

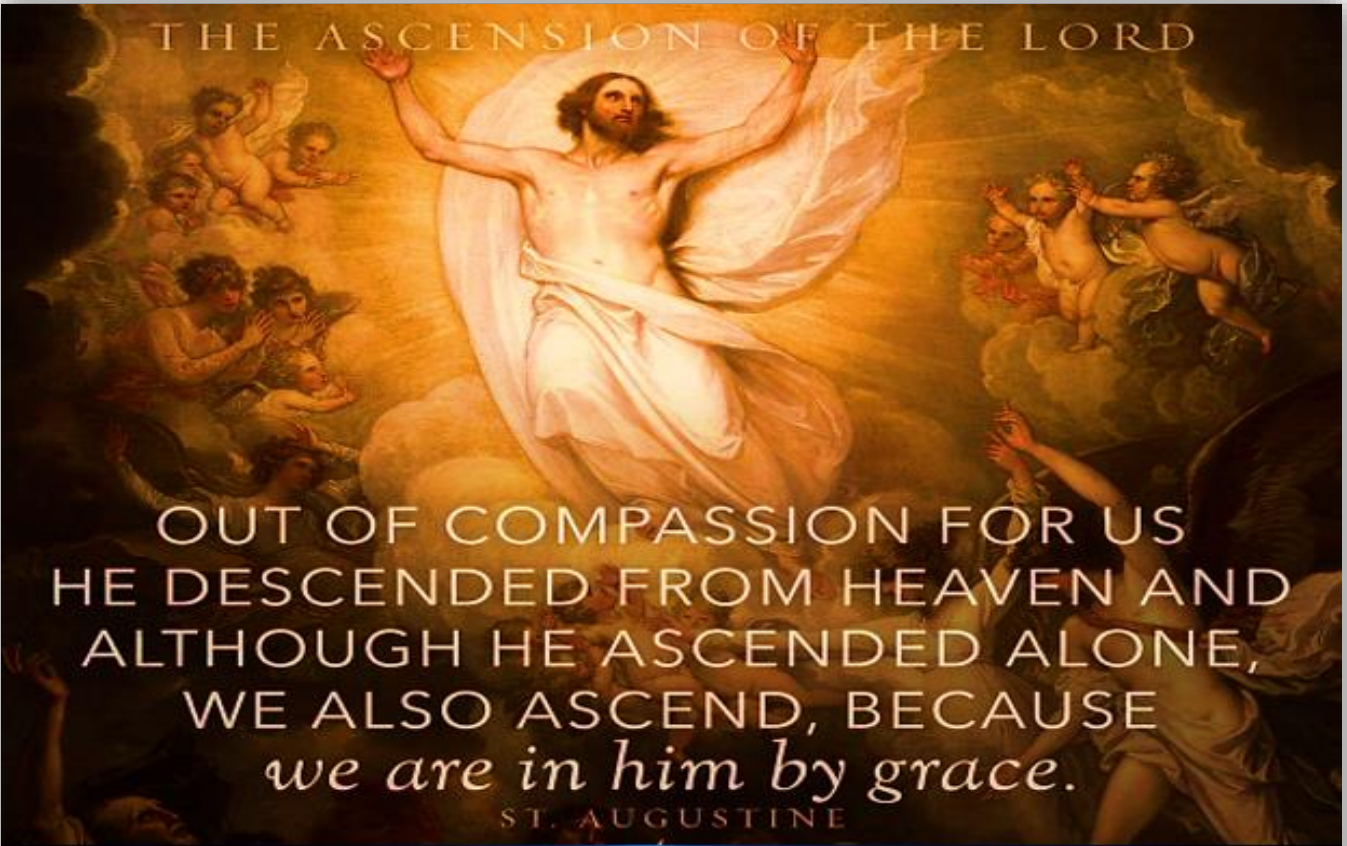
ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR CHURCH

2210 LAWRENCE AVE E. SCARBOROUGH, ONTARIO, M1P 2P9

<https://stlawrencemartyr.archtoronto.org>

Tel No. 416-759-9359

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



OUT OF COMPASSION FOR US
HE DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN AND
ALTHOUGH HE ASCENDED ALONE,
WE ALSO ASCEND, BECAUSE
we are in him by grace.

ST. AUGUSTINE



GO INTO ALL THE WORLD

and preach the gospel to every creature.
The one who believes and is baptized will be saved,
but the one who does not believe will be condemned.

Mark 16:15-20

MAY 16, 2021 – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

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Dear Padre
May 16, 2021



My neighbor, a fundamentalist Christian, said I won't be saved unless I accept Jesus as my personal savior. Didn't Jesus become my savior when I was baptized?

