

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. Seventh Sunday of Easter – June 2, 2019

Our Humanity Has Entered Heaven

Readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9; Ephesians 1:17–23 or Hebrews 9:24–28; 10:19–23; Luke 24:46–53

In today's First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, 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**).

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. To live divine life we must receive the Holy Spirit. To receive the Holy Spirit we must be purified.

The 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 Paschal note. In the early Church, Easter was the normal time for the baptism of adult converts. The sacrament was often called "illumination" or "enlightenment" because of the light that came with God's saving grace. Saint Paul, 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 Ascension. It's the good news we must spread today.

Father Blake Evans, Pastor



Congratulations to this year's Confirmation Class!

*Amaechi Azubike, *Ejai Barnes, *Stella Cammack, *Zahn Castor, *Diana Garcia, *Sydney Horge, *Chiamaka Irika, *Gladis Jiron, *Langston Johnson, *Lauren Johnson, *Grace Kao, *Ivan Quintanilla, *Jose Munguia.

Let us pray for our Confirmands that they will live as faithful disciples of Jesus, approach the sacraments often and with great faith, and let the Light of Christ shine through them into this world.

Father Ebuka's First Mass! June 16th is Father E's first Mass at Nativity at 10 am. 300 guests will be attending. A reception follows Mass in the Colonnade Room. **ALL** parish ministries are expected to attend the Mass. Reception goal \$2,000, so far, we have \$1,000. ALL donations are welcome! Please write in your check "donation for Fr. Ebuka's reception". Thank you!



FR. EBUKA'S RECEPTION

Sunday, June 16th a reception will be held in the Colonnade Room after the 1st. Mass for Father Ebuka. We need: door greeters, servers, hospitality roamers, and meal servers for seniors and persons with disabilities. No heavy lifting required. For additional info, or to volunteer, please contact either Amado at acajr2@gmail.com or Laura at (202) 726-6262 or lauraj@nativitychurch.net

Mass Intentions

June 1 - 8, 2019

Sat. 6/1	8:00 am	Howard Weinstein (healing)
	5:30 pm	Nativity: Confirmands
Sun. 6/2	8:00am	People of the Parish
	10:00am	+Maria Dessin
	1:00pm	Nativity: Confirmands
Mon. 6/3	12:00	Dam & Jean Tan & family
Tue. 6/4	12:00	Peter Joyal
Wed. 6/5	12:00	+Odette Henry Alexandre-Alixis
Thu. 6/6	12:00	+Deceased parishioners
Fri. 6/7	12:00	+Mr. & Mrs. Ector L. Evans & children
Sat. 6/8	8:00 am	+Glysaa Villacorta
	5:30 pm	+Patricia Hallman

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

*Alice R. Allen, *Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Catherine Baum, *Marie Blackmon, *Ann Butler, *Carmen Dolores Campos, *Eileen Carroll-Doshier, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Maurice & Flora Detiege *Kevin Fagan, *Isel Fitzgerald, *Linda Foster, *Fr. Ricky Gancayo, *Charlie Gick, *Fr. Paul Grauls, SDB, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, * Sydney Horge, *Francis Howard, *James Humphries, *Elaine Hunt, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Irene Jimenez, *Geraldine Jones, *Charles Johnson, *Manuel Juarez, *Odile Kalla, *Michael Kelly, *Busara Keneddy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Emilio Lowey, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, *Theresa McNair, *Edith Mebane, *Maria Magdalena Medrano, *Agnes Moore, *Iris Newman, *Larry Morris, *Everett Pearson, *D. Cynhia Peters, *James Pope, *Dorothy Richburg, *Fr. Vince Rigdon, *Auristela Roman, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Robert Schaeffer, *Andre Sims, *Bonafacio Selayo *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Bernadette Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Louise Sweatt, *Suzie Thompson, *Dominic Valentine, *Dorothy Waring, *Paul Williams, *Florentina Zoretta.

Almighty and Eternal God, You are the everlasting health of those who believe in You. Hear us for Your sick servant (N...) for whom we implore the aid of Your tender mercy, that being restored to bodily health, he (she) may give thanks to You in Your Church. Through Christ our Lord.

Question of the week: How can I imitate the love of God? What concrete action can I take to show God's love to my neighbor?

Report

5/26/19

Attendance:	309 souls
Offerings & Tithes:	\$4,468
Spanish Mass:	\$420
Utility fund:	\$85
A/C Repair:	\$1,700

For those who tithe and give regularly thank you! For those who do not please prayerfully consider giving a sacrificial gift to keep your Nativity parish home strong and alive. Your ADW taxes help support the St. Anthony school in NE Washington and many other regional schools.

A/C Repairs - The Church A/C has been broken for the back for 2 years. Fr. Evans received \$1,700 to repair it. The total cost is \$20,000. ANY and all donations are appreciated do NOT put them in the collection. The word DONATION should be in the memo of your check. You can mail or bring to the Rectory or present it to Father Evans.

YOUTH FAITH AND FUN DAY. Due to some schedule conflicts, this event is cancelled.



Summer Camp 2019

High School young men: Where are you going?

Qua vadis camp is run by priest and seminarians of the archdiocese, includes mass, great talks, sports, eucharistic adoration, games, food, and time to relax with other young men discerning God's will in their live.

July 28-31 at Mount St. Mary Seminary. Register now at dcpriest.org

Summer camps for young people. Fr. Andrew Gronotte, from Our Lady of Bethesda Center, will be leading several camps near us.

Visit: <https://conquestyouthministry.com/camps/>