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God Into All The World And Preach the Gospel

From an Angelus Address by Pope Francis; May 13, 2018

St. John Chrysostom Parish *(est.1867)*

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☩ Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord ☩

May 16, 2021

THE PASCHAL MYSTERY: culminates in the Ascension of Jesus and marks the definitive entrance of Jesus' human-ity into God's heavenly domain, whence he will come again (cf. Acts 1:11). . . . Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, precedes us into the Father's glorious kingdom so that we, the members of his Body, may live in the hope of one day being with him for ever. Jesus Christ, having entered the sanctuary of heaven once and for all, intercedes constantly for us as the mediator who assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (CCC, nos. 665-667)

PENTECOST IS NEXT SUNDAY: To fruitfully celebrate the feast commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Church, it is good to prepare by using the following traditional prayer every day until then, and for the 8 days after::

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

And You shall renew the face of the earth.

*O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit
we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations.
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

This Solemnity of the Ascension embraces two elements. On the one hand it directs our gaze toward heaven, where the glorified Jesus is seated at the right hand of God (cf. Mk 16:19). On the other, it reminds us of the mission of the Church: why? Because Jesus, Risen and Ascended into heaven, sends his disciples to spread the Gospel throughout the world. Therefore, the Ascension exhorts us to lift our gaze toward heaven, in order to return it immediately to the earth, to implement the tasks that the Risen Lord entrusts to us.

It is what we are invited to do in the day's Gospel passage, in which the event of the Ascension occurs immediately after the mission that Jesus entrusts to the disciples. It is a boundless mission — that is, literally without boundaries — which surpasses human strength. Jesus says, in fact: “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation” (Mk 16:15). The task which Jesus entrusts to a small group of common men lacking great intellectual capacity seems truly too bold! Yet this small company, insignificant compared to the great powers of the world, is sent to bring the message of Jesus' love and mercy to every corner of the earth. But this plan of God can be accomplished only with the strength that God himself grants to the Apostles. In this sense, Jesus assures them that their mission will be supported by the Holy Spirit. And he says this: “you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). This is how this mission was able to be accomplished, and the Apostles began this work which was then continued by their successors. The mission that Jesus entrusted to the Apostles has continued through the centuries, and continues still today: it requires the cooperation of all of us. Each one, in fact, by the power of the Baptism that he or she received, is qualified in turn to proclaim the Gospel. Baptism is precisely what qualifies us and also spurs us to be missionaries, to proclaim the Gospel.

The Lord's Ascension into heaven, while inaugurating a new form of Jesus' presence among us, calls us to keep eyes and hearts open to encounter him, to serve him and bear witness to him to others. It is a matter of being men and women of the Ascension, that is, those who seek Christ along the paths of our time, bringing his word of salvation to the ends of the earth. On this journey we encounter Christ himself in our brothers and sisters, especially in the poorest, in those who suffer in their very flesh the harsh and humiliating experience of old and new forms of poverty. As at the beginning the Risen Christ sent his Apostles with the power of the Holy Spirit, so too does he send all of us today, with the same power, so as to establish concrete and visible signs of hope. Because Jesus gives us hope. He went to heaven and opened the gates of heaven and the hope that we will reach it. May the Virgin Mary help us too to “lift up our hearts” and at the same time may she help us to keep our “feet on the ground”, and to bravely sow the Gospel in the practical situations of life and of history.

Seventh Week of Easter

May 19 - 21

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. +For the Souls of the Faithful Departed: Family & Friends
Pre-registration Required

Thursday 9:00 a.m. For the Intentions of all Parishioners during the Pandemic
Pre-registration Required

Friday 9:00 a.m. +For the Souls of the Faithful Departed: Family & Friends
Pre-registration Required

☩ Solemnity of Pentecost ☩

May 23, 2021

Saturday 4:30 p.m. For the Intentions of all Parishioners during the Pandemic
Pre-registration Required

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Intentions of the People (*Missa pro populo*)
Pre-registration Required

IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:

-for the Sisters of Saint Joseph, living and deceased, who are celebrating 100 years of religious presence in our Diocese this year, working as teachers, nurses and caregivers for the elderly since their arrival in Pembroke in 1921: may the Lord bless them for their faithful presence and for all the works they have accomplished in our Diocese throughout these many years of devoted service to the people of God;

-those who have been affected by the coronavirus: the sick, the dying, their families and care givers; those who struggle with fear, anxiety and depression; those who have lost their jobs and are suffering economic hardship;

- parishioners who are sick; and those who have died, especially our mothers who are no longer with us.



St. John Chrysostom Parish uses *flocknote* to register parishioners and send out weekly newsletters by email. Email the parish office to sign up!

~ PARISH STEWARDSHIP ~

SUNDAY OFFERING: May 9 - \$2,700.30

Thank you for your continuing commitment during these difficult times. **Sunday Envelope Offerings can also be put through the mail slot on the parish office door.**

DIRECT DEPOSIT: Why not use direct deposit for the sake of convenience and for the continual support of our parish? Just call the parish office to set it up! We have 53 parishioners who have chosen this option.

CHURCH EXTERIOR RESTORATION COLLECTION: The amount of \$3,870.00 from the month of April was recently sent to the Chancery Office in Pembroke. Thank you!

This monthly appeal continues on the last Sunday of the month using a special envelope and collection dedicated to the Church Exterior Restoration Debt. These envelopes have been inserted into every box of Sunday Collection envelopes and are also available on the racks at the entrance of the church.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM PARISH
ARNPRIOR, ON

Env. # _____

Church Exterior Restoration Debt

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Amount \$ _____

SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF YOUR CHURCH: Consider a bequest to St. John Chrysostom Exterior Restoration Project through your will and leave an extraordinary legacy gift for the glory of God and to ensure that future generations continue to have a home to celebrate our Christian Faith.

PARISH HARVEST FESTIVAL & RAFFLE: Because of the ongoing realities and uncertainties caused by the pandemic, we have once again had to make the difficult and sad decision to cancel both the Raffle and this year's Festival. There are just too many variables regarding the impact of the pandemic and ongoing civil restrictions in order to prudently begin planning for such a major social event at this time.

We will again make a **Harvest Festival Financial Appeal** later in the summer and draw attention to the envelope that is already in your Sunday Envelope box.

