



Stairway to Heaven

MIGUEL DULICK

Even by the Ascension, after forty days of eating and drinking with the resurrected Lord, the obtuseness of the Apostles still frustrates Jesus. In Acts, they're ready for a fight, "to restore the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6). Matthew reports that "they worshiped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:17). Pentecost cannot come soon enough, when they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and all will be made known.

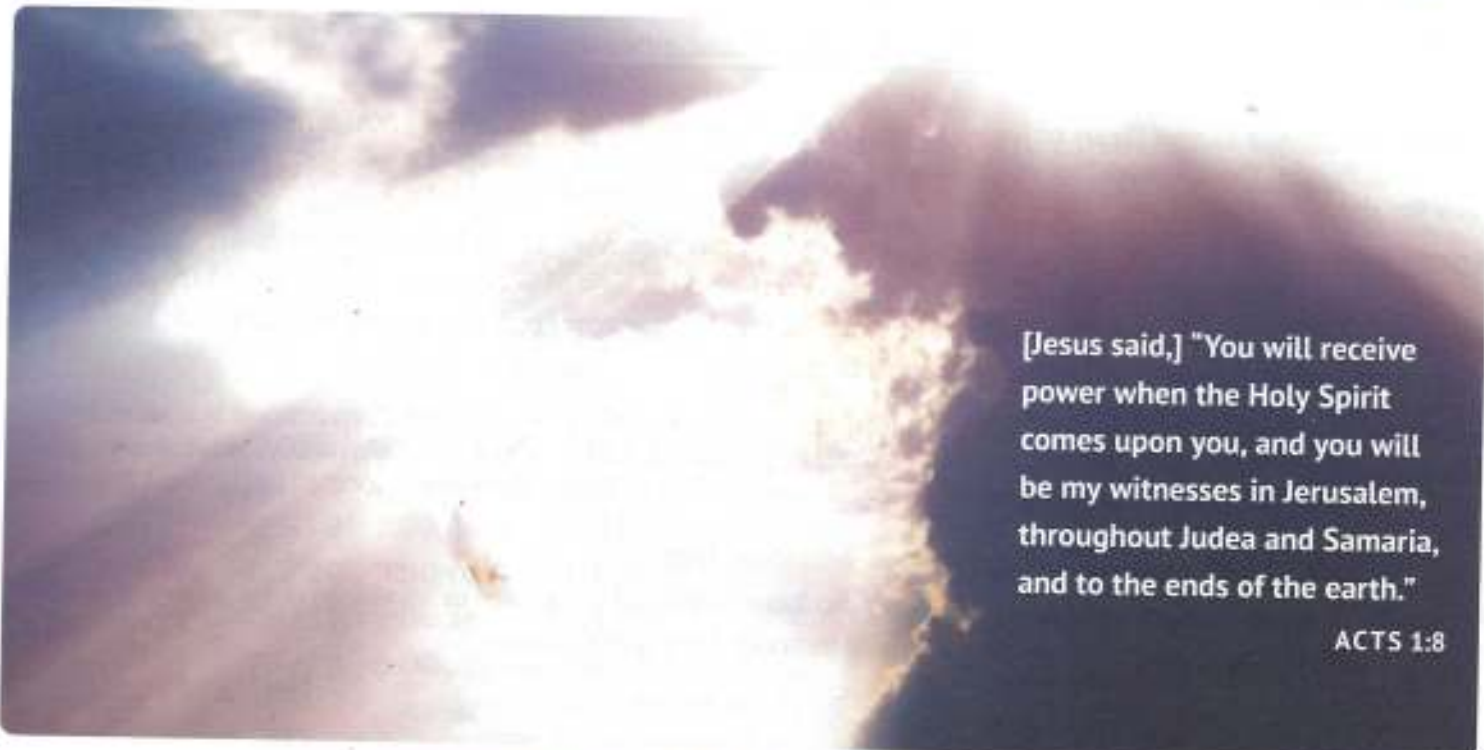
So the next nine days are crucial. The apostles and other disciples, 120 persons in all, prepare for the arrival of the Holy Spirit, a spiritual retreat, the original "novena." Only then can the apostle go and "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus, who brought heaven down to earth in the Incarnation, now ascends, taking earth up to heaven, with his resurrection. Saint Paul gives us a hint of how special this interchange is when he wishes for the Ephesians to receive from Jesus "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation" (Ephesians 1:17).

Our own obtuseness can block the Holy Spirit when we think we have all the answers. When I first preached in Honduras, in the village where I live, I was so prepared. I said everything I could think of, all that I had learned in my courses for a masters degree in divinity. But then, when I heard the prayers and insights of poor and simple folks, supported by a rich, personal knowledge of the Lord himself, I cut my sermons in half and let the "saints," as St. Paul liked to call the people, finish the job. Thank you, Holy Spirit! ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY



[Jesus said,] "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8

Reflect

How can I better cooperate with the Holy Spirit?

ST. BARBARA PARISH

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St. Thomas More Site

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL



Holy Trinity Site

Parish Office

212 S Main Street
PO BOX 159
Cherry IL

Adoration Room at STM Site

Open Daily from 9 am-6 pm

Confession Info

Saturday morning, alternating
between STM Site & HT Site
in the Confessional between
10:30 am-11:15am

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Melissa Pasillas

Office Hours at HT site: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com



E-giving is a great way to continue supporting your church, especially during the busy summer months. To sign up, visiting our website, "bureaucatholic.org"; scroll down on home page to "Please Consider Our Online Giving" on the right side. If you need help, contact the church office.