Your neighbor is probably referring to John 3:7, when Jesus said, "You must be born anew" (Common English Bible). Jesus is talking about a spiritual rebirth; we must have a spiritual birth in order to be saved. As you noted, Catholics believe this happens at baptism. In John 3:5, Jesus says, "Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom."

We are saved by the waters of baptism. But for Catholics, it's not merely a onetime event. We continue to accept or reject the salvation offered us by the decisions we make every day.

Your neighbor used the words "personal savior." Catholic Christians go even deeper through the sacraments. We develop and nurture a very personal relationship with Jesus by regularly receiving the Eucharist. In the sacrament of reconciliation, we admit we have sinned and ask Jesus to forgive us. And in the sacrament of confirmation, our relationship is "sealed" with the gift of the Spirit.

Many Catholics also celebrate the sacrament of marriage. The couple's personal relationship with Jesus is deepened through the love the couple shares.

So, tell your neighbor you are indeed saved by Jesus. And because you are saved, you deepen that relationship with Jesus by living a sacramental life.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR
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GOSPEL SUMMARY:

Many Scripture scholars think that this section was added to Mark's Gospel in order to make it compatible with the endings of the other Gospels. Just before Jesus ascended into Heaven, he commissioned his disciples to go into all the world and to proclaim the Gospel to every creature. The disciples did as the Lord commanded, and the Gospel tells us "the Lord worked with them."

REFLECTION FOR PARENTS:

There is an old expression, "preaching to the choir." It is easy to preach to the choir because those in the choir already believe in the Good News of Jesus Christ. The challenge for every disciple is to carry the Good News to all people—even to, and especially to, those who are not a part of the choir. Pope Francis suggested one small way to do this when he stated in *The Joy of the Gospel* that the greatest evangelizer is a joyful Christian. Take time to think about his words today. Are you a joyful Christian? Do people see the gift of joy evident in your life? Do they hear it in your words? Pray for an increase in the gift of joy that others—including those in your own family—may be drawn to Christ through you.

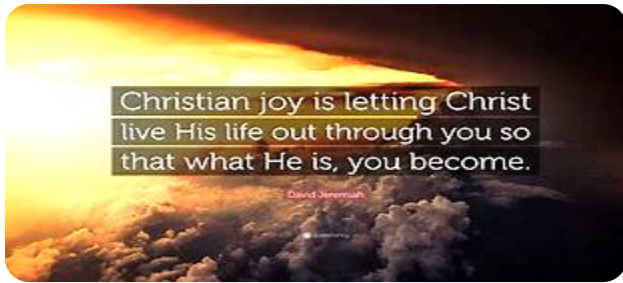
BRINGING THE GOSPEL INTO YOUR FAMILY:

Share Pope Francis' words with your family. Invite each family member to share how he or she sees joy alive in your family and in the world today.

Brainstorm ways your family can share the joy of the Good News with others, and make an action plan to do so at least once in the coming week.



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DISCUSSION STARTERS:

Instead of discussion starters today, search your parish bulletin for opportunities to share the Good News with others through ministries of service. Decide on one way that you, as a family, will respond to an opportunity to serve. Also search the Internet to learn more about organizations that share the Good News by serving the needs of others throughout the world. Visit crs.org (Catholic Relief Services), maryknoll.org (Maryknoll missionaries), unbound.org (Unbound outreach to children and the aged), and habitat.org (Habitat for Humanity).

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FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Please remember in your prayers: those who are sick and for those who love and minister to them –John Miceli, Gianna Ramzi, Francisco William, Stephanie Solomon, Antonio Sorbera, Bill Matthews, Vanessa Melone, Rosemarie Sorbera, Amelia Barroso, Joey Bagnato, Alicia Alvares, Charlie Abreu, Bill Cook.



VOCATION REFLECTION:

Before the Ascension, Jesus tells His Apostles not to leave Jerusalem to wait to pray for the Holy Spirit to show them God's will for their future. Where is the Holy Spirit leading you? If you feel that you are being led to be a priest, religious,

or permanent deacon, call **Fr. Matthew McCarthy**, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto. Tel No. 416-968-0997 Email vocations@archtoronto.org Website <https://www.vocationstoronto.ca>

MASSES - MESSE



SATURDAY MAY 15TH – SABATO

5:00 P.M. – + Carmela Scarano

SUNDAY MAY 16TH – DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. – + Belen & Eugenio Solitario

