

JUNE 2, 2019 - HAMBURG, IA

*St. Mary's*

CATHOLIC Church

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Today marks a bittersweet day for the apostles. On the one hand, the Risen Lord is now ascended to be with the Father in heaven. On the other hand, he is no longer physically present on earth with them. Christ is—and will always be—the head of the Church, but before he ascended he placed it in the hands of the disciples. Today, we the Church celebrate Christ's ascension by carrying on the mission of the first disciples: witnessing to the Risen Lord to the ends of the earth.



Cycle B -- Reflections on the Readings  
Solemnity of Ascension

Acts 1:1-11 Eph 1:17-23, Lk 24:46-53

**Theme: The Hope of Ascension**

A little boy was crying bitterly in class. The teacher asked what was wrong, and he said that his sister was really dead, because they had put her in the ground and covered her up. The teacher took the boy by the hand and brought him over to the window on which was a box of clay. Some weeks earlier the class had planted seeds in the clay. The teacher explained that they were not intended to remain as seeds. They were planted in the clay and after a while they began to sprout and grow into plants and flowers, which is what they were meant to become. 'The seed is not dead', she said; 'it is changing and is now becoming what it was not always meant to become.'

For Christian, people too, life is changed and not ended at death. We will enter into eternal life for which we were made. This is the hope Ascension of our Lord Jesus gives us today. Hence, on this day, "May Christ enlighten the eyes of our minds so that we can see what hope his call holds for us" (Eph 1:8).

St. Luke, the evangelist has given us two accounts of the Ascension of Jesus: one at the end of his gospel (Lk 24:50-51), and the other at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles (1:9). Thus, the Ascension of Jesus marks the end of Jesus' earthly life and at the same time marks the beginning of His heavenly life, and it is also the pledge of His Second Coming.

**1, Ascension As The End of Jesus' Earthly Life**

Jesus led his disciples to the Mount of Olives and as He was blessing them, He parted from them. It was a tender farewell of Jesus to His disciples.

What began with the Resurrection of Jesus could have no other conclusion than the Ascension. The Ascension is the culmination of the Resurrection of Jesus. It is the perfect end of the glorification of the earthly life of Jesus.

## 2. Ascension As the Beginning of Jesus' Heavenly Life

It was because of the Ascension of Jesus that the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples. Jesus himself said, "It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you (Jn 16:7)."

Jesus who had ascended into heaven had not taken away his presence from his disciples. He ascended into heaven and 'the disciples went everywhere preaching the word, the Lord also working with them, and confirming the Word with signs following.' It is the ascended Christ who, today, is the energy of all the church's purity, the vitality of all the church's life. He lives, and therefore, there is a Christian community on the face of the earth.

## 3. 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!

### **Motivation for the week**

Once upon a time, there lived a big mango tree. A little boy loved to come and play around it every day.

He climbed to the tree top, ate the mangoes, took a nap under the shadow... He loved the tree and

the tree loved to play with him.

Time went by... The little boy grew, and he no longer played around the tree.

One day, the boy came back to the tree with a sad look on his face.

"Come and play with me," the tree asked the boy.

"I am no longer a kid; I don't play around trees anymore." The boy replied, "I want toys. I need money to buy them."

"Sorry, I don't have money... but you can pick all my mangoes and sell them so you will have money."

The boy was so excited. He picked all the mangoes on the tree and left happily. The boy didn't come back. The tree was sad.



One day, the boy grown into a man returned. The tree was so excited.

"Come and play with me," the tree said.

"I don't have time to play. I have to work for my family. We need a house for shelter. Can you help me?"

"Sorry, I don't have a house, but you can chop off my branches to build your house."

So, the man cut all the branches off the tree and left happily. The tree was glad to see him happy, but the boy didn't come back afterward. The tree was again lonely and sad.

One hot summer day, the man returned, and the tree was delighted.

"Come and play with me!" The tree said.

"I am sad and getting old. I want to go sailing to relax myself. Can you give me a boat?"

"Use my trunk to build your boat. You can sail far away and be happy."

So, the man cut the tree trunk to make a boat. He went sailing and didn't come back for a long time.

Finally, the man returned after he had been gone for so many years.

"Sorry, my boy, but I don't have anything for you anymore. No more mangoes to give you." The tree said.

"I don't have teeth to bite," the man replied.

"No more trunk for you to climb on."

"I am too old for that now," the man said.

