

**The Twin Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Agnes & St. Anthony
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
MAY 16, 2021**



St. Anthony
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St. Agnes
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Edmonton, AB T6H 1N1
Ph: 780-432-0611

Office Hours: Monday – Friday
9:00 am – 12 Noon and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
E-Mail: stanthony.edm@caedm.ca
Parish website: twinparishes.caedm.ca

St. Agnes & St. Anthony Joint Mission Statement

As sharers in the mission of Jesus Christ, we are committed to spreading the Gospel and building up the kingdom of God in our homes, in our parishes, and in the communities in which we live.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **NO 9:00 AM mass at St. Agnes on Thursday, May 20th due to the Virtual Priest Assembly.**
- **Contact the parish office for registration for the weekend and weekday masses.**
- **NO Adoration at St. Anthony until further notice.**
- **NO Meeting, and other activities in the church & meeting rooms until further notice.**
- **For Funerals contact the parish office 780-432-0611**

Contact the parish office at 780-432-0611 for registration of First Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist, Confirmation and RCIA. All the class sessions will start on October 2021.

Anyone who wants to become Catholics and Catholics who are 15 years old & above that have not yet received First Communion and Confirmation, and interested in learning more about RCIA please contact the parish office 780-432-0611.

St. Agnes & St. Anthony Parish Staff:

Pastor Rev. Varghese Munduvelil CFIC
Deacon Guy Germain
Deacon Michael Pucylo
Deacon Ramon Morales
Business Manager Don Wong
Administrative Assistant Florentina Suce
Custodian (St. Anthony) Ray Wagner
Custodian (St. Agnes) Bruce Huynh

Twin Parishes Financial Pulse

		Full Year	
May 08/09	Actual	YTD	Budget
Sunday, Holy Day	\$ 3,380	\$115,878	\$375,000
Building Maint. Fund	\$ 130	\$7,290	\$ 30,000
Together We Serve	\$ 30	\$10,195	\$ 51,600

“LORD our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all it belongs to you.”
1Chronicles 29:17

Twin Parishes Masses for the Week

Tuesday, May 18 Mass @ St. Anthony	7:00 pm
Wednesday, May 19 Mass @ St. Anthony	6:15 PM
Thursday, May 20 Mass @ St. Agnes	9:00 am
Friday, May 21 Mass St. Agnes	9:00 am
Saturday, May 22 Mass St. Agnes Mass St. Anthony	5:00 pm 7:30 pm
Sunday, May 23 Mass @ St. Agnes Mass @ St. Anthony Mass @ St. Agnes	9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 Noon

DONATE BUTTON

Parish website: twinparishes.caedm.ca
Here are three ways to give:

- St. Agnes and St. Anthony would prefer if you use: [Pre-Authorized Giving Agreement Form](#)
- Envelopes can be dropped off or mailed to the parish office at:
St. Anthony,
10661-82 Avenue NW Edmonton,
AB T6E 2A6



Donate online:
Thank you for being a good steward of St. Agnes/St. Anthony Parish.
Every gift is truly appreciated.

May 16, 2021- Scott Hahn Reflects on the THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

First Reading – Acts 1:1-11

Psalms 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

Second Reading – Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel – Mark 16:15-20

In today's first reading, St. Luke gives the surprising news that there is more of the story to be told. The story did not end with the empty tomb, or with Jesus' appearances to the Apostles over the course of forty days. Jesus' saving work will have a liturgical consummation. He is the great high priest, and he has still to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem, there to celebrate the feast in the true Holy of Holies.

The truth of this feast shines forth from the Letter to the Hebrews, where we read of the great high priest's passing through the heavens, the sinless intercessor's sacrifice on our behalf (see [Hebrews 4:14-15](#)).

Indeed, his intercession will lead to the Holy Spirit's descent in fire upon the Church. Luke spells out that promise in the first reading for the feast of the Ascension: "in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" ([Acts 1:5](#)). Ascension is the preliminary feast that directs the Church's attention forward to Pentecost. On that day, salvation will be complete; for salvation is not simply expiation for sins (that would be wonder enough), but it is something even greater than that. Expiation is itself a necessary precondition of our adoption as God's children. To live that divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit. To receive the Holy Spirit we must be purified through baptism.

The Responsorial Psalm presents the Ascension in terms familiar from the worship of the Jerusalem Temple in the days of King Solomon: "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord" (Psalm 47). The priest-king takes his place at the head of the people, ruling over the nations, establishing peace.

The Epistle strikes a distinctively Paschal note. In the early Church, as today, Easter was the normal time for the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called "illumination" or "enlightenment" (see, for example, [Hebrews 10:32](#)) because of the light that came with God's saving grace. Saint Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, speaks in terms of glory that leads to greater glories still, as Ascension leads to Pentecost: "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened," he writes, as he looks to the divinization of the believers. Their "hope" is "his inheritance among the holy ones," the saints who have been adopted into God's family and now rule with him at the Father's right hand.

This is the "good news" the Apostles are commissioned to spread—to the whole world, to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem—at the first Ascension. It's the good news we must spread today.

Pope Francis Corner



**And the Joy of
Family Life Daily
Reflections**

Invoke the Holy Spirit

Therefore, dear parents, dear godfathers and godmothers, if you want your children to become true Christians, help them to grow up "immersed" in the Holy Spirit, that is to say, in the warmth of the love of God, in the light of his Word. For this reason, do not forget to invoke the Holy Spirit often, every day....