St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of May 18, 2026

Monday	05/18			† No Mass
Tuesday	05/19	9:00 am	STM Site	† Clifford Sondgeroth
Wednesday	05/20	5:30 pm	HT Site	† Michael Campbell
Thursday	05/21	9:00 am	HT Site	† Bill Pozzi Sr.
Friday	05/22	9:00 am	STM Site	† June & Alex Wiltse

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of May 23 – 24, 2026

Saturday	05/23	4:00 pm	ST. Thomas More Site	† Gene & Josie Weberski
Sunday	05/24	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† For the Parishioners

The Ascension of Jesus – Our Joy and Hope

The feast of the Ascension takes place ten days before Pentecost; this duration of time takes on a special anticipation of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Customarily the feast of the Ascension should take place on May 14th of this year. However, for most Catholics in the United States, this feast is transferred to the following Sunday, including churches in the Diocese of Peoria.

The story of Jesus' Ascension is told in the Acts of the Apostles (1:1-11). After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to His followers during the ensuing 40 days and prepared them to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. He commissions His followers to spread the good news to the ends of the earth, and promises His Spirit as a helper and advocate.



After this promise, "He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9). His followers are left behind, looking up at where He went, and then two figures appear and say, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen Him going into heaven."

Jesus' Ascension reminds us of our own destiny. He came and joined our human condition; after being crucified and buried, Jesus was resurrected and ascended into heaven, so this pathway is now open to us. The feast today reveals to us our destiny as followers of Jesus: eternal life in union with God. We remember what happened to Jesus over 2,000 years ago so that today we might have hope that sustains us in our Christian journey of discipleship.

On this feast of the Ascension of our Lord, let us have hope in our own exaltation and persevere in discipleship.

(Excerpted from "faith.nd.edu")

Church Announcements

Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus: As part of the ongoing celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Peoria, the consecrating of the diocese to the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be on June 12, 2026 with a Mass for the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - at The Cathedral of Saint Mary, Peoria at 5 p.m.

Novena with Our Lady's Beatitudes: Our Lady's Beatitudes starts on May 18 with Hallow! Each day, Bishop Lou will incorporate words from Fulton Sheen, who often reflected on how to become more holy like Mary. To start praying sign up using the code: PeoriaFree2627 on the site: Hallow.com/redeem. Follow and complete the prompts to redeem your complimentary subscription!

Send Your Priest a Thank You: This will be shared at the Priest Convocation in June! Convocation is a sacred time for your priests to step away from the demands of parish life and be renewed - spiritually, emotionally, and physically. You can help make this time of renewal possible. Please take a flyer home located at the back of the church.

Memorial Day

Remember & honor the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives in service to our country. It is a day to reflect on their sacrifice and to honor their memory with gratitude.

Latest Offering's
May 10th Weekend
St. Barbara Parish
Total Collections:
\$2,280.00



Next Confessions
Confession will be
Sat. May 23rd
10:30 am-11:15 am
STM Site
in the confessional

Dear Padre,

I am scared of the end times and predictions of these dates. I feel saved, but I don't truly know if I would be accepted into heaven. What are the Catholic teachings on the end times/rapture?

No one but our heavenly Father knows the precise time of our Lord's return. (See Mark 13:32-37.) If this uncertainty about when Jesus will return evokes more apprehension than anticipation, it doesn't help that prophets of doom make predictions based on a distorted understanding of apocalyptic literature in the Bible. An example of this literary form includes the Book of Revelation. It contains elements of a final judgment and cosmic struggle between good and evil written in highly symbolic and imaginative language; however, it wasn't intended to provide a literal description or timeline of how the world ends. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, St. Paul also uses apocalyptic imagery to say that all the faithful will be "caught up" ("rapt up") to meet the Lord at his Coming. Some use this single text to vividly imagine true believers being "raptured" from the earth and escaping the destruction of humankind at the end times, but it's a misinterpretation. For Catholics, these apocalyptic passages offer hope and guidance: despite the powerful forces of evil, Christ will overcome. His death and resurrection already ushered in the last age. We don't know how long this age will last before the final consummation, hence the need to be watchful and prepared. ●



SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Where are you...when the poor are blamed for their poverty, forgotten and discarded, in a world that values profit more than people? [W]here are you in a hyper-connected life where loneliness corrodes social bonds and makes us strangers even to ourselves?...

Fraternity...means rediscovering the face of the other...the very image of God in the face of the poor, the refugee, and even the adversary.

ADDRESS TO MEETING
ON FRATERNITY, ROME,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2025



SHUTTERSTOCK

Monday

May 18

Easter Weekday

Acts 19:1-8

Jn 16:29-33

Thursday

May 21

Easter Weekday

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

Jn 17:20-26

Saturday

May 23

Easter Weekday

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31

Jn 21:20-25

Tuesday

May 19

Easter Weekday

Acts 20:17-27

Jn 17:1-11a

Friday

May 22

Easter Weekday

Acts 25:13b-21

Jn 21:15-19

Sunday

May 24

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11

1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

Jn 20:19-23

Wednesday

May 20

Easter Weekday

Acts 20:28-38

Jn 17:11b-19