10:00 A.M. – Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia

Francesco Ferrante

Rosario Vella

Mike e Vito Cuoppolo

Giuseppe Canini e defunti famiglia

Totonno e Rosaria Francella

Angelo Lamanna e defunti famiglia

11:30 A.M. – + Deceased of the Friolet Family

1:00 P.M. – Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. – + John Payton

MONDAY MAY 17TH – LUNEDÌ

8:30 A.M. – + Jose & Avelina Tumaliuan

11:00 A.M. – Rodel Torres

TUESDAY MAY 18TH – MARTEDÌ

8:30 A.M. – + Fr. Richard Veltri SFM

11:00 A.M. – + Anthony De Mello

WEDNESDAY MAY 19TH – MERCOLEDÌ

8:30 A.M. – + Anne Hrenchuk

11:00 A.M. – Laura Miceli

THURSDAY MAY 20TH – GIOVEDÌ SANTO

7:00 A.M. – + Francis Lobo

8:30 A.M. – Vivien Riseborough

FRIDAY MAY 21ST – VENERDÌ SANTO

8:30 A.M. – + Deceased

Tamburro & Longo Families

7:00 P.M. – In Thanksgiving

SATURDAY MAY 22ND – SABATO SANTO

8:30 A.M. – + Salvador Rebello

10:00 A.M. – Leo Francis Ochangco

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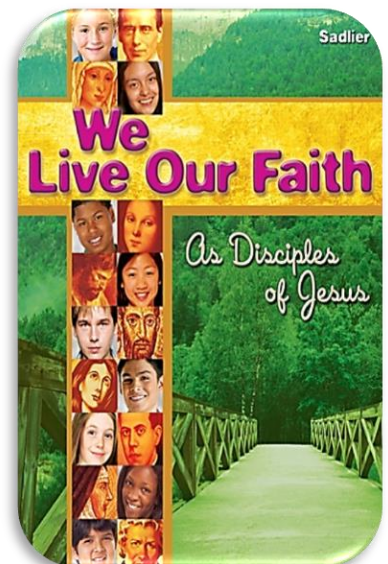


Being Authentic Stewards : This Sunday we celebrate the great solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. Before Jesus ascended into heaven he told his apostles, and us as well, to “go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.” To spread the Gospel is an essential aspect of our stewardship. The greatest gift we possess is the knowledge and experience of Christ’s love and mercy and we should seek to share this with as many people as possible.

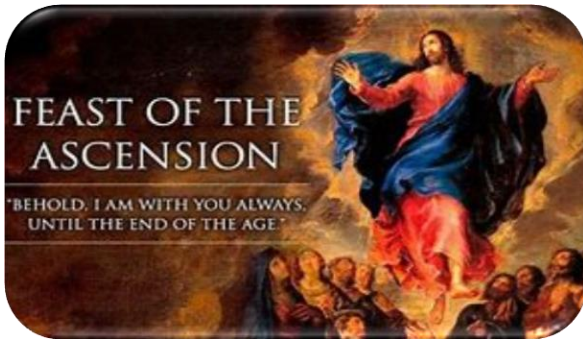
In order to spread the Gospel, we must overcome the temptation of having a split personality or a double life. We shouldn’t hang up our faith on the door as if it were a jacket we took off when we walked into the office. Our faith should instead be woven into every aspect of our lives. To always live as a disciple of Christ and showcase the joy of being a Catholic is perhaps the greatest good we can do in evangelizing our neighbour.

St. Charles Borromeo says, “Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head.” If people know we are practicing Catholics, we can potentially scandalize them if we act uncharitably or contrary to the faith. Therefore, let us strive to make our entire lives a reflection of God so that we may constantly spread the Gospel.

Summary: Before His ascension, Jesus tells His apostles, and us, to go into the world and spread the Gospel. To be authentic stewards we can’t hang up our faith on the door as if it were a jacket we took off when we walked into the office. Rather, we should realize that living as a disciple of Christ at all times and showcasing the joy of being a Catholic is perhaps the greatest good we can do in evangelizing our neighbour.



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QUESTION: "What is the meaning and importance of the ascension of Jesus Christ?"

