

May 17, 2026

## The Ascension of the Lord



Peace to you!

As we celebrate today the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, the Gospel presents us once again with Jesus' comforting promise: "I am with you always, until the end of the age." We can't help but think of the Ascension as a moment of farewell, of departure. After all, Jesus is physically leaving the earth by ascending upwards to Heaven. However, as Christians, we celebrate this solemnity rather as an assurance of Christ's unshakeable presence among us. Even though He is ascending to the right hand of the Father, Christ does not abandon His Church in the process. Jesus remains ever present through His Word in the Gospel, through one another's presence, and chiefly through the

Holy Eucharist. No matter what sort of trials we go through in our lives, Christ is our rock and our refuge. He said it Himself: "I am with you always!"

This solemnity also holds special meaning for me personally. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, I celebrated the fifth anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. By God's grace and love, I celebrated my first Mass as a priest on the Solemnity of the Ascension. Every year, this feast reminds me of the tremendous gift I received from Christ Himself. To be a priest is to receive an indescribable gift that I get to share with everyone I encounter, especially all of you, my parish family. I am deeply grateful for all your prayers, support, and encouragement throughout these formational years as a priest of Jesus Christ. As I celebrate this special milestone in my priesthood, I ask you to continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Share with the young people in your life that serving Christ is an incredible gift; it is a life full of wonderful, blessed surprises, as one follows the Lord.

Today, we will be having our Mother's Day Raffle drawing during the hospitality gathering after the 1:00 p.m. Mass. Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle and our parish ministries through your generosity. Your support helps strengthen the life of our parish community and the many ways we seek to serve one another.

Finally, we invite everyone to save the date for our Annual Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Mass, which will be bilingual. Corpus Christi is one of the most beautiful opportunities we have as a parish family to publicly witness to our faith in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. As we process together with the Blessed Sacrament around our parish campus, we proclaim that Christ walks with His people and remains truly present among us.

Following the procession, all are warmly invited to a parish-wide potluck. It will be a great opportunity to continue sharing together at table after first sharing at the Heavenly Table of the Eucharist. We invite parishioners to bring a dish, dessert, or beverage to share with the community. Sign-up sheets are available in the vestibule after Masses this weekend and next so that you may let us know what you would like to bring. We hope many of our families will join us for this joyful celebration of faith and fellowship.

Peace!

Fr. Leo

