

ASCENSION THURSDAY – May 21, 2020

Most of us can clearly say what Holy Thursday, Good Friday and of course, Easter Sunday means and does for us, but what about the Ascension of our Lord? What does it mean for us?

The children learned about the virtues this year, encouraging all of us to live a virtuous life. One of the Theological Virtues is LOVE, which we also call Charity. This love helps us to look away from ourselves to give away for another. Charity helps us share in the joys and sorrows of others.

One of the first things I think about the Ascension is sharing in Jesus' joy! The joy of His return to heavenly glory, the joy that his "Crown of Thorns" (ask your kids about this craft) has been replaced with the Kingly Crown, and the joy of replacing the mocking and cruel crowds at Calvary with adoring angels.

But the Ascension is not just about charity, it is also a feast of HOPE (another virtue).. Yes, there *is* something in it for us. He goes to prepare a place for us (Jn. 14:2). We will also one day wear crowns made of gold instead of thorns, because of His sacrifice.

For us to endure life and live a virtuous life, we need divine power. That's another reason we ought to rejoice in His Ascension. He takes His place at God's right hand so that He can pour out the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, upon his disciples (Eph. 4:10).

As he ascends, he tells the disciples to wait for this power. (See Pentecost)

The waiting is not to be a waste of idle time. The wait has a purpose – 9 days of prayer leading to the strength and devotion they will need, because they have challenging work to do. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Matt. 28: 16-20). This evangelization is exactly what we are all called to do.

A few points to discuss with your children:

- Our faith tells us that the Ascension traditionally falls 40 days after Easter. It is a HDO (Holy Day of Obligation), so don't forget to Live Stream Mass.
- It is the day that Jesus ascended into heaven.
- When Jesus was ascending into heaven, He told His apostles to wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them.
- The apostles prayed for 9 days until Pentecost Sunday (A Novena is prayed for 9 days and the concept of the 9 days is based on this event).
- The ascension of Jesus is the 2nd Glorious Mystery of the Rosary (which the kids learned about).