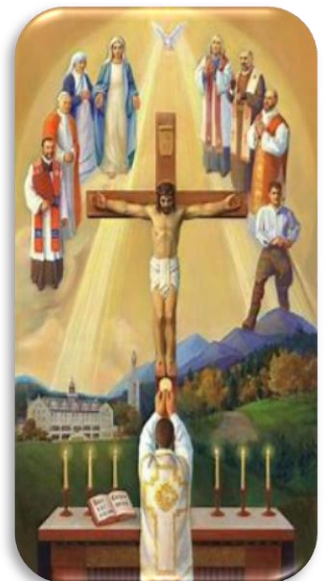
ANSWER: After Jesus rose from the dead, He "presented Himself alive "to the women near the tomb, to His disciples, and to more than 500 others. In the days following His resurrection, Jesus taught His disciples about the kingdom of God. Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus and His disciples went to Mount Olivet, near Jerusalem. There, Jesus promised His followers that they

would soon receive the Holy Spirit, and He instructed them to remain in Jerusalem until the Spirit had come. Then Jesus blessed them, and as He gave the blessing, He began to ascend into heaven. It is plain from Scripture that Jesus' ascension was a literal, bodily return to heaven. He rose from the ground gradually and visibly, observed by many intent onlookers. As the disciples strained to catch a last glimpse of Jesus, a cloud hid Him from their view, and two angels appeared and promised Christ's return "in just the same way that you have watched Him go". The Ascension of Jesus Christ is meaningful for several reasons: 1) It signaled the end of His earthly ministry. God the Father had lovingly sent His Son into the world at Bethlehem, and now the Son was returning to the Father. The period of human limitation was at an end. 2) It signified success in His earthly work. All that He had come to do, He had accomplished. 3) It marked the return of His heavenly glory. Jesus' glory had been veiled during His sojourn on earth, with one brief exception at the Transfiguration. 4) It symbolized His exaltation by the Father. The One with whom the Father is well pleased was received up in honor and given a name above all names. 5) It allowed Him to prepare a place for us. 6) It indicated the beginning of His new work as High Priest and Mediator of the New Covenant. 7) It set the pattern for His return. When Jesus comes to set up the Kingdom, He will return just as He left-literally, bodily, and visibly in the clouds. Currently, the Lord Jesus is in heaven. The Scriptures frequently picture Him at the right hand of the Father-a position of honor and authority. Christ is the Head of the Church, the giver of spiritual gifts, and the One who fills all in all.

OFFERING A MASS IS A MEANINGFUL PART OF OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION:

The Mass book for 2022 will be available on November 1, 2021. Please note the following changes in requesting a Mass. The following guidelines are meant to make the process of requesting an intention easy and fair to all parishioners. Here are the guidelines:

- You may submit your Mass requests by email or drop it off in person to the parish office.
- We will accept up to 5 Masses per registered household. Of those, one may be for a Sunday Mass (including Saturday anticipated), and four for weekday Masses, and in the case of Latin Masses 5 weekday Masses since there are no Mass intentions permitted for Sunday Masses.
- A \$20 stipend, as determined by archdiocesan policy, is requested for each Mass intention.
- On April 1st 2022, parishioners may book 5 additional Masses per registered household for a total of 10 Masses per calendar year.



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ACT OF CONTRITION TO THE SACRED HEART:

MOST Sacred and Adorable Heart of Jesus! humbly and with contrite heart I prostrate myself before Thee. bitterly bewailing that I was remiss in Thy love and have offended Thee by my ingratitude and unfaithfulness, thereby becoming unworthy of the manifestations of Thy love. Filled with confusion and fear, I can but say, "I have sinned against Thee, I have sinned!" Most Amiable and Divine Heart, have mercy on me, though I do not deserve mercy. Reject me not, but reveal, rather, I beseech Thee, the excess of Thy mercy by granting me, a poor sinner, who appears before Thee in the abyss of his nothingness and misery, pardon for my sins.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen



ELEMENTARY REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2021:

Children born in 2017, are eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten at St. Lawrence Martyr School in September 2021. The Elementary Student Online Application for Registration (S.O.A.R.) for enrolment September 2021 is now available. Due to current COVID-19 conditions all applications (including the upload of required documents) must be completed online at <https://soar.tcdsb.org/Login.aspx>. If you have any questions regarding registration, please leave a message on the school phone at 416 393 5264.



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For your ongoing support of our parish, (including those for the St. Vincent de Paul) may be dropped off in person when the church is open for private prayer or sent through the mail.



SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES:

A set of offering envelopes will be prepared for you to pick up at the parish office.

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING:

This new way of supporting the church is now being offered in our parish and many of our parishioners may find this method practical and convenient.

Please call the parish office (416-759-9359) for the way of giving that is right for you.

TO DONATE ON-LINE:

Alternately to donate to St. Lawrence Martyr Parish on-line, please [click here Archdiocese of Toronto](#) and select St. Lawrence Martyr Parish from the drop list.

REGISTRATION OF NEW PARISHIONER:

Please [click here](#).

