



SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Joseph Parish,

Jesus' ascension reminds us that we are "only passing through" on this earth, as we say; we are pilgrims on a journey. Just as Jesus' earthly life was temporary, and he ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father, so also our lives here are temporary, will come to an end, and we will meet God in the next life. Jesus' ascension reminds us in all of our busyness not to forget what life is all about. Remember that conversation with a student. What will you do next? The student had an answer for everything but never thought about dying and what would happen then. Part of the prayer in the letter to the Ephesians, the second reading today (Eph 1:17-23), is so beautiful:

May God our Father...enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. (Eph 1:17-19)

It is a most beautiful prayer and description of living life preparing for eternal life. Jesus' ascension reminds us that God has great plans for us out of this world and that prayer in the second reading also reminds us that God has great plans for us that are out of this world.

You can look at yourself in three ways: what you think of yourself, what others think of you, and what God thinks of you. The most important is what God thinks of you. What does God think of you? The second reading gives us the answer: God looks on you as his son or daughter since you were baptized.

You want the perfect house, the perfect car; in fact, you want the best of everything. But the best awaits us in the next life because God has planned the very best for you. In that prayer Paul prayed

May God our Father...enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see ... what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit ... (Eph 1:17-18)

Before Jesus ascended, he entrusted his mission to the apostles saying, "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations..." (Matt 28:19). While that mission was entrusted to the apostles, and to the bishops their successors, and to priests their assistants, you can assist them in their mission to evangelize by praying for them and by giving witness that you follow Jesus.

Have a Blessed Ascension of the Lord Sunday 2026!

Fr. Rafal Ligenza
Pastor