We usually pray to Jesus. When we pray to Our Father, we pray to the Father. But we do not often pray to the Holy Spirit. It is very important to pray to the Holy Spirit, because he teaches us how to bring up the family, the children, so that these children may grow up in the atmosphere of the Holy Trinity.

It is precisely the Spirit who leads them forward....You can do so, for example, with this simple prayer: "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love." You can say this prayer for your children, as well as, naturally, for yourselves!

- *Homily, January 11, 2015*

Reflection: *The Holy Spirit in our lives is a sign that we are open to God moving and working with us each day. Are you open to the Holy Spirit? Are you willing to follow him where he leads you? Pray the prayer provided by the Holy Father each day this week.*

Newman Theological College Faith and Reason Essay Competition

The Faith & Reason Essay Contest is open to all incoming freshmen applicants of the BA in Catholic Studies program at Newman Theological College.

Visit www.newman.edu/essaycontest to apply for the new, fully accredited BA program and all scholarship and bursary opportunities.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

1st: \$24,000 - Full Tuition for all 3 years

2nd: \$6,000 - Awarded over 2 Years

3rd: \$3,000 - Awarded over 1 Year (*3 Awards of \$3,000*)

Available)

*Due Canada Day, Thursday, July 1, 2021, 12:00 noon, to

admissions@newman.edu or visit

www.newman.edu/essaycontest

Registering for FORMED is easier than ever:

1. Go to formed.org/signup; click the 3rd button: I belong to a parish organization.
2. Select your parish: Enter Postal Code T6E 2A6 and select St. Anthony from the dropdown menu.
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED.

THE FEAST OF ASCENSION OF OUR LORD [B]

Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23 or 4:1-13; Mk 16:15-20

Today's readings describe the Ascension of the Lord Jesus into his Heavenly glory after promising his disciples the Holy Spirit as their source of Heavenly power and commanding them to bear witness to him by their lives and preaching throughout the world. But the ascended Jesus is still with us through his indwelling Holy Spirit as he has promised, *"I am with you always to the end of time."* The feast of the Ascension tells us that the Church must be a community in mission, guided by God's Spirit and confident of God's protection even amid suffering and death.

Each Sunday we profess through the Creed, *"He ascended into Heaven."* Christ's Ascension was the culmination of God's Divine plan for Christ Jesus, his return to his Father with "Mission Accomplished." Jesus' Ascension is the grand finale of all his words and works done for us and for our salvation. It is a culmination, but not the conclusion. At the Ascension, it was the risen Jesus, whole, alive and entire, in his glorified Body that ascended. This is the Body which the disciples had touched, the Body in which Jesus had eaten and drunk with them both before and after His

Resurrection, a real, physical, but now, risen from the dead, a gloriously restored body, bearing the marks of nails and a spear. This is what now and forever, is a living, participating part of God.

The first reading gives an account of the event of the Ascension as recorded in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. First, Jesus instructed his apostles to *remain in Jerusalem and wait for the baptism by the Holy Spirit* so that they might become his *"witnesses to the ends of the earth"* by the power of the Holy Spirit. Then *a cloud took Jesus from the sight* of the disciples and two Heavenly messengers in white garments gave them the assurance of Jesus' "second coming" or return in glory.

In the second reading, Paul explains the theological meaning of Jesus' exaltation, giving us the assurance that one day; we too will be ascending to Heavenly Glory, provided we fulfill the mission entrusted to us by the ascending Lord. We will continue to receive the Divine assistance and spiritual gifts necessary for our Christian witness-bearing through the Gift of the Holy Spirit living within us.

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus ascended to Heaven after giving his final blessing and missionary command to his disciples. The command was to *proclaim the Good News to the whole creation,* "to be his witnesses," and "to make disciples of all nations." (Mt 28:16-20, Mk 16:15-20, Lk 24:46-53, Acts 1:1-11). Completing Jesus' mission should be our goal in life, and the prospect of sharing the ascended Jesus' Heavenly glory should be the driving force of our lives.

Jesus gave his disciples a mission of bearing witness to him by preaching and living the Good News. They are to tell and re-tell the story of Jesus' life, suffering, death and Resurrection, Ascension, and sending of the Holy Spirit. He assured them of the Divine assistance of the Holy Spirit in the carrying out of this mission.

St. Augustine proclaimed these words on the Feast: "Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: *'If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth.'* For just as he remained with us even after his Ascension, so we too are already in Heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies."

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives his mission to all believers: *"Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature."* This mission is not given to a select few but to all believers. To be a Christian is to be a proclaimer and an evangelizer. There is a difference between preaching and proclaiming. *"We preach with words but we proclaim with our lives."* As we celebrate the Lord's return to His Father in Heaven – His Ascension — we are being commissioned to go forth and proclaim the Gospel of life and love, of hope and peace, by the witness of our lives. On this day of hope, encouragement and commissioning, let us renew our commitment to be true disciples everywhere we go, beginning with our family and our parish, *"living in a manner worthy of the call [we] have received."* Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, says: "All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the Faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. ... Indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love."

We need to live a life of Christian Joy in the presence of the ascended Lord. Jesus is still present, present even in the pain and sorrow we undergo. That is why St. Augustine assures us, "Christ is now exalted above the Heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his Body, have to bear. He showed this when He cried out from above: 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?' (Reflections of Antony Kadavil)

"Even though I cannot personally meet and talk to each one of you, you are in my daily prayer. My deep gratitude to you for all the ways in which you help us by serving the poor alongside us, and for all your prayers and sacrifices. Your sufferings accepted in love by Jesus are the source of many graces. You are sharing wholeheartedly in all we do."

Blessed Mother Teresa