

# Fr. Simon Sez

**Memorial Day Mass:** We will have 8:30 am Mass on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2022, in Sacred Heart Church for all deceased veterans. Have a happy and safe Memorial Day this weekend!

## **New this Year - Youth Nights**

**June 1-3!:** Please see the announcements for Summer YFF and Youth Nights in the bulletin pages for our parishes. We are blessed to have Olivia Mikkelsen,



Neva Mikkelsen and Reagan Brown offering these opportunities starting this Tuesday using the theme “Anchored in God’s Love.” I encourage our coming 6-12 graders in both parishes to check out Youth Nights!

**Diocese of Sioux Falls Priesthood Ordination:** We congratulate Fr. Nicholas Haiar, Fr. Mitchell McLaughlin, and Fr. Zachary Schaeftbauer on their priesthood ordinations we celebrated last Friday, May 27, 2022. Along with them, we give thanks to Almighty God for these gifts of priests to the universal Church and our local Church, the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls. We thank His Excellency Bishop Donald DeGrood, the Vocations Office and seminaries, their parents and families, and all other faithful friends and loving people who supported them with their encouragement and prayers. We thank all of their benefactors, including the Catholic Family Sharing Appeal (CFSA) and the Bishop’s Charity Fishing Tournaments that help fund seminarian education.

**Funeral Notice for Gertrude Mangan:** Gertrude Mangan, mother to Monsignor Charles Mangan, died unexpectedly. She was a resident in Mother Joseph Manor in Aberdeen. A wake service and rosary will be prayed this Thursday, June 2 at Schriver’s Memorial Mortuary 7:00 pm in Aberdeen. A visitation will be held starting at 5 pm with the family present. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 am Friday, June 3, First Friday, at Sacred Heart Church in Aberdeen. (Msgr. Charles Mangan was previously assigned to our parishes.)

The Good News: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Ascension of the Lord



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).

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). The 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” because of the light that came with God’s saving grace (see, for example, Hebrews 10:32). 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 Ascension. It’s the good news we must spread today.