

# Ascension of the Lord

May 17, 2026

The Lord ascends with the sound of a trumpet!

## Masses For The Week

### Sun 17 The Ascension of the Lord

09:00 am +Gilbert & June Leyendecker (Sandra Leyendecker)  
+Irene Moreno (Armando & Nena Colchado)  
+Laurencio Villarreal (Carlos & Teresa Cassiano)  
+Mario Alberto Gonzalez (M/M Colchado)

### Thr 21 Easter Weekday

12:05 pm NO MASS

### The Ascension of the Lord

*"The Ascension of Jesus into heaven," Pope Francis said, "acquaints us with this deeply consoling reality on our journey: in Christ, true God and true man, our humanity was taken to God. Christ opened the path to us. If we entrust our life to him, if we let ourselves be guided by him, we are certain to be in safe hands, in the hands of our Savior." This is why, as Pope Benedict XVI wrote, it would be a mistake to interpret the Ascension as "the temporary absence of Christ from the world." Rather, "we go to heaven to the extent that we go to Jesus Christ and enter into him." Heaven is a person: "Jesus himself is what we call 'heaven.'"*

### The Sanctuary Candle



This Week will be Burning for  
+All Souls in Purgatory (Sandra Leyendecker)

# Good News!

May 17, 2026

The Ascension of the Lord (A)

Acts 1:1-11 / Ephesians 1:17-23 / Matthew 28:16-20

MIGUEL DULICK

Even by the Ascension, after forty days of eating and drinking with the resurrected Lord, the obtuseness of the Apostles still frustrates Jesus. In Acts, they're ready for a fight, "to restore the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6). Matthew reports that "they worshiped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:17). Pentecost cannot come soon enough, when they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and all will be made known.

So the next nine days are crucial. The apostles and other disciples, 120 persons in all, prepare for the arrival of the Holy Spirit, a spiritual retreat, the original "novena." Only then can the apostle go and "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus, who brought heaven down to earth in the Incarnation, now ascends, taking earth up to heaven, with his resurrection. Saint Paul gives us a hint of how special this interchange is when he wishes for the Ephesians to receive from Jesus "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation" (Ephesians 1:17).

Our own obtuseness can block the Holy Spirit when we think we have all the answers. When I first preached in Honduras, in the village where I live, I was so prepared. I said everything I could think of, all that I had learned in my courses for a masters degree in divinity. But then, when I heard the prayers and insights of poor and simple folks, supported by a rich, personal knowledge of the Lord himself, I cut my sermons in half and let the "saints," as St. Paul liked to call the people, finish the job. Thank you, Holy Spirit! •

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### LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Cristina Zarate, Mina Aldaco, Ramona Alaniz, Edna Flores, Ana Maria Finley, Mary G. Finley, Margarita Inocencio, Lucia Rodriguez, Maria Teresa Cassiano, Dotty Guffey, Rodrigo Medina, Armando Colchado, Elida Aldaco, Michelle Angela Nelson and Renee Chapa.



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ANNOUNCEMENT

CONFIRMATION DATE

Candidates will receive Confirmation on Sun, May 31 at 11:30 am Mass @ Holy Family Catholic Church, 2702 Stone Ave, Laredo, TX.

### ATTENTION GRADUATES OF OUR PARISH



Only prospective graduates of our parish (High School & College) are invited to participate in the

celebration of Mass on Sunday, June 7 at 9:00am. If you are an active parishioner and plan on participating, please call the Parish Office and give us your name on or before May 27; we have a gift for you.

### 2026 Catholic Sharing Appeal

Report as of April 2026

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH

2026 CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL

Building The Kingdom Together

\$ 8565.00 - Our Gifts to Date

\$ 12,345.00 - Our Pledges to Date

\$ 2,996.00 - Our Parish Goal

31-Families Participating

His presence among us continues forever

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Last Sunday's Collection

Envelopes: \$ 927.00

Loose: \$ 71.00

Children's Envelopes: \$ 2.00

Total Sunday Collection: \$ 1,000.00

Total Expenses Last Week: \$ 497.81

# Dear Padre

May 17, 2026

I am scared of the end times and predictions of these dates. I feel saved, but I don't truly know if I would be accepted into heaven. What are the Catholic teachings on the end times/rapture?

No one but our heavenly Father knows the precise time of our Lord's return. (See Mark 13:32-37.) If this uncertainty about when Jesus will return evokes more apprehension than anticipation, it doesn't help that prophets of doom make predictions based on a distorted understanding of apocalyptic literature in the Bible. An example of this literary form includes the Book of Revelation. It contains elements of a final judgment and cosmic struggle between good and evil written in highly symbolic and imaginative language; however, it wasn't intended to provide a literal description or timeline of how the world ends. In 1 Thesalonians 4:16-17, St. Paul also uses apocalyptic imagery to say that all the faithful will be "caught up" ("rapt up") to meet the Lord at his Coming. Some use this single text to vividly imagine true believers being "raptured" from the earth and escaping the destruction of humankind at the end times, but it's a misinterpretation. For Catholics, these apocalyptic passages offer hope and guidance: despite the powerful forces of evil, Christ will overcome. His death and resurrection already ushered in the last age. We don't know how long this age will last before the final consummation, hence the need to be watchful and prepared. •

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

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Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the FATHER and of the SON and of the HOLY SPIRIT teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. For I am with you until the end of the world

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