May 28, 2017 • The Ascension of the Lord

Today we celebrate the ascension of Jesus into heaven, his departure after the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and all the appearances to the disciples. Acts and Ephesians look back at the time just before Jesus leaves and then at its immediate aftermath, still trying to understand what has happened and what is expected of those who were left behind. The readings remind us that the disciples are still not certain what all this means to them. But one thing is certain: Jesus is gone and they are struggling with what to do next. Matthew tells us that even as they believed in Jesus, they doubted. Jesus responds to their doubt with a call to work. He tells them to "make disciples of all nations."

UP, UP AND AWAY The reading from Acts gives us a pretty complete description of the Ascension. Jesus was lifted up and taken from their sight but not before the disciples ask lots of questions about what will happen. The disciples are still thinking that the kingdom of Israel will be restored. Jesus answers them with a promise of power from the Holy Spirit and a commission that they be witnesses not just to Israel but to the ends of the earth. But the disciples are still thinking small. Jesus knows that the meaning of his death and resurrection is not small. Ephesians offers a glimpse of the great gifts of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The disciples cannot even imagine what this means for them as they stand staring into the sky. Jesus tells them one more time that their work is to tell everyone about his life and work, to baptize them, and to teach them his commandments.

NEVER CAN SAY GOOD-BYE The disciples still thought this was just about their life and their world. They are reminded by Jesus that what they have lived through with him, his life, death, and resurrection, is greater and more far-reaching than they can yet imagine. This is not just about the kingdom of Israel. This is about all nations. This is not just about witnessing in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. This work will take them to the ends of the earth. It is an enormous undertaking that we and the disciples have been given. It seemed impossible to the disciples then and it seems impossible to us now. But it is not. It is possible because we are not alone in this work. Jesus is with us not for a day or a week or even our lifetime. Jesus is with us always, until the end of the age. Today's Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20.
**The Ascension of the Lord**

**May 28, 2017**

He was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.

— Acts 1:9

**First Reading** — Jesus tells the disciples that they will witness to the ends of the earth

**Psalm 47** — God mounts his throne to shouts of joy; a blare of trumpets for the Lord

**Second Reading** — May the Father of glory give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation

**Gospel** — Jesus instructs the Eleven to baptize and teach people of all nations

**Communion Chant** — Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.

**Prayer for New Parish Hall Building Project**

Lord, in your kindness and mercy, guide St. William Catholic Church into the future. We ask with humble hearts that the hardships of building our new Education Building /Parish Hall may result in love for You, love for each other and strengthen our growth, unity and charity. As we raise our hearts to You, bless us with a clear understanding of the path toward the Formation of our Christian Faith for the present and future of our parish community.

Lord, bless our efforts, bless our Parish Community. Grant to us your gift of Faith, Hope, Love, Peace and Joy. We ask this in the name of the Lord, Amen.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Jesus, pray for us.

St. Joseph, Patron Saint of Builders, Patron of the Universal Church, pray for us.

All the Apostles, Saints and Martyrs, pray for us.

St. Thomas Aquinas, Patron Saint of Students, pray for us.

St. William, pray for us.

Father Stanley Rother, Martyr and Servant of God, pray for us.

**Oración Por Nuestro Nuevo Salon**

Señor, por tu bondad y misericordia, guía a la Iglesia Católica de San Guillermo hacia el futuro. Te pedimos corazones humildes. Que las dificultades de construir nuestro Nuevo Centro Educativo y Salon Parroquial resulten en amor por ti, amor entre nosotros y fortalezca nuestro crecimiento, unidad y caridad. Al levantar nuestros corazones hacia ti, bendícanos con un claro entendimiento de el camino correcto hacia la formación de nuestra Fe Cristiana por el presente y futuro de nuestra comunidad.

Señor, bendice nuestros esfuerzos, bendice a la comunidad de esta Parroquia. Concedenos tus dones de Fe, Esperanza, Amor, Paz y Gozo. Te pedimos esto en el nombre del Señor, Amen.

Inmaculado Corazon de Maria, Madre de Jesus, ruega por nosotros.

San Jose, Santo Patron de los Constructores, Patron de la Iglesia Universal, ruega por nosotros. Todos los Apostoles, Santos y Martires, ruyen por nosotros.

San Tomases de Aquino, Santo Patron de los Estudiantes, ruega por nosotros.

San Guillermo, ruega por nosotros. Padre Stanley Rother, Martin y servidor de Dios, ruega por nosotros.

**Welcome New Parishioners & Guests**

Please fill out the Welcome Book found in the vestibule. The info will allow us to assist and include you in our parish.

**In Case of an emergency and in need of a Priest Contact**

Deacon Kelly Mitchell, 580-380-7068; Durant; Rev. Joseph, Pastor; Immaculate Conception, Hugo, 580-317-3449; Rev. Oby, Pastor; Holy Cross, Madill, 580-795-3721 or 580-622-3070; and St. Mary; in Denison, TX, 903-463-3275; or Deacon Albert Miller, 903-786-3961.

**Our Weekly Offering**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May 21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. William</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Offering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bldg Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Parish Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Catherine House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Communication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prayer Request**

**HE CURED MANY**

| Betty & Larry Nolan |
| Trinity Ramos |
| Carmen Rodriguez |
| Margaret Schiebe |
| Donnie Stanley |
| Barbara Summerlin |
| Joe Thomas |
| Willy Wally |

**Spanish Services:**

- *Adoration*, 3rd Thursday: 7:00 pm
- *Spanish Mass*, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Saturday: 6:15 pm
- *Bilingual Mass*, last Saturday each month, 5:00 pm

**Group and Event Coordinators**

Elia Reyes, 580-920-6109

Kathy Ingram, 580-931-0105

Catholic Student Assoc

John Lewis, 405-612-3409

Liturgy Schedule

Theresa Hmcr, 580-380-0893

Meals on Wheels

Antonio Becerra, 580-380-6029

Spanish Mass

Marilyn Hitchcock, 580-920-4655

St. Catherine’s House

Father Valley, 580-924-1989

Visiting the Sick
If you could somehow transport a third-century Christian into your twenty-first-century Sunday Mass, once the initial shock wore off he or she would be more or less at home with the structure of the first part of the liturgy, the Word. The second part might be more difficult to comprehend. The stumbling block would be the book. We have a book, a missal that is set down on the altar with a very precisely prescribed set of words for the priest to say and the people to sing at the Eucharistic Prayer. In the early days of the church, there were no set “formulas” for this prayer. The ancients would have raised eyebrows at our “bookishness” since they preferred to let the prayers roll forth from a gifted leader of prayer. There was a basic shape to the prayer of thanksgiving, and almost general agreement that the words of Christ at the Last Supper ought to be included. By the second century, Justin Martyr wrote the presider “gives thanks at some length . . . and when he has finished the prayers and the thanksgiving, all the people present give their assent by saying ‘Amen.’” In the world before books, people could memorize long passages of prose and poetry, and so it is easy to see how particular phrases or expressions passed from church to church.