**FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAY 31-JUNE 1, 2025**

The Ascension of the Lord

**Gospel Reading**

Lk 24:46-53

And he said to them, “Thus it is written that the Messiah 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**

May we remember to bring to the Lord the areas of our lives most in need of His peace and, in turn, offer Christ’s peace to those in need through support of the Diocesan Ministry Appeal.

**Copy for Bulletin Announcement**

Past, present, and future all come together in today’s Gospel. It opens with Jesus reminding His disciples that to fulfill scriptures, He had to suffer, die, and rise from the dead. Then He redirects their attention to the present when He says, “You are witnesses of these things.” Though Jesus will soon be ascending to heaven, the disciples, who can testify to Christ’s earthly ministry, death and resurrection, are still on earth. Their future will be one centered on preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our Lord gives them the “tools” they’ll need. He fulfills what the Father has promised and allows them to be “clothed with power from on high.” In other words, He gives them the gifts of the Holy Spirit to carry out their mission.

As modern-day disciples, we are also charged with spreading Christ’s Good News. We can accomplish this by sponsoring missionary work, volunteering in our Catholic schools, serving as a religious education teacher, and by making a commitment to the ministries and programs supported by the Diocesan Ministry Appeal. Please consider a gift today.

**Copy for Pulpit Announcement**

Christ blesses our living. It may not always seem like it. We may not always feel His presence. Sometimes in our distress, He may seem far removed even. But just because we can’t see or feel Christ’s presence doesn’t mean He is absent. He’s not, ever. If there is a gap between us and Jesus, it’s because we’ve distanced ourselves from Him, not vice versa.

Jesus has ascended, but He promises He will remain close. He is with us through prayer, whether it is a structured rosary or in a casual conversation with a friend. We can feel the solace of His presence in the Scriptures, letting His words comfort us in our living today. We can come to know both Father and Son when we welcome the grace and strength the Holy Spirit provides. We receive Christ in the Eucharist. Jesus also comes to us through others. And we can bless people in His name through our own good works, including support of the Diocesan Ministry Appeal. Please pray for its success and consider contributing today.

**Social Media Post/Content**

Photo: One person extending a helping hand to another.

Header: “I am sending the promise of my Father upon you.” – Luke 24:49

Copy: Don’t forget! We are modern-day disciples. What does this mean to you? We can bring the Good News of our Lord to those in need through the Diocesan Ministry Appeal.