to your will for me.

And may I do so prudently and joyfully, with your help, your guidance, and your grace! And remembering this glorious event, help me to seek what is above, Heaven, where you are seated at the right hand of God the Father!





Reasons why it makes sense to honor Mary this month.

- 1. Mary is Jesus' mother.** She is the instrument of the Incarnation and her yes, or fiat, made it possible for our Lord to become the God-Man who was crucified for our salvation.
- 2. She is the first and most perfect disciple.** Mary was the first to hear the Good News, and the first to follow Christ. Her entire life was devoted to him and assisting him, in whatever way she could, to carry on His mission. Unaffected by Original Sin, she was able to perfectly open herself to God's will.
- 3. She's your mom.** To put it simply, she is our mother because we are all members of the Body of Christ. Since she gave birth to that Body, then she is our mother, too. When she gave her fiat, she became our mother in the order of grace. She may not have given birth to us physically, but she certainly has given birth to us spiritually.

Continue to pg. 5.....

4. She loves you more than you can ever imagine. If she didn't, would she have endured the horror of seeing her Son tortured, scourged, crowned with thorns, carry the Cross to Calvary, and die a gruesome death on it? She did it for you, for all of us, because she understood that Jesus' Passion and Crucifixion was the only way to your /our salvation. She loves you like no human mother ever could.

5. Not only is she Mother, but she also is Advocate, Helper, Benefactress and Mediatrix. Her job, so to speak, began at the moment she conceived Jesus in her womb and continues until this day. What is more, it will continue for all eternity. As the first and most perfect disciple, she is devoted to accompanying him and continuing her saving office by interceding for us so that we may receive the gifts of eternal salvation. She is at work 24/7/365/forever, for whatever we need, whenever we need it. For all these reasons and more, Mary deserves honor, not only during the month of May, but always.

What will you do for her this May?

www.ncregister.com/ www.patheos.com



Our Pentecost Novena continues Monday May **17th to 21st**. Let us try to prepare ourselves for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit by joining the **Novena prayers via zoom @ 7:30pm**.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 16, 2021

Sunday: *Ascension:* Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20 *Seventh Sunday of Easter:* Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 [19a]/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-1

Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab [33a]/Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 [33a]/Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68: 29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab [33a]/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/J17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab [19a]/Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: *Morning:* Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 [7b]/Jn 21:20-25

Next Sunday: *Vigil:* Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39

Extended Vigil: Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Dn 3:52, 52, 53, 55, 56 or Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39

Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 [cf. 30]/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27: 16:12-15



A Christian guy named Bill saw an ad online for a Christian horse, so he went to check it out. The horse's owner said, "It's easy to ride him. Just say 'Praise the Lord!' to make him go and 'Amen!' to make him stop." Bill got on the horse and said, "Praise the Lord!" Sure enough, the horse started to walk. "Praise the Lord!" he said again, and the horse began to trot. "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" he yelled, and the horse broke into a gallop. Bill was enjoying his ride so much that he almost didn't notice the cliff he and the horse were about to go over. Bill shouted "AMEN!" at the top of his lungs, and the horse stopped right at the edge of the cliff. Relieved, Bill said, "Phew! Praise the Lord!"

ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES
JOSH SIMMONS
JACOB ANDERSON
DERRICK HUBARD
STEVEN ANDERSON
COLBY MCGINLEY

*Your Contributions
May 9, 2021*

Tithes—\$1302.00

Plate—\$1.00

Coffee—\$33.00

Thank You!!



5-12--Bill Ettleman

5-15--Larry Moores

5-16--Becky Lockhart

5-16--Wendy Duncan

5-16--Maddy Duncan

5-16--Becky Lockhart

5-17--Maryn Phillips

5-19--Tom Lockhart

5-20--Judy Clark



5-11-Tom and Becky
Lockhart

5-23-Shane and Connie
Smith

5-28-Robert and Mary
Burkhiser



Greg Andersen
Grady Secht
Reese Kemp
LeRoy Herscheid
Mary Lou Miller
Dottie Dankof
Isacc Durr
Todd Quick
Verona Mitchell
Joel Loggins
Kenneth Russell
Bill Long
Henry Johnsen
Lawrence DuBois
Pat Sheldon
Joe Kirk
Tim Konecny
Esther McCowan
Shawn Collins
Drake Travis
Martha Gude
Bill & Gloria Green
Larry Dalton
Zayne Osborn
Cathy Mason
Anna Weber
Alan Briggs
Chuck Mitchell
Dee Ann Crews
Robert Haughton
Maurie Maher
Janet Rummel
Jennifer McAllister
Dave Zavadi



2021	May 16th 7th Sunday of Easter 8:30	May 23rd Pentecost Sunday 8:30	May 30th Most Holy Trinity 8:30	June 6th Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ 8:30	June 13th 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30
Lector	Kathleen Lorimor	Linda Dewhirst	Teresa Jamison	Rick Jamison	Joe Travis
Mass Setup	Rosie	Joe	Rosie	Joe	Rosie
Cantor	Beth /Anna	Kate/Cora			
Accompanist	Guitars	Donna Whelan			
Server	Brady Hutt	JJ Hirner	Tate Mount	Garett Phillips	Cora Moody
Coffee & donuts	Tim & Donna Whelan	Joe & Robbi Travis	Dave and Kate Roberts	Vince & Susan Hilton	N/A
PASTOR		PASTORAL ASSISTANT		BOOKKEEPER	
Fr. Raphael Assamah 712-246-1718 Shen(office) 712-246-8876 (c) e-mail max.assamah@yahoo.com		Cheryl Phillips 712.382.2668 (h) 712-350-0169 (c) cherylphil@gmail.com		Anne Hendrickson Bookkeeper 712.382.2432 (h) 712.350.0368 (c)	

EMAIL STMARYSHAMBURG@GMAIL.COM

HTTPS://WWW.PARISHESONLINE.COM/FIND/ST-MARY-CHURCH-51640

PHONE # 712-382-4316

