

Historical note for the Ascension

Forty days after our Lord's resurrection, still in the Paschal cycle, is kept the anniversary of the day that marked the end of His visible reign on earth.

The apostles, who had come to Jerusalem at the approach of Pentecost, were assembled in the Cenacle when our Lord appeared and took a last meal with them, afterwards leading them outside the city on the Bethany side to the Mount of Olives, the highest of the mountains which surround the capital. Then Jesus blessing His apostles raised Himself towards the sky.

This was at midday. Then a cloud hid Him from sight and two angels came and told the disciples that "This same Jesus" who had ascended into heaven, would thence return to earth at the end of the world.

As a reminder of this last walk of Our Lord and His apostles from the Cenacle to the Mount of Olives, it was the custom at Rome to have a solemn procession at the hour of Sext (Mid-day), when, after Pontifical Mass at St. Peter's, the Pope went with the cardinals and bishops to St. John Lateran.

On the Mount of Olives, on the spot where our Lord ascended into heaven, St. Helen built a basilica, after the pattern of that of the Holy Sepulcher. By a happily devised piece of symbolism, it was exposed to the sky. It was destroyed by the Mohammedans and replaced in the fourteenth century by a monument of mediocre style.

Liturgical note for the Ascension

The Feast of the Ascension was formerly not distinguished from Pentecost because Paschaltide was regarded as a single feastday, beginning at Easter and ending with the descent of the Holy Ghost on the Apostles. Before long the Ascension was kept on the fortieth day after the Resurrection, having its own vigil and octave. It is now a holy-day of obligation.

The symbolic ceremony peculiar to this feast is the final extinction of the Paschal candle, whose light during these holy forty days has represented the presence of our Lord in the midst of His disciples. It is extinguished after reading of the Ascension Gospel, which speaks to us of our blessed Lord's departure into heaven. The white vestments and the Alleluia, "that drop of the supreme rejoicing," says Rupert, "which thrills through Jerusalem above, "betrays the joy felt by the Church at the memory of Our Lord's triumph, at the thought of the happiness of the angels and the just men of the Old Law who share it, and of the expectation of the Holy Ghost, who will make her join in it herself.

The spirit of this feast is emphasized in the collect, which shows us that having with the liturgical cycle, followed our Lord through the whole course of His life, we must lift our gaze towards heaven, and dwell there by faith and hope, for it is the true fatherland of God's children.

May 5, 2024



*Saint Joseph's
Traditional Roman Catholic Chapel
Traditional Latin Mass*

*29968 County 22
Harmony, Minnesota 55939*

Sunday May 5 **5th Sunday After Easter**

Confessions 12:30 pm (St. Pius V, PC)
Holy Mass 1:00 pm

Thursday May 9 **Ascension Thursday**

Confessions 12:30 pm (St. Gregory Nazianzen, BCD)
Holy Mass 1:00 pm

Sunday May 12 **Sunday after Ascension**

Confessions 12:30 pm (St. Nereus, Achilleus, Domitilla & Pancras, Mm)
Holy Mass 1:00 pm

CONTACTS:

Most Rev. Mark Pivarunas, CMRI (402) 571-4404
Fr. Adam Craig (810) 404-3205 fr.adamcraig@gmail.com
Fr Nino Molina (320) 266-4914 frnmolina13@gmail.com
St. Joseph's Church (402) 332-7609 www.saintjosephofharmony.org

MASS INTENTIONS may be submitted to Father for a stipend of \$25.00. If you wish a specific date, please submit well in advance. Mass Intention envelopes are available in the vestibule.

MEAL VOLUNTEERS: There is a sign up sheet in the vestibule for the month of May to help provide Father with a meal-to-go after Mass. *Thank You* to all those who have been assisting with this Corporal Work of Mercy to feed the hungry and supporting your parish priest.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND *postponed until OCTOBER* is being coordinated by Fr. Benedict Hughes. Please see flyer in the vestibule and contact Fr. Benedict if interested.

SECOND COLLECTION for the CMD Sisters will be today.

SILENT AUCTION will be held in the basement this afternoon after Holy Mass. Please come check out some of the items!

ASCENSION THURSDAY MAY 9TH is a Holy Day. Attendance at Mass is obligatory and servile work is prohibited. The Mass that day will be at 1:00 pm.

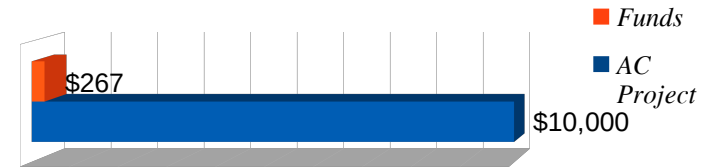
SCHOOL PROGRAM - MAY 12TH The Sisters and Students of St. Joseph's Academy will be having the end-of-the-year school program in the basement of the Church after Holy Mass. All are welcome, please join us! Please bring some finger foods to share!

NOVENA TO THE HOLY GHOST: In preparation for the feast of Pentecost, copies of the Novena to the Holy Ghost are available to take home. The Novena begins on Friday, May 10 and ends on Saturday May 18.

St. Joseph's Church Financial Statement

Average Weekly Operating Costs: \$590
Average 2024 Weekly Collection (year-to-date): \$674
Last Four Collections: 4/7 \$1,202 4/14 \$816 4/21 \$791 4/28 \$665

St. Joseph's Building Fund Update and Project Cost



**THE SECOND MYSTERY OF PASCHALTIDE:
THE ASCENSION**

Doctrinal note for the Ascension

The second feast that is kept during Paschaltide is the Ascension, which crowns the whole of our Lord's life. For the Risen Christ must needs cease to tread the soil of our poor earth and must return to His Father in whose bosom, as God, He must be for all eternity, and where, in St. Cyprian's words, "His humanity is now welcomed with a joy no tongue can express."

Christ is now to take possession of the Kingdom of Heaven, which He has won by His sufferings, and to open to us His Father's House, "setting our frail nature at the right hand of God's glory" that there, as God's children, we may fill the place from which the angels fell. So, as Conqueror of sin and Satan, Jesus enters heaven; while the angels hail and greet their King and the souls of the just, freed from Limbo, form for Him an escort of glory. "I go to prepare a place for you," He told His apostles, and St. Paul asserts that God has made us "sit together" with Christ, "in the heavenly places," since already "we are saved by hope". "There, where the Head has entered," says St. Leo, "the body also is called to penetrate."

The triumph of Christ is the triumph of His Church. Like the High Priest who, under the Old Law, entered the Holy of Holies to offer the blood of the victims to almighty God, our Lord, the Apostle tells us, has entered the Holy of Holies of the heavenly Jerusalem, there to offer His own Blood, the Blood of the New Testament, and to obtain for us favours from God. It is on Ascension Day that Christ begins His heavenly Priesthood, showing His glorious wounds to God. "He is... always living to make intercession for us, "and has obtained for us the Holy Ghost, with all His gifts.

While it is the complement of all of our Lord's feasts, the Ascension is the fount of our sanctification. As the Church sings in the Preface: "He was lifted up into heaven, so that He might make us partakers of His Godhead." "It is not enough," says Dom Gueranger, "for a man to rest on the merits of our Redeemer's passion, not enough to unite to His memorial that of the resurrection as well. Man is saved and restored only by the union of these two mysteries with a third: that of the triumphant ascension of Him Who died and rose again."