"I really can't give you anything... the only thing left is my dying roots," the tree said with sadness.

"I don't need much now, just a place to rest. I am tired after all these years," the man replied.

"Good! Old tree roots are the best place to lean on and rest. Come sit down with me and rest."

The boy sat down, and the tree was glad and smiled. (By *Shel Silverstein*)

### **Moral Lesson**

*The tree in the story represents our parents. When we are young, we love to play with them. When we grow up, we leave them and only come back when we need help. Parents sacrifice their lives for us. They are givers of everything. Can you be there for them when they need you?*



The envelopes that you received today are for Catholic Communication Campaign.

Half of your donation will stay in our diocese to support local communications efforts.

The other half will support national projects in the United States and around the world. Learn more at [www.usccb.org/cc](http://www.usccb.org/cc).

## Turning to God in Prayer

My dear People of God,

God has been faithful in seeing us through various seasons. Nevertheless, we need to go on our knees to seek the face of God in our recent happenings.

We had a long and severe winter, couple with another devastating flood that took away many houses and farmlands. The destruction on the roads, causing heavy traffic is disturbing.

Just when people are settling in and repairing what was lost, another water has started emerging. St. Mary's in Hamburg and other houses were engulfed with another water stopping on-going refurbishment.

The people in Oklahoma, Fort Gibson homes were swallowed by water last week. Just under our nose in Jefferson Missouri, some were affected by the recent Tornado. Although we still trust God in the midst of these natural calamities, I wish to entreat all to join in praying for accident free weather.

Let us not loose faith in the midst of these challenges. God who shut the heavens in the time of Elijah will calm our fears and worries.

I humbly ask each individual and families to use this Pentecost Novena and beyond to pray for all who have been affected by the flood.

In the words of the Psalmist, "Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress; I will never be shaken" (Ps 62:1-2).

May our unwavering hope energize us to sail through the vicissitudes of life's journey. Till then, don't forget to pray!

Fr. Raphael

**I will be on a canonical Retreat at Conception Abbey from June 2-6**



## PRACTICAL TIPS ON THE PREPARATION FOR PENTECOST.

As you are aware, we have made available the Pentecost novena prayers last week to enable us to prepare ourselves for Pentecost. This is a beautiful long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church to interiorly prepare one's self for **Pentecost Sunday** during which the Church commemorates the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, fulfilling what Our Lord promised before ascending into heaven that He will send us the "Paraclete", "Consoler" or the "Advocate".

**HOW CAN WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR PENTECOST?** Things to consider:

1. **Seek** a PERSONAL and LOVING FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT all throughout the day.
2. **LEARN** A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT and pray it every day whenever you want (when you wake up, when you start working, before giving a talk, class, conversation or meeting, before doing your daily examination of conscience at night...)
3. **MEDITATE** ON THE ACTIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR SOUL, ON HIS GIFTS AND FRUITS. Please find time to read and reflect on first Corinthians Chapters 12,13, &14. Galatians 5:16-25

Dear friends, as St. Josemaria said, the Holy Spirit is the "Great Unknown" for among the Three Persons of the Most Blessed Trinity, He is the least dealt with. During these days, may we get to know Him, deal with Him more, in a loving and intimate friendship, convinced that WE ARE NOT ALONE... THE HOLY SPIRIT, LIVING IN OUR SOUL IN GRACE — GOD WITH US, — IS GIVING A SUPERNATURAL TONE TO ALL OUR THOUGHTS, DESIRES AND ACTIONS (cfr. St. Josemaria, "The Way," n. 273)





## PRAYERS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

### Come Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful,  
and enkindle in us the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created,  
and you shall renew the face of the earth.  
Amen.

### Prayer for the Indwelling of the Spirit

Holy Spirit,  
powerful Consoler,  
sacred Bond of the Father and the Son,  
Hope of the afflicted,  
descend into my heart  
and establish in it Your loving dominion.  
Enkindle in my tepid soul  
the fire of Your Love  
so that I may be wholly subject to You.  
We believe that when you dwell in us,  
You also prepare a dwelling  
for the Father and the Son.  
Deign, therefore, to come to me,  
Consoler of abandoned souls,  
and Protector of the needy.  
Help the afflicted, strengthen the weak,  
and support the wavering.  
Come and purify me,  
Let no evil desire take possession of me.  
You love the humble and resist the proud.  
Come to me, Glory of the living,  
and Hope of the dying.  
Lead me by Your grace  
that I may always be pleasing to you.  
Amen.

