

Three insights on the Ascension of the Lord

I would like to share with you three of my new insights on the Ascension: first, the Ascension of our Lord signifies that earth is not the only reality, there is also a reality called heaven, where Jesus was taken up to (cf. Luke 24:51) and where Jesus went to (cf. Acts 1:11). The reality of heaven reminds us that there is more to life here on earth, that we have reason to hope for eternal life in heaven. For Christians, heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness. (CCC1024) Heaven is a place of eternal unity and fellowship with God, the angels and the saints. In heaven, there is perfect and unending joy, there is no suffering, pain, or sorrow.

Second, the effects of the Incarnation did not cease. At the Incarnation, the eternal Word took on human nature and became man. He was named Jesus (cf. Luke 2:21, Luke 1:31, Matthew 1:21). The human nature of Jesus remained intact at the Ascension – Jesus ascended into heaven not only in His divine nature, but also in His human nature.

Third, it was at the Ascension that Jesus commissioned the Apostles to their mission on earth. The disciples of Jesus asked Him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6) This question implies that the disciples still expected Jesus to be a political leader who would restore self-rule to Israel. Now that Jesus has risen from the dead, perhaps the time has come for this great event to happen?



But Jesus answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:7-8) Someday, Israel will indeed be freed from Roman rule, but that was not what Jesus wanted them to be preoccupied about.

Jesus wanted His disciples to be His witnesses to the whole world – to preach His Gospel, His life on earth, His suffering, death and resurrection and now His ascension into heaven. Jesus also wanted His disciples to preach, in His name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins (cf. Luke 24:47).

On our part as Christians, we must live our lives according to the Gospel, to live in faith and trust in Christ, with the understanding that our actions here on earth have consequences for our eternal destiny. The good news of the Ascension is that Jesus is now in heaven. Jesus did not ascend into heaven after His earthly ministry in order to “take a break” from saving people. Jesus sits at the right hand of God in heaven where He intercedes for us (cf. Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25). There is no conflict here with Catholics asking Mary and the saints in heaven to pray for them, just as there is no conflict here with people asking their friends on earth to pray for them. The role of Mary and the saints is that they participate in the intercession of Jesus, the eternal High Priest (Hebrews 7:21).

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每週公告 Weekly Bulletin

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention all lectors who participated in the training class: you may now sign-up for Masses in the months of June and July, sign-up sheets are now ready in the Mass intentions folder in the foyer.

Attention Chinese Cursillo members! We will have our Ultreya meeting on Sunday, June 1.



Fr. Bill will administer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in the Sanctuary after the 10:30am Mass. Those who would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick, please come to the front of the Sanctuary right after Mass.

June 8, 2025 is Pentecost Sunday, there will be a Healing Mass in English on the Vigil of Pentecost, June 7. Many people have experienced the special grace of the Holy Spirit during this healing service. Come and experience the power of the Holy Spirit. All are welcome!



Our church will hold a week-long Eucharistic Renewal event from June 18 to June 23, 2025. Our invited guests include Most Reverend John Lee Juowang, Bishop Emeritus of the diocese of Tainan, Taiwan and Fr. Francis Ching of the Companions of the Cross based in Toronto, Canada, as well as Mr. Jianren Zhu from San Francisco. Come, participate and make the most of that week with our special guests. They are coming to Atlanta especially for you, in order to inspire and deepen your devotion to the Eucharist!

Prayer List: Chu Waitat, Liu Kejiu, Ni Yufang, Lydia Chen, Stephen Jerez, Lu Shumi, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	Anointing of the Sick	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		