

May 12th, 2024: Ascension of the Lord

Background on the Gospel Reading:

Today is our liturgical celebration of the Ascension of the Lord, when Jesus was taken to heaven on the fortieth day after Easter. In Cycle B, our Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Mark. Scholars have long noted some irregularities about the ending of Mark’s Gospel. There is a natural break in the story line at verse 8, when Mark’s report of the discovery of the empty tomb comes to an abrupt conclusion. This verse reports that the women were so frightened by what they had seen at the tomb that they told no one. This may be the original ending of Mark’s Gospel, but it is also possible that the more complete ending has been lost.

Some manuscripts of Mark’s Gospel, written between the fourth and ninth centuries, include what scholars have termed the Shorter Ending. This is often printed in our Bibles for reference. This ending indicates that the women told their story to Peter’s companions. Scholars believe that this ending is not original to Mark. They theorize that this ending was added by copyists who sought to resolve the original abrupt ending at verse 8.

Other early manuscripts include a Longer Ending that scholars also believe was written by someone other than the Evangelist. Nonetheless, quotations from this Longer Ending are found in the writings of the early Church Fathers, and it was accepted at the Council of Trent as part of the canonical Gospel of Mark. Our Gospel for today’s celebration of the Feast of the Ascension is taken from this Longer Ending.

There are similarities in the reports of Jesus’ Ascension found in the Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke. In each case, Jesus assigns his disciples the task of proclaiming the gospel message to the entire world. There are also notable distinctions. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, the disciples are sent by Jesus to baptize and to preach. In Luke’s Gospel, however, the commission to baptize is absent. Instead, Jesus directs the disciples to return to Jerusalem to await the fulfillment of his promise to send them the Holy Spirit. Curiously, only the Gospels of Mark and Luke actually report Jesus’ ascension into heaven. Matthew’s Gospel concludes with Jesus’ promise to remain with his disciples forever. Only the Gospel of Mark notes that Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of God. In noting this, Mark teaches that Jesus’ ascension affirms the glory Jesus received from God after his death and Resurrection.

Even if this ending to Mark’s Gospel was written by someone other than the Evangelist, in the commission that Jesus gives to his disciples, there are elements that are quite typical of Mark’s Gospel. The signs that will accompany belief in Jesus are as vivid as the action performed by Jesus during his ministry. Those who believe in Jesus will be empowered to do what Jesus himself has done. During his ministry, Jesus sent his disciples to preach, to heal, and to drive out unclean spirits. Now they are sent again to do these things and more. From his place with God in heaven, Jesus helped his disciples, and he continues to help us as we try to live as his followers.

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May 12th, 2024
Ascension of the Lord
Sacred Heart Parish
A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ



Parish Information

Pastor: Fr. Lee Lainey

Office Administrator: Roseann Janes

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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www.sacredheartrcparish.ca

Diocesan website: rcchurch.com

Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am.
Weekday Mass: 10 am – Tuesday to Friday
Daily mass is cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather.

Lohnes Complex* First Friday of each month - 2 pm
*Note: No mass at the church on this day.

Bible Study: Thursday, May 16th at 7pm.
Holy Hour of Adoration: Postponed until further notice.
Reconciliation: By request.
Marriages: Six months’ notice required. A year’s notice is recommended.
Baptisms: Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.
Family Connections: At www.rcchurch.com you will find a link to family connections.
St. Vincent de Paul: To assist those in need. Call 709-638-9010.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS
on May 4 & 5

Regular Sunday	2043.00
Loose Offering	108.45
Building Fund	210.00
Votive Candles	32.60
Mass Stipends	60.00
Living with Christ Booklets	29.00
St. Vincent de Paul	135.00
Mother’s Day Flowers	90.00

MASS INTENTIONS May 14-19

Tue. 10am	The Late Gus & Irene Rumbolt The Late Frank Mullins
Wed. 10am	The Late Gary Wells
Thur. 10am	Deceased Parishioners
Fri. 10am	Deceased Parishioners
Sat. 4:30 pm	The Late Joseph & Sylvia Hickey
Sun. 11 am	The Late Mary & Joe Gallant

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

May 18	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Joan Penney	Don Gallant
May 19	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Wayne Dicks	Anna House
Communion to the sick – Eileen Moore	

BIBLE STUDY: Next bible study class will be held on Thursday May 16th at 7pm.

