

### The Good News: By Scott Hahn

In today's first reading, St. Luke gives the surprising news that there is more of the story to be told. The story did not end with the empty tomb, or with Jesus' appearances to the Apostles over the course of forty days. Jesus' saving work will have a liturgical consummation. He is the great high priest, and he has still to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem, there to celebrate the feast in the true Holy of Holies.

The truth of this feast shines forth from the Letter to the Hebrews, where we read of the great high priest's passing through the heavens, the sinless intercessor's sacrifice on our behalf (see [Hebrews 4:14-15](#)).

Indeed, his intercession will lead to the Holy Spirit's descent in fire upon the Church. Luke spells out that promise in the first reading for the feast of the Ascension: "in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" ([Acts 1:5](#)). Ascension is the preliminary feast that directs the Church's attention forward to Pentecost. On that day, salvation will be complete; for salvation is not simply expiation for sins (that would be wonder enough), but it is something even greater than that. Expiation is itself a necessary precondition of our adoption as God's children. To live that divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit. To receive the Holy Spirit we must be purified through baptism.

The Responsorial Psalm presents the Ascension in terms familiar from the worship of the Jerusalem Temple in the days of King Solomon: "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord" (Psalm 47). The priest-king takes his place at the head of the people, ruling over the nations, establishing peace.

The Epistle strikes a distinctively Paschal note. In the early Church, as today, Easter was the normal time for the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called "illumination" or "enlightenment" (see, for example, [Hebrews 10:32](#)) because of the light that came with God's saving grace. Saint Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, speaks in terms of glory that leads to greater glories still, as Ascension leads to Pentecost: "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened," he writes, as he looks to the divinization of the believers. Their "hope" is "his inheritance among the holy ones," the saints who have been adopted into God's family and now rule with him at the Father's right hand.

This is the "good news" the Apostles are commissioned to spread—to the whole world, to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem—at the first Ascension. It's the good news we must spread today.

### Ascension of the Lord

When Jesus ascended into heaven, his glorified physical body was no longer with us. But he commissioned the apostles (and us through them) to be his body on earth until he came again. We are called to be the hands and feet, the heart, the mouth, the shoulders of Jesus to those in need.

Your challenge this week is to ask which part of the Body of Christ you are called to be right now. Does someone need you to be his ears, listening to their story? Or might you be called to be his prophetic voice, challenging someone or a group of persons to live more justly?

Be the Body of Christ this week. (And don't forget that receiving Jesus in the Eucharist will make this task possible.)

### SAINT JOSEPH, BRIMFIELD - SAINT JAMES, WILLIAMSFIELD



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### Ascension Sunday — May 12th 2024

*"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."*

— 1 JOHN 4:15

How strong is your faith? When you have an opportunity to either defend or clarify a question about our Catholic faith, do you do it? Or, do you remain silent so that others don't think you are weird? Pray for the courage to be strong in all circumstances and to joyfully share your witness with others.

#### St. Joseph

Sat. May 11th	3:30pm—4:45pm Confessions 5:00 pm People of St. Joseph
Sun. May 12th	10:30am Pete Schaub+
Mon. May 13th	8:00 am Sara A Maher+ & Family
Tues. May 14th	8:00 am Communion Service
Wed. May 15th	8:00 am Fr. Edward Harkrader+ 5:00—6:45pm Adoration and Confessions
Thurs May 16th	8:00 am Special Intentions (SR)
Fri. May 17th	8:00 am People of St. Joseph
Sat. May 18th	3:30pm—4:45pm Confessions 5:00 pm Fabian & Dorothy Cahill+
Sun. May 19th	10:30am Paul Gilles+

*"When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now." - St. Teresa of Calcutta*

#### St. James

**Sunday Confessions**  
7:30 — 7:55 am

**Sun. May 12th 8:00am**  
People of St. James Parish

**Sun. May 19th 8:00am**  
Murdock Family  
Offered by  
Ann Murdock

#### St Joseph

#### Lector

Sat. May 11th  
Sun. May 12th

Burns  
Seaborn

Sat. May 18th  
Sun. May 29th

Volunteer Needed  
Chastain

Please consider Volunteering to Lector  
For more info Ask Father Verrier

HAPPY  
Mother's  
DAY



Please consider volunteering to Lector on another day. We only have 2 lectors on Saturday and many on Sunday. Contact Karla Wilbur to let her know if you are available. We need one or two a month to fill the openings. We have no lector on May 25th, or July 6th.

Lector Schedule in the back of the church to review.

**Father and the Saturday lectors thank you for your help.**

“And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.” If you think God may be offering you the grace of serving Him and His people as a priest or in the consecrated life, contact the Vocation Office at (309) 671-1550 or email: [Fr\\_Hilgenbrinck@cdop.org](mailto:Fr_Hilgenbrinck@cdop.org).

