



# COME, LORD JESUS!

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



May  
Every Thursday  
Memorial Mass  
for the enrollees  
in the CLJ!  
Memorial Burse

May 5  
6th Sunday of Easter

May 12  
The Ascension of the  
Lord

May 19  
Pentecost Sunday

May 26  
The Most Holy Trinity

The mystery of the Ascension is Jesus' entry into the fullness of divine glory in his human, glorified body. Jesus appears in the presence of God on our behalf. There he permanently exercises his priesthood in our favor. Jesus is the center of heavenly worship with the Father. His being seated at the right hand of the Father signifies the glory and honor of the divinity. He shares equal power with the Father. Seated at the Father's right also indicates the inauguration of the Messianic kingdom.

*"All peoples, nations, and languages serve him. His dominion is everlasting; his kingdom will never be destroyed"* (Dan 7:14).

The Ascension marks the end of Jesus' bodily presence on earth and the definitive entrance of his humanity into God's heavenly domain. Jesus constantly intercedes for us as our mediator. He assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Ascension crowns our human dignity with heavenly glory. Jesus began to enhance the dignity of our human nature where he became human, a child, in the mystery of the Incarnation. The Ascension of Jesus shows us our glorious heavenly destiny as human beings.

Let us now look at Scripture to seek further enlightenment regarding Jesus' final hours of physical presence on earth. The Acts of the Apostles speaks of *"all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles..."* It is surprising to see how active Jesus was and how he continued to teach the Apostles after the resurrection, even until the day of the Ascension.

We are told that Jesus led the disciples as far as Bethany, which is on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives. Then he *"raised his hands and blessed them...and was taken up to heaven."*

Even if Jesus physically left them, they are no longer sad at his departure as they were at the Last Supper. They had experienced the risen Jesus for 40 days. They were exposed to his risen body-person and its radiating joy. He had overcome death. They experienced the joy of his presence. Although Jesus left them physically, in his ascension, he is still invisibly present in and among them. Jesus leaves them with assurance, *"I am with you always..."* (Mt 28:20).

*Father Conley Bertrand*

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS



Jesus told the Apostles to “*wait for the promise of the Father.*” What is this “*promise*” that God made and where can it be found in the Bible? The prophet Joel spoke for God when he said, “*...I will pour out my spirit upon all mankind... (3:1-2).*” The prophet Ezekiel is another example of God promising to send his Holy Spirit to his people: “*I will put my spirit within you,*” he said, “*and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees*” (36:23-29).

Jesus explained to the Apostles that they must “*wait for the promise of the Father.*” At last, after all these centuries of waiting for the promised Holy Spirit, that moment in history is about to arrive. But they must prepare themselves for that gift. They must empty their hearts of earthly and worldly living so they will be spiritually disposed to receive this spiritual gift, God’s own Holy Spirit, and in fact through him, the Blessed Trinity.

How did the Apostles “*wait for*” the promised Holy Spirit? We are told in the Acts of the Apostles, “*all these [the apostles] devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and his brothers*” (1:14).

We, also, will want to prepare our hearts for the gift of the Holy Spirit by serious prayer and meditation. For example, go to daily Mass, or read the daily readings of the Mass in your missal and meditate on them. They are all about the gift of the Spirit.

The daily readings from the Breviary also prepare our hearts to receive the Holy Spirit. Meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary, especially the glorious mysteries. You may want to recite each day the prayer “*Come, Holy Spirit, Come!*” taken from the sequence read on Pentecost Sunday.

Finally, you may simply want to pray quietly in your heart every time you think of it, “*Come, Holy Spirit.*” You may want to add something like, “*Fill me with your holy presence,*” or “*give me purity of heart,*” or “*prepare me to receive you.*”

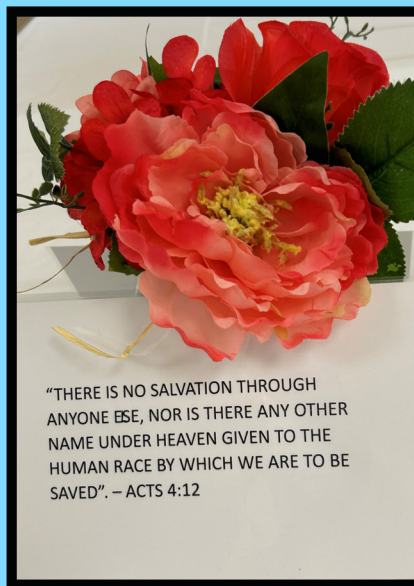
In further explanation of the “*promise*”, Jesus said, “*...you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses ...to the ends of the earth.*” The “*power*” given by the Holy Spirit is the courage to speak up for our faith in Jesus. He suffered and died for our sins so we could be forgiven. He rose from the dead and gave us the Holy Spirit to share his divine life and enjoy being in the company of the three divine persons. We must speak about those things: for example, how consoling it is to have all our sins erased; they no longer burden us. The Holy Spirit comes in Jesus’ name. He shares the divinity with Jesus and the Father. He will continue the work of Jesus. He will complete his revelation by enlightening the Church concerning the true and full meaning of what Jesus said and did. The Holy Spirit will teach the inner meaning and hidden riches of Jesus’ words and actions. The mission of the Holy Spirit is to complete Jesus’ mission.