MOTHERS DAY FLOWERS:
Flowers will be donated in memory of Eileen Davis (Lewis) for Mother’s Day from Jennifer Brackett (Davis), Mark Davis & Roseann Janes.

MOTHER’S DAY:
Today, we remember, with gratitude, our mothers and all who have shown us a mother's love. Through their love and sacrifice, they have played such a big role in seeing us on our way.
We also remember those who have gone before us that they may know eternal happiness in the Kingdom of God.
Happy Mothers’ Day.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT
CONFIRMATION & FIRST EUCHARIST:
We congratulate the young people of Sacred Heart Parish and Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish who are celebrating their Confirmation on Saturday, May 11. Please pray for the Candidates: Daniel Daye, Abby Etheridge, Ryan Jackson, Aiden Lamswood, Jordan Murley, Ryan Bellows - Ozon, and Keegan Park. Confirmation is a time for our families to celebrate the growth and faith of their children. May our youth and their families continue in that faith.
Congratulations to Jennifer Brake, Sarah Compagnion and Conner Quigley who are celebrating their First Eucharist on Sunday, May 12th. Pray for them and their families that through the gift of the Eucharist, they may grow in their faith.

FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART POTLUCK:
We will be having our celebration for **the Feast of the Sacred Heart on June 7th**. Mass will be at 6pm, followed by potluck at the Sacred Heart Elementary School, through the side door. Bring a friend, invite people who have not been to Church for a while for any given reason. It’s time to rejoice and be together. Registration will take place at a later date.

AN EVENING OF HEALING: Bishop Bart Van Roijen together with the Newfoundland Catholic Renewal will be offering an evening of healing. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bart Van Roijen with healing ministries to follow after Mass. It will be held at the Holy Redeemer Cathedral on Thursday, May 30th at 7:00 p.m. To help offset the cost of traveling expenses for the NCR, a goodwill offering will be taken up.

SACRED HEART LADIES GROUP:
Monthly Meeting:
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday May 22nd, at 6:00 pm in the Meeting room at Sacred Heart Parish. Please note the time change. This is for the convenience of members who work during the day. Hope to see a wonderful turnout.
Last Bingo:
Our final bingo until September will be held on May 26th at Sacred Heart Elementary School. Doors open at 1:00 pm. Bingo starts at 2:00 pm. Cash and merchandise prizes to be won. Let’s make this the biggest one yet. Hope to see you all there.

NATIONAL FAMILY & LIFE WEEK:
National Family and Life Week (NFLW) this year will take place from May 13-19, 2024. The theme for this year is “Love hopes all things,”. **Note:** Our parish will be having a Blessing of Married Couples on **Saturday, May 18th** at 4:30p.m. More information to follow.

THE SEARCH PROGRAM: Will be held on Wednesday, May 15th at 7pm at Sacred Heart Parish Church to review what we have learned. Looking forward to seeing you.

ROSARY IN MAY AT THE CATHEDRAL:

Some 17 people gathered to pray the new Rosary last Monday evening, May 6th. 7pm. We will gather again each Monday evening during this month of May. The Knights of Columbus are inviting everyone to participate. This new rosary combines scripture, chanting, and action - a little liturgy in itself. The Holy Father, St. John Paul 11, suggested these norms during the communal prayer. When prayed well, it makes the prayer more meaningful and fruitful. Please come and have a fresh experience of one of our oldest, and newest prayers!!

Reflection: *Instruments of the Lord*

“Go, preach the Gospel to all nations.”
This was the farewell command of Christ.
He has no body now on earth but ours.
He has no hands but our to raise up the fallen.
No feet but ours to seek out the lost.
No eyes but ours to see the silent tears of the suffering.
No ears but ours to listen to the lonely.
No tongue but ours to speak a word of comfort to the sad.
No heart but ours to love the unloved.
Lord, take pity on us, your timid and fearful disciples; give us courage to witness to you in the world, and so the Gospel will be preached, and people will find their way into your kingdom.