

**FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAY 28-29, 2022**

Seventh Sunday of Easter/The Ascension of the Lord

**Gospel reading (Lectionary 58,61)**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Jn 17:20-26

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying:
“Holy Father, I pray not only for them,
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
so that they may all be one,
as you, Father, are in me and I in you,
that they also may be in us,
that the world may believe that you sent me.
And I have given them the glory you gave me,
so that they may be one, as we are one,
I in them and you in me,
that they may be brought to perfection as one,
that the world may know that you sent me,
and that you loved them even as you loved me.
Father, they are your gift to me.
I wish that where I am they also may be with me,
that they may see my glory that you gave me,
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
Righteous Father, the world also does not know you,
but I know you, and they know that you sent me.
I made known to them your name and I will make it known,
that the love with which you loved me
may be in them and I in them.”

**The Ascension of the Lord**

Lk 24:46-53

Jesus said to his disciples:
“Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer
and rise from the dead on the third day
and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,
would be preached in his name
to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
You are witnesses of these things.
And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you;
but stay in the city
until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany,
raised his hands, and blessed them.
As he blessed them he parted from them
and was taken up to heaven.
They did him homage
and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy,
and they were continually in the temple praising God.

**Intercession**

For our parish community, that we might generously respond to Christ’s call to be witnesses to His saving work by building up the Church through our Annual Diocesan Appeal.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

(written for Ascension Sunday)

“You are witnesses of these things.” That’s part of Christ’s parting message to the early Church, and therefore, to us. The truth of Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection, and His salvation of the world, can only be communicated to the world through His witnesses. Through us, the Church.

It’s a pretty incredible responsibility. But it’s also one that Christ equips us for: “behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you.” Even so, it’s one that we need respond to. If the Church doesn’t witness to Christ, then no one will.

Obviously, a significant part of our responsibility to be Christ’s witnesses is to individually tell about Jesus and the Good News with those around us—in our families, friend groups, and work-places. But another part of this mission of evangelization is to support the Church, the community of witnesses. We’re currently in the midst of our Annual Diocesan Appeal. Donate today, and support this vital mission.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Christ calls us to be His witnesses. One important way that we carry this mission forward today is by supporting our local Church. Please prayerfully consider contributing to our Annual Diocesan Appeal.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: Person looking up

Text: “You are witnesses of these things.”

Copy: Christ calls us to be His witnesses and we can do just that by supporting our local Church today. Please prayerfully consider how you can be Christ’s witness by contributing to our Annual Diocesan Appeal.