

# Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord



St. Charles Catholic Church  
Liturgy of the Word with Children  
Family Reflection for  
May 21, 2023 The Ascension of the Lord

## Family Prayer:

Loving Father, you sent Christ your Son to be our Savior. May we continue his mission and share the message of your love with the world. Amen.

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

*Christ is Always with Us*

### Reflection:

For forty days after his resurrection, Jesus Christ would appear to his apostles. Before Jesus finally ascended to his Father, he told them to do something very important: to go make disciples of all nations. Jesus had been walking with and teaching his disciples for three years, preparing them for this moment. With Jesus no longer walking on the earth, it was up to all the disciples to spread his love and message. What Jesus asked of his disciples is what he also asks of us. We are called to go make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Jesus assures us that he will be with us always.

The ending of Matthew's Gospel can be understood as the beginning of the Church. Jesus commissions his disciples to continue to teach in his name and to bring others into the community of disciples through baptism. The Gospel ends, as it had begun, with the promise that Jesus will continue to be Emmanuel, "God with us" (cf. Matthew 1:23), for all eternity.

The mission of Jesus is continued today through the Church and Christians everywhere under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Everyone who helps us to understand what it means to be a Christian is doing what Jesus told his first disciples to do.

## Family Activities:

\* Take turns playing the role of a news reporter who has just witnessed Christ's Ascension into heaven. Announce what happened and where it happened. Report what Jesus said and promised. Share how you are feeling witnessing such an event.

\* On a half sheet of paper, have each family member write down three or more qualities they have that shows the world God's love. Family members may have qualities of a leader, a good friend, a problem solver, a hard worker, a good cook, or a comedian. They may be kind, gentle, strong, caring, assertive, honest, responsible, loyal, creative, patient, trustworthy, optimistic, friendly, or forgiving. Each person decorates the paper with the written qualities and hangs it in a central place. Let it be a daily remind to use these gifts to spread God's love to others. Each evening, gather as a family to report how you shared your gifts for the greater glory of God.

## Discuss these questions as a family:

\*What does it mean to ascend?

\* What very important mission did Jesus give to his disciples?

\* How do Christians today continue Christ's mission of sharing the Gospel with the world? How is Jesus with you today, in your heart and mind?

\* The Ascension is the second Glorious Mystery of the Rosary. As a family, pray this mystery together. Start by reading the Gospel of Matthew 28:16-20. Pray one Our Father, ten Hail Mary prayers, and finish with the Glory Be.

