



St. Joseph Catholic Church
Harlowton, Montana
Missions:
Blessed Sacrament, Shawmut
Immaculate Conception, Judith Gap

Father Cody Williams, Pastor

Phone 406-465-7895 406-266-4811 406-632-5538
frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org stjosephmt.org



The Ascension of the Lord
May 17, 2026

"The Ascension of Jesus into heaven," Pope Francis said, "acquaints us with this deeply consoling reality on our journey: in Christ, true God and true man, our humanity was taken to God. Christ opened the path to us. If we entrust our life to him, if we let ourselves be guided by him, we are certain to be in safe hands, in the hands of our Savior." This is why, as Pope Benedict XVI wrote, it would be a mistake to interpret the Ascension as "the temporary absence of Christ from the world." Rather, "we go to heaven to the extent that we go to Jesus Christ and enter into him." Heaven is a person: "Jesus himself is what we call 'heaven.'"

As the Apostles were looking on, Jesus was lifted up.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11 ¹In the first book, O Theoph'ilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. ⁴And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, ⁵for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But 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 Samar'ia and to the end of the earth." ⁹And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Psalms 47:2-3, 6-9 **R/ God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

¹Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! ²For the LORD, the Most High, is terrible, a great king over all the earth. ³God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. ⁴Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! ⁵For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! ⁶God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

God seated Jesus at his right hand in the heavens.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23 ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰which he accomplished in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come; ²²and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Go and teach all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, until the end of the world. **Alleluia, Alleluia**
All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20 ¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

12:00 noon Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT.

Daily Mass on Thursdays at noon at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Harlowton, MT.

*****Confessions before Sunday Mass beginning at 11:30 am or by appointment. Please join us to pray the rosary for our nation and community 1/2 hour before Sunday Mass.**

Sunday Mass at 9 am at St. Bartholomew, White Sulphur Springs & 4:30pm at Holy Cross, Townsend.

*****Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays – join us anytime between 12:30–3:30 pm.**

Youth Group meets each Thursday from 7 to 8:30 pm.

Please join us for our monthly parish potlucks on the 4th Sunday after Mass - 6/28/26; 7/26/26; 8/23/26

Please pray for our seminarians:

Riley Helgoe

Bret Rotz

Carter Anderson

James Semling

Ryan Frampton

Congratulations to Fr. Dillon Armstrong on his ordination to the priesthood! Please keep him in your prayers.

Jake Smith

Anthony Olmes

Shae Bills

Carson Gorton

Mason Yochum

Dcn. Kaleb Mitchell

Jamie Severson

Matt Keck

Liam Aippersbach,

Mark Your Calendars:

Bishop Vetter is coming to visit us on Thursday, May 21st. He will celebrate the noon Mass and then we have a reception for him afterwards.

No Mass on Thursday, May 28th.

The Church Fathers series has ended. If you would like the notes from that series or any other series that I have led, they are available on the table at the entrance to the Church.

The final night of Youth Group is this Thursday, May 21st at 7 pm. We are going to have a party!

Potluck Farewell Barbeque for Fr. Cody Thursday, June 25th at 6pm in Chief Joseph Park. Meat provided. Community invited. Our Parish Potluck on Sunday, June 28th will be a Farewell Potluck for Fr. Cody.

No potluck this month due to Memorial Day weekend.

A list of parts of our building that need cleaning or repairs is posted on the bulletin board at the entrance to the church. If you are willing to work on one or more of these projects, please let Fr. Cody or Claire know. Thanks.

Father Cody's Corner: Basics of Catholicism Part 135: Anointing of the Sick: Symbols of the Sacrament

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has two primary symbols: oil and the Laying on of Hands. Both of these symbols have strong historical and theological roots.

Oil: the primary symbol of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is oil. This shouldn't surprise anyone since the word "anointing" is part of the name of the Sacrament. In the early church, oil had many functions. They would use oil for cooking and medicine as well as preparing for combat and athletic events. Oil functioned as a protective layer that both rejuvenated the skin but also created a barrier against dirt and germs. We still use oil in the same way today but as an ingredient in more complex concoctions. Lotions, creams, and salves are all oil based for the same reason that the earliest Christians used oil: they lubricate the skin, protect against infection, and bring healing. The same idea applies to the Anointing of the Sick. The priest applies oil to the person for the sake of bringing healing both physically as well as ritually. The application of the oil acts like a salve for the body and soul soothing over the affected wounds, even though it only covers a small part of the body. Generally, we only anoint the forehead and the palms of the hands. But the priest can also anoint the affected part of the body. In most cases, the affected part of the body would be inappropriate to anoint.

Laying on of Hands: one of the most ancient gestures in the church is the laying on of hands. The priest or bishop would either put his hands over the person's head or on the person's head. This gesture was used to anoint kings, prophets, and priests. The earliest Christians saw this gesture in a different context. Instead of the gesture passing on authority or power, it gave the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the laying on of hands is used for Confirmation as well as Holy Orders as a sign that the Holy Spirit is coming down upon the person and making them something new. The same idea applies to the Anointing of the Sick. The priest is asking for the Holy Spirit to come down upon the person and bring them healing. We can extend this line of thought to include images like priests, kings, and prophets as well as the power of the Holy Spirit from the beginning of creation. The Holy Spirit also gives new life and a new identity. The person whom the Holy Spirit has come down upon is now made into a new creation through God's healing and brought to new life through the Sacrament. So often we confuse the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick with a Sacrament of death. It is not meant to be just for the dying. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is meant for the living. ~ Fr. Cody

Knowing God: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Seventh Sunday of Easter

Listen Here: [Knowing God: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Seventh Sunday of Easter - St. Paul Center](#)

Readings: Acts 1:12—14; Psalm 27:1, 4, 7—8; 1 Peter 4:13—16; John 17:1—11

Jesus has been taken up into heaven as we begin today's First Reading. His disciples - including the Apostles and Mary - return to the upper room where He celebrated the Last Supper (see Luke 22:12).

