

# *People Progress*

## **Sunday Community**

May 21, 2023

The Ascension

Elizabeth Whelan

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**Virtual Liturgy at 11 AM** on Zoom.

See Brian's item on next Sunday's Pentecost Liturgy.

**Thank you, Fr. Paul McAuley** for celebrating with us.

### **Reflection:**

submitted by Lindsay and Bill Watson

"The ascension has often been portrayed in a somewhat mythological way as a gravity-defying form of levitation or the retreat of Jesus from this world to a place up, up and away." R.Rohr

Ted Schmidt has kindly provided his thoughts on this gospel -always erudite and interesting:

"Luke, of course is the author of both the gospel and Acts of the apostles, all written and reflected on 60 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. The very end of his gospel we have in chapter 24 the resurrection and in the words of Jesus "see my hands and my feet" and in typical fashion they gave him "a piece of broiled fish and he took it and ate it. "This is a metaphorical way of saying Jesus in spirit was very real and it's gospel language. It must be stated that no Roman or nonbeliever ever sees the physical Jesus alive after his crucifixion but we do believe in the resurrection. The living spirit of Jesus is alive. The gospels are faith stories written by believers for believers.

Now on this Sunday we go to the second part of Luke, the Acts of the apostles and here you have the ascension, 40 days after Easter and we see Jesus lifted up "and a cloud took them out of their sight."

Was Jesus the first astronaut?

A silly question, this is Luke's way of saying his spirit transcends space and time. We do not have to defend the cosmology of the first century heaven up, earth here, hell down below.

This is a beautiful myth and the ending is quite good, "While he was going and they were gazing upward toward heaven", a warning came from the two men in white robes, 'hey you're looking in the wrong place, he's not up there ; his spirit is here In the messiness of history. "

The take-away point is, as Richard Rohr states

“The ascended Jesus has not disappeared or been dissolved in a celestial ether, but is ever present to the faith of the church in the here-and-now of the community’s life. The ending of his particular kind of terrestrial presence has yielded to a new kind of universal presence, reaching to all places, times, and peoples. We are already in the presence of God, what is absent is awareness.

Jesus’ ascension is not a departure from his disciples and for all the disciples which forms the church in every generation. Jesus’ ascension was an expression of a new relationship with him, the risen One, that transcends physical barriers. Now, instead of accompanying us here on earth in his ministry, we are “clothed with power from on high” to be his presence and continue his mission. Jesus empowered us to be “witnesses of these things,” the wonderful things that Jesus did and said about the boundless blessings of God’s kingdom.

### **Readings:**

Today: Acts 1: 1-11    Psalm 47    Ephesians 1: 17-23    Matthew 28: 16-20  
May 28: Acts 2: 1-11    Psalm 104    I Cor 12: 3-7, 12-13    John 20: 19-23

### **The Liturgy schedule:**

Date	Planner(s)	Priest
May 21	Lindsay & Bill Watson	Fr Paul McAuley
May 28	Brian & Mary Lou Halferty	TBD
June 4	Greg Gillis	Fr Jack Costello
June 11	Sharon McCarthy	Fr Ron MacDonell
June 18	Art Blomme	Fr Jack Costello
June 25	Maryanne S-J & Roberto J	Fr Paul McAuley

This schedule, as always, is flexible. Planners, feel free to switch if you cannot do a liturgy on the scheduled date. Just be sure to tell the People Progress Reporter, so that we all know. Also, please notify PP early in the week (by the Tuesday before) if you cannot do a reflection.

For now, all liturgies will be on Zoom.

### **People Progress Schedule**

May: Elizabeth Whelan [erwhelan@icloud.com](mailto:erwhelan@icloud.com)  
June: John MacMillan  
Summer: Maryanne S-J and Roberto J  
Sept: Mary Lou Jorgensen-Bacher

Please send your submissions to the People Progress Reporter by Thursday evening. People Progress welcomes new reporters. Thanks, Elizabeth.

## *Announcements:*

### **PENTECOST SUNDAY, May 28<sup>th</sup>:**

Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday. It is also a day when we do not have a priest scheduled to celebrate the Eucharist with our Sunday Community. Mary Lou and I have agreed to coordinate the liturgy for that day, and I am also going to be leading the music. Here is an outline of what we are planning for our Pentecost liturgy.

Pentecost is an important feast day in our Church. It celebrates the amazing truth of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the presence of the Spirit of God in each of us, and in the community that we share, and in the whole of Creation. The liturgy we are planning for that day will be centered around the scripture readings for the Mass of the day. We will also take time to reflect on the readings together, first of all through the words of some members of the community who will be invited to speak, and then with a bit of time for spontaneous reflections. There will be music throughout the liturgy, as we usually do; there will be prayers of intention; there will be a greeting of Peace.

If it should happen between now and May 28<sup>th</sup> that a priest is going to be available to be with us on Pentecost, the liturgy preparations we are doing can easily be turned into the usual Eucharistic celebration. However, let us remember that when we gather as a Christian community, we are the Body of Christ – the living Eucharist.

Brian Halferty

- Thank you for your response, Pat. I'm glad the larger type font helped!
- **Egg cartons:** Please continue to save your empty egg cartons for Elizabeth Stocking. She welcomes cartons and flats. You can deliver them to Elizabeth Whelan's house, and Elizabeth Stocking will pick them up. She thanks everyone who has contributed them.

### **May Birthdays: Happy Birthday to**

1 Janette McCabe

21 Simon Paul

3 Gregory Wright

21 Mary Sobanski

5 Lee Piepgrass

5 Nathan Gillis

5 Al Sobanski

8 John MacMillan

10 Tanya MacMillan

20 Angela Blomme

21 Sara MacMillan

24 Art Mayer

24 Daniel Mayer

26 Mary Lou Jorgensen-Bacher

26 Brian Shaughnessy

27 Maria Pimentel

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Re-printed weekly for reference:

**Duties of liturgy planners for virtual masses:**

Early in the week before the liturgy:

- Call or email the priest to confirm Sunday's liturgy (contact info will be provided).
- Prepare or find a Reflection and send it to the People Progress reporter by Thursday. Please notify the People Progress reporter early in the week if you cannot do a Reflection.
- Select readers for the 1st and 2nd readings. Check with Sylvia Skrepichuk re: psalm

On the Sunday of the virtual mass:

- Greet the group (Ask newcomers to introduce themselves)
- Give a brief introduction to the liturgy.
- Read your passage or be prepared to do a reading (if a volunteer is unable to log-in)
- Thank everyone who 'attended' and those who helped (at Announcements)