## Breakfast Served!

The **Knights of Columbus** will be serving breakfast June 9 at St. Mary Parish Hall in Shenandoah with the proceeds going to help the St. Mary Parish in Hamburg recover from the flood.

They will be serving scrambled eggs and ham, potato cakes, pancakes, biscuits and gravy from 7am till noon.

## Diocesan Appeal Report.....

Our Goal this year is \$17,780.00.

To Date we have received \$10,870 from 28 households towards our goal leaving \$6910 left to pay.

Thank you to all those who have already contributed.



## Readings for the week of 6-2-19

**Sunday:** Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23/Lk 24:46-53

**7th Sunday of Easter:** Acts 7:55-60/Ps 97:1-2, 6-7, 9 [1a, 9a]/Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20/Jn 17:20-26

**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]/Jn 17:20-26

**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 [cf. 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 [12]/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Dn 3:52, 53, 55, 56 [52b] or Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [1]/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 Rom 8:8-17/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

# ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

## PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES

JOSH SIMMONS

JACOB ANDERSON

JUSTIN PHILLIPS

DERRICK HUBARD

STEVEN ANDERSON

COLBY MCGINLEY



6-1— Levi Hirner

6-1—Colby McGinley

6-5—Lori Goodman

6-14—Margaret Roberts

6-14—Nicole Zavadil

6-15—Susan Hilton

6-17—William Green

6-18—Pat Sheldon

6-18—Daniel Whitehead

6-19—Bev Finnigan

6-21—Donna Whelan



Greg Andersen  
Grady Secht

Reese Kemp

James Dowling

LeRoy Herscheid

Noah Howe

Mary Lou Miller

Dottie Dankof

Isacc Durr

Robert & Nancy Dalton

Todd Quick

Harold & Verona Mitchell

Joel Loggins

Kenneth Russell

Bill Long

Henry Johnsen

Lawrence DuBois

Angie Witter-Childers

Pat Sheldon

Joe Kirk

Tim Konecny

Esther McCowan

Jeff Guiane

Shawn Collins

Drake Travis

Martha Gude

Gloria Green

Diane Cunningham

Alan Briggs

All who are feeling the effects  
of the flood

## *Your Contributions May 26, 2019*

**Plate—\$60.00**

**Tithes—\$1539.10**

**Children's Coll. for  
May—\$80.75**

*Thank You!!*



6-2— Bill & Andrea Clark

6-12— Michael & Rosie Callahan

6-19— Mike & Lisa Welch

6-22— Troy & Monica Whitehead

6-22— Bill & Gloria Green

6-26— Bill & Alisha Ettleman

6-30— Mark & Nancy Pitts

<b>2019</b>	<b>June 2</b> Ascension 8:30	<b>June 9</b> PENTECOST 8:30	<b>June 16</b> The Most Holy Trinity 8:30	<b>June 23</b> The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ 8:30	<b>June 30</b> 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time  8:30
<b>Greeters and Ushers</b>	Vince & Susan Hilton	Joe & Robbi Travis	Rich & Linda Dewhirst	Henry & Helen Martin	Dan & Lori Goodman
<b>Eucharist Ministers</b>	Joe & Robbi Travis	Annie Wakefield  Vince Hilton	Anne Hendrickson  Denny Travis	Dan Goodman  Joella Travis	Robbi Travis  Vince Hilton
<b>Servers</b>	Ryan Roberts Garett Phillips	Avery Dowling Maddy Duncan	Jed Whitehead Maddy Duncan	Ethan Roberts Cale Phillips	Max Mount Amelia Moody
<b>Lector</b>	Teresa Jamison	Michael Gallagher	Mark Gude	Carolyn Maher	Joe Travis
<b>Mass Setup</b>	Rosie	Joe	Rosie	Joe	Rosie
<b>Cantor</b>	Kim	Kate	Beth/Cara	Kim	Beth
<b>Accompanist</b>	Donna	Donna	Kate/Emily	Nancy	Donna
<b>Coffee and Donuts</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Wash Linens</b>	Bev Finnigan	Bev Finnigan	Bev Finnigan	Bev Finnigan	Bev Finnigan
<b>PASTOR</b>	<b>PASTORAL ASSISTANT</b>		<b>BOOKKEEPER</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION</b>	
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