



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 28, 2017

Seventh Sunday of Easter (A)/  
Ascension of the Lord

Seventh Sunday: Acts 1:12-14,  
1 Pt 4:13-16, Jn 17:1-11a

Ascension: Acts 1:1-11,  
Eph 1:17-23, Mt 28:16-20

Piece: *Ascension*, circa 1492  
Artist: Pinturicchio and assistants  
Location: Borgia Apartments,  
Hall of the Mysteries of the Faith,  
Vatican Museums



## Truth Revealed

Pinturicchio's *Ascension* wall painting is found in the apartments of Pope Alexander VI Borgia and was painted around the same time as one of Columbus' voyages to America: 1492. When the pope died in 1503, these rooms were shut and not opened again until 1889. How could such artistic treasures have been locked up and forgotten for 400 years?

The same thing can happen with the feast of the Ascension. We don't always give it much thought. Its powerful beauty is locked away, collecting dust.

The great truth revealed today is that Jesus is in heaven, in bodily form, seated at the right hand of the Father and watching over us all. From there he intercedes for us; from there he sends us on mission.

What are we to do with this truth? Treat it like a myth or ancient story? Just stare at the sky and wonder like the apostles? No, we are to get busy building God's kingdom. His kingdom will not automatically happen. He calls us to be his witnesses until the end of the earth. We cannot sit by and let our politics, our schools, our churches, and our arts evolve unguided by the gospel. We are called to roll up our sleeves and get involved. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). Remember the good administrator who was left some talents. His master went away only to eventually return asking for a rendering. Jesus has left only to return again. Until then, it's time to build his kingdom.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

### *For Reflection*

*How do I accept the responsibility of actively building up God's kingdom?*

*How can I showcase the truth of the ascension in my life?*

*"And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body"  
(Ephesians 1:22-23).*

## Calendar

### Monday

May 29

#### Easter Weekday

Acts 19:1-8

Jn 16:29-33

### Tuesday

May 30

#### Easter Weekday

Acts 20:17-27

Jn 17:1-11a

### Wednesday

May 31

#### The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Zep 3:13-18a or

Rom 12:9-16

Lk 1:39-56

### Thursday

June 1

St. Justin,

Martyr

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

Jn 17:20-26

### Friday

June 2

#### Easter Weekday

Acts 25:13b-21

Jn 21:15-19

### Saturday

June 3

St. Charles Lwanga

and Companions,

Martyrs

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31

Jn 21:20-25

### Sunday

June 4

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11

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

Jn 20:19-23

# Dear Padre,

## What is “secularism,” and is it possible for a Christian to also be a secularist?

Secularism is a philosophical movement that has its roots in England in the 1850s. The movement began because some felt religion and the Bible were inadequate sources for explaining many aspects of modern life. Secularists believe you can find all motivation for living a moral life in what is readily observable. Thus, secularism sees the Christian religion, and in fact all religions, as worthless.

Some might argue that secularism is the same as the separation of Church and state, that public schools should give a secular education, that they shouldn't be teaching the Christian, or any, religion. At first glance, that may sound right, but it isn't.

A Catholic second-grade public school teacher should not teach Catholic doctrine to her class in the same way that a Baptist second-grade public school teacher should not teach Baptist doctrine to his class, but the faith of the Catholic or the Baptist should influence the way they teach their class.

They might not teach specific doctrine, but the way each approaches the class should be done as one who has faith in Jesus Christ. The same is true of a politician or someone who works at a fast-food restaurant. In implicit ways, our faith in Jesus should always influence what we say and do.

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ERMOLAEV ALEXANDER/SUTTERSTOCK



### *A Word From Pope Francis*

*“Don't forget this! The Ascension of Jesus into heaven 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.”*

—General audience, April 17, 2013