



Ascension of the Lord



INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1 - 11

Jesus promises they will soon be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1: 17 - 23

God has put all things under the feet of Christ, exalted as head of the church.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 28:16 - 20

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.”

“Why are you standing there looking at the sky?” asks the angel of the disciples who have just witnessed the Ascension. Indeed, they could ask us the same question. Listening to the Word of God today, let us focus on God’s invitation to continue Christ’s mission in the world. What do these sacred scriptures ask of you now, this week?

He Has Ascended, Alleluia!



MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

6:00 PM: Rose & Richard Cook (d) rb Estelle Farro.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: God’s guidance, protection and deliverance for Stacy Matthew rb Her mother.

10:00 AM: God’s blessings, guidance and protection for Abigail Peters rb Her family.

6:00 PM: God’s continued blessings for the Haitian Community.

Daily Masses:

Mon. May 29, 6:00 PM: **Blessed Eugene de Moazenod**
God’s blessings and healing for Bishop Elliott Thomas.

Tues. May 30, 7:00 AM: **St. Joan of Arc**
Emile Stridiron (d) rb The Johnson and Stridiron families.

Wed. May 31, 7:00 AM: **Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth**
God’s blessings for Holy Family parishioners.

Thurs. Jun 1, 7:00 AM: **St. Justin**
Emanuel Jackson (d) rb The Rouse family.

Fri. Jun 2, 7:00 PM: **Sts. Marcellinus & Peter**
Deceased parishioners of Holy Family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND COLLECTION: This week’s second collection goes towards **Catholic Education**. Next week’s second collection will go towards **Renovation Fund**. As always we thank you for your generosity.

ETERNAL CANDLE: This week the Eternal Candle is burning for **birthday blessings and success and deliverance for Tracey Joseph requested by her mother, Francesca Alcendor**. You can request Eternal Candle for your loved ones’ birthdays or any special occasions.

BISHOP’S APPEAL: Thank you to all who have already contributed to the Bishop’s Appeal 2017! We need more help in order to reach our goal. Please give a brochure to a friend. Our schools, Catholic Charities and evangelization efforts need everyone’s support! For your convenience, you may choose to make a pledge now and spread your donation over several months. Donations may be made in the form of cash, check or credit card. Checks should be made payable to “Diocese of St. Thomas.” Please see the brochure for further information. “Love what Jesus loves. Jesus loves the poor.”

SYMPATHY: On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François and Rev. Neil Scantlebury extend sincere sympathy to the family of **Robert Ledee**, who died on **Saturday, May 20, 2017**. The funeral Mass for the late **Robert Ledee** was held on **Friday, May 26, 2017** at Holy Family Church. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

OFFICE CLOSED: Please note that the church office will be closed ALL day on **Monday, May 29, 2017**, in observance of Memorial Day. Please be guided accordingly.

SYMPATHY: On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François and Rev. Neil Scantlebury extend sincere sympathy to the family of **Edmond Benjamin**, who died on **Thursday, May 18, 2017**. The funeral Mass for the late **Edmond Benjamin** will take place on **Tuesday, May 30, 2017** at 10:00 a.m. at Holy Family Church. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

SYMPATHY: On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François and Rev. Neil Scantlebury extend sincere sympathy to the family of **Clifford Bertie John**, who died on **Saturday, May 20, 2017**. The funeral Mass for the late **Clifford Bertie John** will take place on **Friday, June 2, 2017** at 10:00 a.m. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

FAMILIES FOR CHRIST: Family Sunday is every first Sunday of each month starting with Families for Christ meeting at 9:15 a.m. in Lower Columban Hall followed by family mass at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. Interest volunteers please contact Sheryl Griffith at 352-348-6979. Please be guided accordingly.

SYMPATHY: On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François and Rev. Neil Scantlebury extend sincere sympathy to the family of **John Baptist Joseph**, who died on **Wednesday, May 17, 2017**. The funeral Mass for the late **John Baptist Joseph** will take place on **Tuesday, June 6, 2017** at 10:00 a.m. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

FATHER’S DAY BUFFET LUNCHEON: The St. Joseph Workers will be honoring three (3) fathers at their 11th Annual Father’s Day Buffet Luncheon on **Sunday, June 18, 2017**, at Holy Family Columban Hall at 1:00 p.m. The honorees are **Arden Shillingford, Anthony Legrand and John Donaie**. Donation: **Adult \$45.00 and children under age 12 pay \$25.00** at the door.

LITURGY AND WORD

The Acts of the Apostles presents the ascension as the final leave taking of Jesus after having appeared to his disciples for a period of forty days. But in his Gospel Luke presents the ascension taking place on the Easter Sunday itself for he writes, “Jesus then led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven” (Lk 24:50-51). Scripture scholar Joseph Fitzmyer says why Luke has two different versions of the ascension is something we shall never know. There is no doubting the fact that the glorification of Jesus took place immediately after his death. The appearances of Jesus that lasted for forty days according to Luke, took place from heaven where he was seated by his Father. The apostles who were shattered after the sudden departure of Jesus needed to be strengthened in their faith. The appearances of the risen Jesus accomplished this purpose. Jesus came to establish the rule of God. He took all necessary steps towards the realization of this plan. He chose the group of disciples who were always with him. Through miraculous signs of healing and elaborate teaching he drew himself closer to the people who recognized the divine power working through him. But the religious and the political authorities saw him as a threat and so eliminated him using the most brutal and mental torture. The reward for a work comes at the completion of it. The Paschal events consist of the passion, death, resurrection, ascension and the heavenly enthronement of Jesus. What is the significance of the Feast of the Ascension for a believer today? How does it affect the believer’s life? We live in a world that is result and reward oriented. Nobody may be willing to work if there is no return from it, monetary reward included. But what reward does spiritual life offer? Jesus says, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life” (Jn5:24). Eternal life is the ultimate reward for a spiritual person. God does not want us to suffer for suffering’s sake. But human life involves suffering in diverse ways. Married couple waiting eagerly for the birth of a healthy and intelligent child may receive a physically weak or mentally retarded child. What do we do when we face such a reality? Reject the child? By no means! This child should be brought up with much more affection than a normally healthy child.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Every week the report on stewardship will include our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. In gratitude to God, we give of our first fruits to help fulfill God’s mission of love here on earth.

Attendance: Last Weekend: **466**

Last Weekend’s collections

FIRST COLLECTION: \$6,022.80

SECOND COLLECTION:

Catholic Comm. Camp.: \$1,433.74

Our Bishop’s Appeal contribution now amounts to \$19,876.00, 50% of our goal of \$40,000.00. As always we thank you for your continuous contribution towards our Bishop’s Appeal. Once again, thank you.

LITURGY AND WORD CONT’D

Here lies the challenge and the cross. The reward and glory will depend on how the hapless child is showered with love and affection by parents and the community around it.

Most families will have elderly (parents, grandparents) and sick members around them. How do we care for them? Minimum care, that too with grumbling? By no means! Our parents and grandparents have done more than what was required for the welfare of their children. They should be given the best care possible and if they are lonely or alone frequent visits and adequate medical care should be given to them. This is the cross we have to carry. The good health and the time that God gives are not meant for selfish or personal satisfaction. Nothing will go unrewarded! Let the limitations not subdue us, let us ascend them!

Today is also the World Communications Day. The Church has fittingly chosen the Feast of the Ascension as the Communications Day. What do we communicate? We need not break our head searching for answers; it is readily available for it is given by Jesus himself at the time of his ascension: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age” (Mt 28:20). May the Holy Spirit whose outpouring we await assist us!

Have a Blessed Sunday!