**ST JOSEPH SPRING BEEF RAFFLE**



- Raffle will be for 2 chances to win: each prize is 1/4 beef with processing included.
- Tickets are one for \$20 or three for \$50
- Tickets will be available for purchase starting this weekend.
- Drawing will be Sunday May 19th after the 10:30am Mass.
- FINAL DAYS—The tickets are available for purchase up until the 10:30am Mass on the May 19th. - you can purchase before Mass the 10:30am Mass on the 19th
- Proceeds are to benefit the Building and Grounds Fund

Please consider volunteering to help sell tickets after Masses and/ or take a packet of tickets to sell.

Questions: contact Peg Boettcher, Colleen Kirkland or Liz McCoy

**Beef Donated by Lillian's Pasture Raised Beef**

The Saturday of Pentecost weekend, pastors will receive an email with Bishop Lou's final decisions regarding parish closings, mergers, building status, and priest moves. The pastors will announce Bishop Lou's decisions at all the masses next weekend and then Sunday afternoon those things will be released to the public. We will all wait until then to discover the full impact that Growing Disciples will have on our parishes of St. Joseph and St. James and all our brothers and sisters throughout the diocese. All updates on the Growing Disciples initiative and a Novena for the Preparation for our Diocese is on the growing disciples website . Please pray with us.

**Invest in Kids**

Empower Illinois and the Catholic Conference of Illinois are trying to get the Tax Credit Scholarship Program restored this May. If that were to happen, fundraising could begin soon to fund scholarships for next school year. In order to maximize the chances of that happening, they need your help! Please call and email your legislators using this link: <https://p2a.co/ztkofpi>

**Financial Stewardship**

You have not forgotten "to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Hebrews 13:16

Sign up for online giving. An automated donation means you can support us easily and without having to be present physically. Use the QR code below or go to [www.stjosephbrimfield.org](http://www.stjosephbrimfield.org) to sign up and begin making your secure contribution.

**Sunday Totals:**                      **May 5th**  
**St Joseph \$2,412.00**                      **St James \$747.40**  
 Mission of the Month of May West Virginia Passionists  
**Collection last month for Haiti \$323.00**



**A Mother's Day Blessing**

During the season of Easter, what a great time to remember our mothers and ask for God's blessing on them. It is God who ultimately gave us life. It is through God's unselfish love--mirrored in our mothers willingness to associate their love with God's and take the risk to love us into life--that we have the opportunity for life. We remember our mothers this Mother's Day with much love. Let us pray for each of them God our heavenly Father you give to each the ability to share your generative love Bless those women in our lives who mirror your love and bring forth life through their willingness to risk bringing new life into this world Help us to show them our gratitude for the gift of life and the gift of a mother's love May our life-giving God continue to bless them and show them his unfailing love We ask this through Jesus, God's Son and our brother. Amen



**Millions of Monicas** is a new ministry in the Diocese of Peoria for women to pray together for their children who have left the faith. This is not a support group or a self-help group. We simply meet once a month and pray together for each other's loved ones in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Join with other mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers, aunts, Godmothers, etc., as we pray to grow in holiness and humility, and for our children's faithful return to the Catholic Church.

**1st Tuesdays 7:00pm St. Mark Parish 113 W. Bradley Ave. Peoria, Phone 309-673-1263 with any questions**

**4th Tuesdays 7:00pm St. Thomas the Apostle Parish 904 E. Lake Ave. Peoria Heights, IL Phone 309-688-3446 with any questions**

For more information visit [www.millionsofmonicas.com](http://www.millionsofmonicas.com)

*Thank You*

We have completed another year of CCD classes! Many, many thanks to the families and our children who participated in this year's program. Special thanks, also, to our amazing team of catechists and teen helpers. This year's staff includes Amy Chastain, Julie Burwell, Karla Wilbur, Bridget McKown, Kristina Porter, Jovi Chastain and last but not least our fabulous Director of Religious Education, Nicole Shuster. May God continue to bless all of you!

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

Where did he go? Many times when we think of those who have died, we imagine escape from this world to a purely spiritual place. Jesus' Ascension can leave us in a place of confusion. What happens to Jesus? And why does this matter to us? The Ascension has been confirmed in the Creed for two millennia. In Jesus' Ascension, we're invited to consider our own ultimate end. Regardless of death's reality now, we believe in the resurrection of the body and the reunification of body and soul. One day, earth and heaven will meet perfectly and without end. We anticipate this "new heaven and a new earth" at every Mass and throughout the beauty, truth, and love of the Church and her members. Today, celebrate a fore shadowing of the fullness we all await!