

## Useful Resources

Scan the QR codes with your smart phone camera.



**The Ascension: Why 40 Days?** – Dr. Brant Pitre, Catholic Productions. <https://youtu.be/OuM9Bylh6qU>



**Why the Ascension of the Lord Matters** – Bishop Robert Barron, Word on Fire Ministries. [https://youtu.be/PxDTY\\_9w6ws](https://youtu.be/PxDTY_9w6ws)



**Why the Ascension? Couldn't Jesus Have Stayed?** – Fr. Josh Johnson, Ascension Press. <https://youtu.be/RiO11ha3jfo>



**Christ's Ascension into Heaven** – Fr. Mike Schmitz. <https://youtu.be/p7np1ndthQ4>

## The Ascension of the Lord

This Sunday, we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord. In the Nicene Creed we profess that “He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.” So what? Big what! The Ascension is one of the most underrated solemnities in the Church calendar. In ascending into heaven, Jesus did not abandon us on the playing field of life like some star quarterback going to another team. Rather, Jesus’ Ascension was Him scoring the go-ahead touchdown and

being named head coach by God the Father to lead all of us to final victory.

Indeed, Jesus told His apostles that it was to their advantage that He return to heaven, saying “It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you: but if I go, I will send Him to you” (John 16:7). As Pope Francis described Jesus’ Ascension: “He is no longer in a specific place in the world as He was before the Ascension. He is now in the lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each one of us.” (General Audience, April 17, 2013).

The disciples, who were not always the best when it came to understanding what Jesus was telling them, got it this time. As St. Luke recounts, “[He] was carried up into heaven. And [the disciples] worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy and were continually in the temple blessing God.” (24:52). Because of his Ascension, he is close to each one of us forever. For as Jesus said, “And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” (Matthew 28:19).

With His Ascension into heaven, our Lord Jesus is now present to us in new and more powerful ways through the Holy Spirit, the Eucharist, and the Liturgy of the Word. Christ continues to be with us, sanctifying us, giving us life, leading us to Father, and preparing a place for us with Him so that we have hope of eternal life with Him in heaven. Sitting at the right hand of the Father, Jesus is our eternal High Priest, our Mediator with the Father. (Hebrews 7:25).



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<https://stcasimir.org/>



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As we celebrate the mystery of our Lord's Ascension, we must also remember His words to the disciples immediately before His Ascension. At the same time He promised to send the disciples the Holy Spirit, He commanded them to go forth as missionaries to the world. He gave them the charge of evangelization and the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish this mission. This same command and mission were passed on to us when we received the Holy Spirit at our baptisms.

The Gospel is spread through the power of God, not by means of our human wisdom or strength. Our responsibility is to allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit and to cooperate with His grace as we seek to bring the Gospel to the world. If we listen to the Holy Spirit, He will keep us faithful to the teachings of Jesus and strengthen us to be Jesus' witnesses in word and deed. This is the special grace we received in the sacrament of Confirmation.

Still not impressed? Before Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension, he could barely keep his eleven best friends awake, much less believing that He was the Son of God. Another one was about to betray him. He was executed in a manner reserved for the worst criminals in sleepy, back corner of the Roman Empire. After His Ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit, these flawed and broken disciples, and those that succeeded them, began boldly proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to the ends of the Earth, even at the cost of their own lives, so that 2,000 years later there over 2.5 billion people around the world who claim to be Christians and billions more who have heard of Him, even if they do not believe in Him ... yet. And the Church that Jesus built on the rock of the Apostle Peter has its world-wide headquarters in Rome, the former seat of the Roman Empire.

## Coming Up Next

Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. It is traditional to wear red as a symbol of the joy and fire of the Holy Spirit. Wear red to Mass!

## Saints of the Week

Scan the QR codes with your phone to read and listen about the lives of the Saints.



**May 21 – Saint Cristóbal Magallanes (1869-1927) and Companions.** Members of Cristero movement martyred in Mexico.



**May 22 – Saint Rita of Cascia (1381–1457).** Wife, mother, widow, Augustinian nun and patron of impossible causes.



**May 23 – Saint Gregory VII (c. 1025–1085).** As Pope, fiercely resisted attacks on the liberty of the Church by the emperor.



**May 24 – Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi (1566–1607).** Experienced extraordinary ecstasies after receiving Holy Communion.



**May 25 - Saint Bede the Venerable (c. 672 – May 25, 735).** English monk renowned for writings on the Scriptures and Church history.



**May 26 – Saint Philip Neri (1515–1595).** A beloved priest and confessor, he founded the Oratory religious institute.



**May 27 – Saint Augustine of Canterbury (?-605).** "Apostle to England" helped evangelize the Anglo-Saxons in England.