

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 24, 2020

He was lifted up and a cloud took him from their sight.

— Acts 1:9

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“PUSHED” OUT ON MISSION

There is a delightful character in the original *Dr. Dolittle Tales* called the “Pushmi-Pullyu.” It is a beast with two identical halves, with a head at each end. No matter which direction the beast walks, one end is the “push me” and the other is the “pull you.” Today’s feast is a bit like that in the life of the church. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, it is the ascension of Christ that calls for the Holy Spirit, which consequently sends or “pushes” the church out on its mission. This is the message that we hear from the angels today as they tell the friends of Jesus not to look up into the clouds, but to get busy. It is the message of Jesus himself in Matthew’s Gospel, as he sends them out to baptize. He also tells them, “I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). And it is this message, confident in faith that Jesus has ascended to shouts of joy, that “pulls” us along to our final destiny. The life of the faithful disciple, sent into the world on mission, will one day know the same risen, ascended glory.

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Jesus tells the disciples that they will be witnesses to the ends of the earth (**Acts 1:1-11**).

Psalm — God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord (**Psalm 47**).

Second Reading — May the Father of glory give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation (**Ephesians 1:17-23**).

GOSPEL — Jesus instructs the Eleven to baptize and teach people of all nations (**Matthew 28:16-20**).

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

- Edith Bolder Holmesdale Care Center
 - Jeanette Hamilton Evans Home
 - Eddie Jennings, V.A. Rehab Cameron
 - Inell Hunter Home
 - Martha Melton Addington House Ctr
 - Marcheita Bush Home
 - Carlos Nix Home
 - Lavel McCullough Home
 - Rosa Birch Home
 - Sandra Cloyd Home
 - Kevin Brown Home
 - Jackie Countee Home
 - Sharon Shackelford-Allen Home
 - Earnestine Nard Home
 - Mable Parson Home
 - Earl Greene Home
 - Michael Mize Home
 - Chaunceyetta Mize Home
 - Hargett Hayes Home
 - Margaret Jones Home
 - Flora Waddell Home
 - Delores Bazy Home
 - Deacon Greene Home
 - Vera Brown Home
 - Ovell Thomas Home
 - Joann James Home
- Please inform Father Leonard, when a loved-one has become homebound, or has been hospitalized.*
 Call, 816-471-3696,
 or email: leombuthia@yahoo.com

MASS TIMES

MUST WEAR MASK AT ALL TIMES TO ATTEND.

SUNDAY

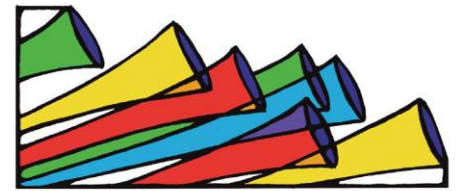
- 8:00 a.m. (Live)
- 10:00 a.m. (Live and Recorded)

WEDNESDAY

- 9:00 a.m. (Live and Recorded)



They went forth and preached everywhere



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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33
- Tuesday:** Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a
- Wednesday:** Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19
- Thursday:** Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26
- Friday:** Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19
- Saturday:** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25
- Sunday:** Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39
 Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** The Ascension of the Lord; World Communications Day
- Monday:** St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII; St. Mary Magdalene de’ Pazzi; **Memorial Day**
- Tuesday:** St. Philip Neri
- Wednesday:** St. Augustine of Canterbury; Shavuot (Jewish observance) begins at sunset
- Thursday:** Julian Calendar Ascension
- Friday:** St. Paul VI

HOMEGOING

Mr. Humphrey “Bob” Ross, passed on to be with our Lord, on Friday, May 15, 2020, following a long illness. He was surrounded by his loved ones. Please remember his daughter, Stephanie, and the Ross Family in your prayers. (*Private Family Service*)



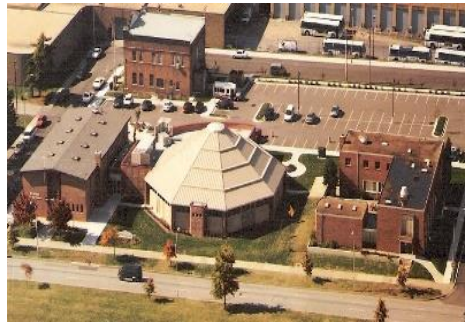
Our Church Offices will be Closed Monday, May 25th In observance of Memorial Day.

