

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 21, 2023

“God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.”

— *Psalm 47:6*

FEET ON THE GROUND

“Until next week, keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars!” Not today’s scriptural wisdom, but legendary DJ Casey Kasem’s sage advice, heard across America for generations, *American Top 40*’s challenging sign-off. Though Casey wasn’t quoting scripture, today’s Acts of the Apostles offers similar advice. As Jesus ascended, disciples “were looking intently at the sky.” Wouldn’t we prefer a soul-relaxing gaze into peaceful blue skies to a heart-breaking focus on this blood-stained earth? But heavenly questioners asked Jesus’ first disciples, “Why are you standing there looking at the sky?” Earth awaited their mission! While our hearts should “keep reaching for” heaven, we need to “keep our feet on the ground.” Ascension’s scriptures and the Jubilee of Mercy remind us: the Jesus we revere as “ascended into heaven” lives right here among us on earth, awaiting our recognition and loving service.
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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Jesus tells the disciples that they will be witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:1-11).

Psalm — God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord (Psalm 47).

Second Reading — God seated Jesus at his right hand in the heavens (Ephesians 1:17-23) *or Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23.*

Gospel — As Jesus blessed his disciples he parted from them and was taken up to heaven (Luke 24:46-53).

PRAYER

Prayer is not a spare wheel that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a “steering wheel” that directs the path throughout.

~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~

PRAYER FOR GENEROSITY

*Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God,
Teach me true generosity.*

Teach me to serve You as You deserve.

To give without counting the cost,

To fight heedless of wounds,

To labor without seeking rest,

To sacrifice myself without thought of any reward

Save the knowledge that I have done Your will.

Amen.

REFLECTION

Today’s readings describe the Ascension of the Lord Jesus into Heavenly glory, after promising to send the Holy spirit as the source of Heavenly power for the apostles and commanding them to bear witness to him through their lives and preaching throughout the world. What we celebrate today is Jesus’ exaltation and the end of his earthly existence, as a prelude to the gift of the spirit. The ascended Jesus is still with us because of his promise, “I am with you always; yes to the end of time” (Mt 28:20). He is with us at all times and in all places, releasing a new power upon the earth, the power of the Holy Spirit that enables us to bear witness to Jesus in keeping and living out his word. Today’s feast is the celebration of Jesus’ glory after his suffering and death — the glory in which we also hope to share. The Ascension and Pentecost, together, mark the beginning of the Church. The feast of the Ascension tells us that the Church must be a community in “mission,” guided by the Holy Spirit and confident of God’s protection even amid suffering and in the face of death.

On the mount of the Ascension, Jesus entrusts to us his life, his Gospel of healing, compassion, reconciliation and hope. Having given his life to reveal the love of God for all of us, he entrusts that work to you and me. He commissions us to be his “witnesses” and to continue his work — with all its risks and despite all our doubts. The work of building his church of reconciliation and love requires us humility, respect, patience; it asks us to let go of our own interests and wants to open our hearts to change and a willingness to cope with that change. In baptism, every Christian of every time and placed takes on the roles of witness to all that Jesus did and taught.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

“Say, Bill,” a man said to his pal, “how do you like your new job?”

“It’s the worst job I ever had.”

“How long have you been there?”

“About three months.”

“Why don’t you quit?”

“No way. This is the first time in 20 years that I’ve looked forward to going home.”

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$1,429.00	\$853.00
Number of Families contributing	60	47
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (19 Weeks)	\$62,185.00	\$63,080.00
Received to Date	\$52,906.00	\$43,671.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$9,279.00	\$19,409.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$198.00	\$3,829.00

Sixteen ladies contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$0.00	\$38,220.00

No one made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$71,565.00

CATHOLIC APPEAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA (BAA)

Amount given to date	2023 GOAL
\$3,201.00	\$19,882.00

POOR BOX totaled \$27.00.

6 CHILDREN contributed \$11.00.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES totaled \$93.00.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. The Family of Apple's Mattie on his Birthday and for Katie Riley on her Birthday;
2. and A Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

FR. CHERIAN'S PHONE NUMBER IN INDIA

91-944-649-2827

MAY PROCESSION The Crowning of the Blessed Mother will be held this Sunday, May 28th at 6:00 P.M.

SPRING PICNIC will be directly after the May Procession.

THANK YOU to a parish member for a \$200 donation to the church towards the purchase of the new Monstrance for Eucharistic Adoration; and also, to a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

SPECIAL COLLECTION The second collection this weekend will be for *Catholic Communications Campaign*. Please be generous.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord

Monday: St. Rita of Cascia

Thursday: St. Mary Magdalene

Friday: St. Philip Neri

Saturday: St. Augustine of Canterbury

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: For Drake, Johnny Duke and Johnny Dempsey.

Tuesday: In honor of the Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory; for the repose of the soul of Big King on the 3rd Anniversary of his death.

Wednesday: For the repose of the soul of Apple's Mattie on his Birthday and for the repose of the soul of Katie Riley on her Birthday.

Thursday: For the repose of the soul of Jackie Turner Riley on the Anniversary of his death.

Friday: For Petie and Mary Louise.

READERS

Sat. May 20th, 4:00 P.M.

Christina & Macy

Sun. May 21st, 10:00 A.M.

Jimmy Joseph &

Lauren Ashley

Sat. May 27th, 4:00 P.M.

Natalie & Julie Ann

Sun. May 28th, 10:00 A.M.

Jimmy Joseph &

Lauren Ashley

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday - Christina

Tuesday - Natalie

Wednesday - Julie Ann

Thursday - Ashley Carroll

Friday - Lauren Ashley

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

Monday - Theresa Hun

Tuesday - Jack's Mary Rita

Wednesday - Julie Ann

Thursday - Betty Jo

Friday - Ned's Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M.

Right

Left

May 20th

Winnie Ann

Bridget Rita

Sunday 10:00 A.M

May 21st

Nora

May 28th

Ned's Rose Marie

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER SCHEDULE.

MORNING PRAYER

Monday thru Friday

9:30 a.m.

EVENING PRAYER

Monday thru Thursday

3:30 p.m.