There, they devote themselves with one accord to prayer, awaiting the Spirit that He promised would come upon them (see Acts 1:8).

The unity of the early Church at Jerusalem is a sign of the oneness that Christ prays for in today's Gospel. The Church is to be a communion on earth that mirrors the glorious union of Father, Son, and Spirit in the Trinity.

Jesus has proclaimed God's name to His brethren (see Hebrews 2:12; Psalm 22:23). The prophets had foretold this revelation: a new covenant by which all flesh would have knowledge of the Lord (see Jeremiah 31:33–34; Habakkuk 2:14).

By the new covenant made in His blood and remembered in every Eucharist we know God as our Father. This is the eternal life Jesus promises. And this is the light and salvation we sing of in today's Psalm.

As God made light to shine out of darkness when the world began, He has enlightened us in Baptism, making us new creations (see 2 Corinthians 5:17), giving us knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ (see Hebrews 10:32; 2 Corinthians 4:6).

Our new life is a gift of "the Spirit of glory," we hear in today's Epistle (see John 7:38–39). Made one in His name, we are given a new name - "Christians" - a name used only here and in two other places in the Bible (see Acts 11:16; 26:28). We are to glorify God, though we will be insulted and suffer because of this name.

But as we share in His sufferings, we know we will overcome (see Revelation 3:12) and rejoice when His glory is once more revealed. And we will dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives. ~ Dr. Scott Hahn

Suggested Prayer of the Faithful page 262 May Magnificat

(Each local community should compose its own Universal Prayer but may find inspiration in the texts proposed here.)

Rejoicing in the unity for which our Savior prayed before his death, we offer our prayers to God the Father:

That through the Church's faithful announcement of the Gospel, God's Word may spread throughout the world and redeem all pain and suffering.

That people in need find help, and that peace and security be firmly established everywhere.

That our parish community grow in faith, hope, and love.

For the poor, the lonely, the unemployed, and all who are disheartened in any way: that they find consolation and peace in the love of Jesus.

For those who are struggling in their faith: that they gain a renewed conviction of the truth that we have eternal life in Jesus Christ.

For the grace this week to rejoice even when we share in the sufferings of Christ, and to glorify God in all we say and do.

Most merciful Father, your beloved Son is the Alpha and the Omega, the bright morning star. May we always trust in his great mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessions page 265 May Magnificat

Let us pray in the joy of Christ:

R/ Listen, ascended Lord, and come to our help!

For all who suffer resentfully:

– grant them the peace of the Spirit. R/

For all who suffer without any sense of meaning:

– grant them the light of the Spirit. R/

For all who suffer in communion with you:

– grant them perseverance in the Spirit. R/

Personal intentions Our Father....

God of glory and majesty, you deliver our suffering from senselessness by enabling us to participate in the saving work of Christ. Infuse us with the joy of the Spirit in all the circumstances of life, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY I Will Come Again pages 189-190 May Magnificat

Was I unhappy to go back to the glory of heaven, leaving my disciples leaderless?

Was there a flurry of last-minute instructions?

No, it was a time of peace and without sadness, because I knew that the Holy Spirit would supply all the knowledge that my disciples needed and that in the Holy Spirit they would be one with me at all times....

I had washed them in water before my passion, and so now they were ready to accept their baptism of fire, of the Holy Spirit.

They were to be my witnesses; on them I had placed the responsibility for preaching the Good News to the whole world.

If I had not gone back to my Father, which one of them would have left Jerusalem to go to the nations?

Would they not all have stayed near me?

But before I went back, in the same way that I will come again, they worshiped me.

And they finally understood what Peter and James and John had seen on the mountain of the Transfiguration.

And having understood the glory that is to come, they went back to Jerusalem still dazzled by what they had seen,

and determined to do all that they could to hasten the day when I come again. ~ Richard Hobbs Richard Hobbs († 1993) was a convert to Catholicism and the father of six sons.

Intercessions page 192 May Magnificat

As we look forward in hope to the celebration of the coming of the promised Spirit, let us pray:

R/ Send forth your Spirit, O Lord.

You have promised to breathe into your Church the life-giving breath of the Spirit:

– may we live in your peace. R/

You have promised to pour out upon your Church the reconciling love of the Spirit:

– may we live in your love. R/

You have promised to inflame your Church with the fiery charity of the Spirit:

– may we burn with zeal to preach the Gospel to all creatures. R/

Personal intentions **Our Father....**

May the Lord send forth the Spirit, and renew the face of the earth! Amen. (cf. Ps 104:30)

Marian Antiphon

SAFE ENVIRONMENT – PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN

The Diocese of Helena is firmly committed to the health, protection, and safety of our children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

To report allegations of sexual abuse, contact the Diocese of Helena Victim’s Advocate at (406)-459-0513 or VictimAssistant@diocesehelena.org.

To obtain information about the Diocese’s implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People through our Safe Environment policies and programs, visit:

<https://diocesehelena.org/safe-environment>

*We are all called to be great saints,
Don’t miss the opportunity.
~ Mother Angelica*