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# ASCENSION OF THE LORD

June 2, 2019

## " The Lord Jesus was carried up into heaven "

**W**hy did Jesus leave his disciples forty days after his resurrection? Forty is a significant number in the Scriptures. Moses went to the mountain to seek the face of God for forty days in prayer and fasting. The people of Israel were in the wilderness for forty years in preparation for their entry into the Promised Land. Elijah fasted for forty days as he journeyed in the wilderness to the mountain of God. For forty days after his resurrection Jesus appeared numerous times to his disciples to assure them that he had risen indeed and to prepare them for the task of carrying on the work which he began during his earthy ministry.

Jesus' departure and ascension into heaven was both an end and a beginning for his disciples. While it was the end of Jesus' physical presence with his beloved disciples, it marked the beginning of Jesus' presence with them in a new way. Jesus promised that he would be with them always to the end of time (Matthew 28:20). Now as the glorified and risen Lord and Savior, ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, Jesus promised to send them the Holy Spirit who would anoint them with power from on high on the Feast of Pentecost, just as Jesus was anointed for his ministry at the River Jordan (Luke 3:21-22, 4:1,18). When the Lord Jesus departed physically from the apostles, they were not left in sorrow or grief. Instead, they were filled with joy and with great anticipation for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Why did the Risen Lord ascend into heaven? The Father raised the glorified body of his Son and enthroned him in glory at his right hand in heaven. The Lord Jesus in his glorified body now reigns as Lord over the heavens and the earth - over all that he has created. The Risen Lord reigns from the throne in heaven as our Merciful Redeemer and Gracious King. He intercedes for us and he empowers us through the outpouring of his Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus gives us new life in his Spirit and he strengthens us in faith, hope and love so we can serve him and carry on his work as citizens of his kingdom here on earth.

Jesus' last words to his disciples point to the key mission and task he has entrusted to his followers on earth - to be his witnesses and ambassadors to the ends of the earth so that all peoples, tribes, and nations may hear the good news that Jesus Christ has come to set us free from sin, Satan, and death and has won for us a kingdom of peace, joy, and righteousness that will last forever.

How can we be effective witnesses for Christ? Jesus told his disciples, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you - and you shall be my witnesses... to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Jesus gives his followers the same power he received when the Holy Spirit came upon him and anointed him at the beginning of his mission (John 1:32-33). The Gospel is the power of God, the power to release people from their burden of sin, guilt, and oppression, and the power to heal, restore, and make us whole. Do you believe in the power of the Gospel to change and transform your life?

*"Lord Jesus, through the gift of your Holy Spirit, you fill us with an indomitable spirit of praise and joy which no earthly trial can subdue. Fill me with your resurrection joy and help me to live a life of praise and thanksgiving for your glory. May I witness to those around me the joy of the Gospel and the reality of your great victory over sin and death."*

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### SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES

The following 2019 Offering Envelope Numbers have not been identified: 235, 357, 365, 368, 377, 399, 453, 527, 532, 546, 556 and 589. If one of these numbers belongs to you, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity to the Parish and your assistance in these matters.

### BUNDLE UP SUNDAY

On the weekend of June 8 and 9 the Society of St. Vincent de Paul container will be in the church parking lot to receive your donations of gently used clothes and leather shoes. Please place your donations in securely tied green garbage bags or sealed boxes Thank you for your generosity.

Mass Intentions  for the Week

**MONDAY, JUNE 3 – 7:00 P.M.**

Intention Available

**TUESDAY, JUNE 4 – 8:00 A.M.**

Intention Available

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5 – 7:00 P.M.**

+ Jillian Rose Raposo

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6 – 8:00 A.M.**

In reparation for offenses committed against the Most Holy Eucharist.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 7 – 7:00 P.M.**

S.I. Hatch Family

+ Gerry and Alice Mayo

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8 – 5:00 P.M.**

+ Bill Kovalchuk

+ Rolando Buenaventura

S.I. For a Special Request

**SUNDAY, JUNE 9 – PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**8:30 A.M.** S.I. Parish Community

**10:00 A.M.** S.I. In Thanksgiving for Favours Received

**12:00 P.M.** + Antony Joseph

+ Basil Thomas



**Living the Gospel by supporting mental health wellness.**

Last year, over 3,200 people accessed individual, couple and family counselling at Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin, a ShareLife-funded agency. Given that depression has replaced back injury as the number one reason for absenteeism at work, these services are helping clients maintain employment and stay out of poverty. By supporting ShareLife agencies like CFS Peel-Dufferin, you're helping people find health and happiness.

**TODAY IS SHARELIFE SUNDAY.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Are you graduating from high school? Are you entering your first year of studies at a Canadian University/College in September 2019? Tell us about your service to Church, School, and Community and you could be a successful recipient of The Knights of Columbus \$1,000 Scholarship Program. Hurry, application deadline is June 1st. Visit [www.kofc8668.org](http://www.kofc8668.org) or see The Knights of Columbus bulletin board in the Church foyer for details.

**CRADLE OF HOPE**

The weekend of June 29 the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Council of Toronto presents Cradle of Hope. Breath of God – Living a life led by the Holy Spirit. Mass, adoration, confession, praise and worship and healing service. Guest speakers: Fr. Dave Pivonka, together with CCRC's Fr. Matthias Yaw Kotoka Amuzu (Spiritual Director) and Fr. Ben St. Croix, CC (Cardinal's liaison). Toronto Pavilion 190 Railside Rd., North York. For more information call 416-466-0776.

**FAMILY AT THE HEART OF PRAYER**

Cardinal Thomas Collins is pleased to invite families from across the diocese to our second annual Archdiocesan gathering of families! Our family-friendly day will include inspirational talks from Cardinal Collins and families, prayer, praise and worship, Saturday morning Mass, and hands-on activities. Saturday, June 22 at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish. Contact Ella Okonkwu at 416-934-3400 ext. 523 or [eokonkwu@archtoronto.org](mailto:eokonkwu@archtoronto.org)

**BEREAVEMENT SEMINAR**

For those who mourn there is a sadness and heaviness that is difficult to lift. Join us for a casual afternoon as we listen to inspiring words to discover ways to put the pieces of our broken hearts and lives back together. We will learn how to explore our Grief, experience Healing and renew our Faith. Refreshments will be served. Sunday, June 9, 2019 at Assumption Catholic Cemetery, 6933 Tomken Rd. Contact Catholic Cemeteries at 416-733-8544 x2047 or email [info@cc-fs.ca](mailto:info@cc-fs.ca).

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