SAINT PHILIP NERI (1515-1595)

May 26

In a shop near the Vatican, a group of Americans laughed as the shopkeeper showed off his fluent English and latest souvenir, a key ring whose papal portrait, when pressed, activated a recorded blessing. Through the shop window, two clerics scowled disapproval. The shopkeeper grunted, “They’re a very somber order who’ve left the Church. I recognize them.” “By their long robes?” an American asked. “Many in Rome wear robes,” replied the shopkeeper. “It’s their long faces!” When Philip Neri arrived in sixteenth-century Rome, there was reason to be somber. Swiss Guards had been massacred on Saint Peter’s steps defending the pope. Parts of Europe were abandoning the Church. But Philip resolved to be an “apostle of joy,” drawing especially the young to Christ—and frequent confession and Communion—by his sincere interest in their problems, prayerful example, and gentle humor. His “Oratory,” a movement as well as a place, provided recreation and devotion in a joyful atmosphere of companionship, service, and liturgy. Philip Neri challenges each of us to begin improving Church and world by changing ourselves with unflinching joy. —*Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*

FORWARD IN FAITH



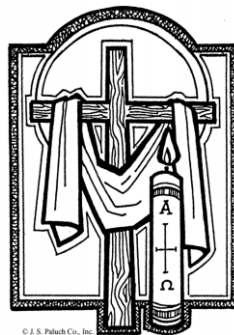
Thanks to everyone who is participating in our “**Forward in Faith**” Campaign. The campaign is to take care of our accumulated diocesan assessment arrears and build reserves for our parish. Thanks to many of you, who took time to fill in pledge cards. More pledge cards are available in the pews.

Please take time to fill one out and drop it in the collection basket. If you have any question, please don’t hesitate to approach one of our Stewardship Committee members, for clarification.

Your 2020 Annual Tithing Envelopes also include “**Forward in Faith**” Envelopes. **Please use the Forward in Faith envelopes toward the campaign.**

Our goal is, to raise **\$150,000** by October 2020. So far, we have received **\$22,802, and \$127,198**, still to go. The goal is huge, but God is faithful. God bless you all.

Fr. Leonard



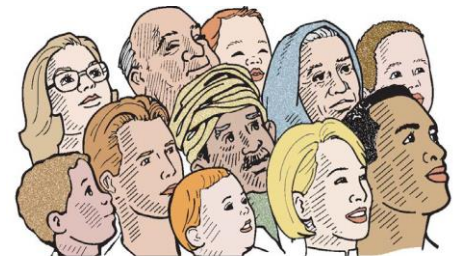
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SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

(*Lect. 58 – Year A*)

Whenever there is doubt about something that happened, you hope that there were witnesses. When a contract is signed, or a couple gets married, there need to be witnesses. As Jesus bids farewell to his disciples he instructs them to “be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth” (Acts 8:1). Because they did so, the early church, the body of Christ, as Paul calls it, grew and flourished despite the persecution it suffered for many years. The disciples who had worked with Jesus became witnesses who testified in Jesus’ name. But it did not end with them for others who had not personally encountered Jesus in the flesh were commissioned to witness as well. How were they able to witness, even with the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised? The last line of the Gospel reveals the answer: “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20). Jesus was not just with the disciples who knew him before his death and resurrection, he was with the early church, and he is still with us now. Therefore, we are to be his witnesses also, testifying to his presence in us, to others, in the Eucharist. We can do this, for “all power in heaven and on earth” is behind us (28:18).

“be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth”. Acts 8:1



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How can you be a witness to Jesus’ presence here and now?