*Father Conley Bertrand*

# Anniversary Mass St. Mary Magdalen - Abbeville



# Anniversary Mass Church of Assumption - Franklin



# NEW MEMBER WELCOME



- Baton Rouge, LA :** Kathleen Meares  
**Bayou Vista, LA:** John Russo  
**Breaux Bridge, LA:** Sandra LeBlanc  
**Cecilia, LA:** Debbie Fitch  
**Church Point, LA:** Emily Richard, Lonna Clayton  
Julia Hale  
**DeRidder, LA:** Matthew Lee  
**Estherwood, LA:** Kimberly Holmes  
**Kinder, LA:** Tammy Welch  
**Lacombe, LA:** Andrew Morris  
**Lake Charles, LA:** Carol Norwood, Constance Darbonne  
**Metairie, LA:** Lisa Markey, Dave Poche, Gloria Poche  
Rhonda Bohnenstiehl, Millie Andry, Sally Leingang  
Tonya Vead  
**Prairie Ronde, LA:** Chet Lee  
**Scott, LA:** Oliver Belleau, Jeana Belleau  
**Ville Platte, LA:** Janice Dupre  
**Westwego, LA:** Rosalita Perez, Rachel Helmer,  
Dawn Fowler, Diana Jemison  
**Youngsville, LA:** Jamie Gonzales, Mark Poindexter  
Debbie Poindexter, Claudette Simoneaux

## Returning Member

**Pierre Part, LA:** Carolyn Hebert

## Welcome, New Group

**Medicine Hat, Alberta Canada:** Lindsay Heier- **Leader**  
Amanda Heier, Raymond Bosh, Dianne Bosh, Garry Mastel  
Louise Westland, Robert Anderson, Loretta Anderson



## March 2024 Gift Bags Received

Thank you for your generosity!

Abbeville	Forked Island	New Iberia
Algiers	Franklin	New Orleans
Avery Island	Grand Coteau	Oberlin
Basile	Grand Prairie	Opelousas
Bayou Vista	Gretna	Paulina
Borger TX	Harvey	Pierre Part
Bossier City	Houma	Prairie Ronde
Breaux Bridge	Iota	Ragley
Broussard	Jeanerette	Rayne
Buda TX	Jefferson	Richard
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Coteau Holmes	Lake Arthur	Terrytown
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DeRidder	Lufkin TX	Washington
Erath	Maurice	Welsh
Estherwood	Metairie	Westwego
Eunice	Morgan City	Youngsville
Fenton	Morse	

## APRIL 1 - APRIL 22, 2024 Memorial Burse Donations

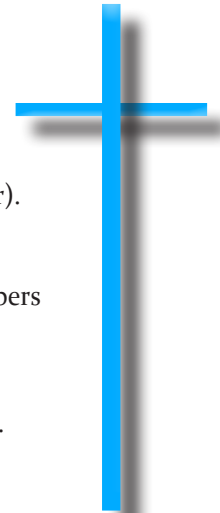
Clyde Allen  
Luke Guillot  
Ruche Joseph Marino

Charles Court  
Roxie P. Landry  
Jerry Sonnier

*Come, Lord Jesus!* welcomes our newest leaders from St. Augustine in Natchez, LA.



# Condolences



To member Liane Blanchard of Pierre Part, LA on the death of her husband, T.J. Blanchard (who was also a member).

To member Enella Brignac of Grand Prairie, LA on the death of her brother, John Nelbon Daigle.

To member Tara Frick of Forked Island, LA on the death of her grandson, Marshall Frick. Condolences also to members Barbara Bourque and Chris Marceaux. Marshall was their great-grandson.

To member Jenny Guillot of the group in Patterson, LA on the death of her son, Luke Guillot.

To the members of "Vigilant and Faithful Servants" group in Eunice, LA on the death of their member, Heart Rozas.

To member Lou Arton of Jeanerette, LA on the death of her sister, Roxie P. Landry.

To member Jan Keeton of Abbeville, LA on the death of her father, Charles Court.



Come, Lord Jesus!  
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