

ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass intentions for May 16, 2021 *Ascension of the Lord*

Saturday, 5 p.m. —
People of the parish

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. —
† Walter Caldwell
By: Joe Gonzales

9:30 a.m. —
People of the parish

Wednesday, noon —
People of the parish

Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11—After Jesus' resurrection, he told the apostles not to leave Jerusalem for "in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit....You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth." After saying this, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.

Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9—
God mounts his throne
to shouts of joy: a blare
of trumpets for the Lord.



Ephesians 1:17-23—May your hearts be enlightened that you may know the greatness of God's power.

Mark 16:15-20—Jesus told his disciples: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." Those who believed were accompanied with signs in his name, like driving out demons, speaking new languages and healing the sick. After Jesus spoke to them, he was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God.

Dispensation

Catholics living in the diocese are not obligated to attend Sunday Mass this weekend. While it is not required, participating in Mass online is encouraged.



MOUNTAIN IN GALILEE

The book of Acts tells us that the Ascension of Jesus into heaven took place near Jerusalem. Jesus told them "not to leave Jerusalem." Why then, does Matthew say that the event happened at a mountain in Galilee? The answer may be that there were two different traditions of where Jesus' departure took place. Another possibility is that Matthew interprets the mission of the Apostles as beginning at their homes in Galilee, from where they went forth. Finally, there is a distinct tradition in Jerusalem that the Mount of Olives was home to Galileans while on pilgrimage to the holy city. Hence it might have been a "little Galilee" just as some cities have immigrant sections like "little Italy", etc.

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Weekly readings

**Ascension
of the Lord**
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9
Ephesians 1:17-23
Mark 16:15-20

Monday
Acts 19:1-8
John 16:29-33

Tuesday
Acts 20:17-27
John 17:1-11a

Wednesday
Acts 20:28-38
John 17:11b-19

Thursday
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
John 17:20-26

Friday
Acts 25:13b-21
John 21:15-19

Saturday
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
John 21:20-25

Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 104:1, 24,
29-30, 31, 34
1 Corinthians
12:3b-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

Saintly Wisdom

"You ascended
before our eyes,
and we turned back
grieving,
only to find You
in our hearts."
— St. Augustine —

Ascension of Our Lord

This is what St. Leo the Great writes of the Ascension: "The blessed apostles — after being assured by so many miracles and taught by so many discourses — had still been panic-stricken by the horrors of the Lord's passion and had not accepted the truth of His resurrection without hesitation. Yet they made such progress after the Lord's ascension that everything that had previously filled them with fear now turned into joy. For they had raised the whole mind in contemplation to the divinity of Him who sat at the Father's right hand. They were no longer hindered by the obstacle of bodily sight from directing their minds' gaze toward Him who had never left the Father's side when He descended to earth, nor forsaken the disciples when He ascended to heaven."

— From *Living the Mysteries, A Guide for Unfinished Christians*

Did You Know That...?

Originally the Ascension of Jesus into heaven was part of the celebration of Pentecost (when the Holy Spirit was poured out onto the apostles). By the late fourth century, Ascension became a feast of its own in some segments of the Church and was celebrated on the 40th day after Easter. The weekdays between Ascension and Pentecost (which is 50 days after Easter) then became popularly known as the Pentecost Novena.

—From *Catholic Customs & Traditions*

Prayer for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

(from the Archdiocese of Toronto)



Giver of Life,
help us to see your life
at work in our lives.
Keep us from clinging
to what is today,
that we might receive
the gifts of life
that await us
tomorrow.
Amen.

Parish Life

Sunday Mass Time to Change — Beginning the weekend of May 29-30, St. Elizabeth Church will return to having only one Sunday Mass, and it will be at 9 a.m. Next weekend is the last weekend for 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. Sunday Masses.

Confirmation for Adults — A diocesan-wide adult Confirmation Mass will be celebrated with the bishop at 4 p.m. next Sunday (Pentecost) at the cathedral in Knoxville. Any adult (18 and over) who has had the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Penance but has not been confirmed is eligible. If you are interested, please contact Coleen Schneider at 202-6387 or coleenschneider@gmail.com by Tuesday.

Mailings to Church — Any donations or other communication to be mailed to the church should be mailed to the post office box:

St. Elizabeth Church
P.O. Box 7
Elizabethton, TN 37644

New Parishioners — Are you a new parishioner? If you are, we welcome you and ask that you fill out a registration form, which can be found in the vestibule. Forms can be returned in the weekend collection. Thank you!

Diocesan Mandate Changes

Bishop Richard F. Stika has announced the following changes in COVID-19 restrictions, beginning next weekend (Pentecost).

- The Sunday Mass obligation is restored.
- Social distancing in church is reduced to 3 feet.

"The requirement to wear a protective facemask during Mass will be lifted the weekend of July 31/Aug. 1," Bishop Stika added, noting that "pandemic conditions could change in the next three months, and I must remain open to amending the requirements in this decree" if the pandemic worsens.