

**St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes**  
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**May 16, 2021**

**Ascension of the Lord**

**From the Knights of Columbus publication, Knightline**

# **5 TAKEAWAYS FROM CHRIST'S 'TAKEN UP'**

**Jesus' Ascension was more than a return trip to  
heaven**

**By Gerald Korson 5/20/2020**



The fresco of Ascension of Jesus in kostel Svatého Václava in Prague by S. G. Rudl (1900).  
(*GettyImages*)

The feast of the Ascension is an observance that does not seem to generate a lot of hoopla. But it should.

The Ascension is not simply Jesus' way of getting back to the Father. There's a lot more significance to the event in the life of Christ — and to the life of the Church.

Here are five takeaways as to why Jesus was “taken up” to heaven and what resulted from his Ascension.

### **1. He opened heaven to our human nature**

By his bodily Resurrection and Ascension, Jesus brought his human nature into heaven and “opened the gates of heaven” for us. Just as by his rising from the dead he became “the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Cor 15:20), so by ascending to heaven he became the first fruits of humanity to enter there.

This means that the just who had died before him were finally able to enter heaven. When Jesus died, he descended into “hell” — not the eternal hell, but “sheol,” the “abode of the dead,” where all who had died then resided. There Jesus preached to these souls, and those who believed in him were saved.

Since his Ascension, all who die are subject to particular judgment at death and immediately go to heaven, purgatory or hell. As he told his apostles, “When I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (Jn 4:3). Because he ascended with his human nature, we have a pathway to enter heaven too.

### **2. He would send the Holy Spirit**

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, to his apostles. The Holy Spirit would bear witness to him, dwell within them and “teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (Jn 14:26).

But Christ had to ascend to heaven to make this happen. He told them that “if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you” (Jn 16:7). That is what happened at Pentecost, ten days after the Ascension, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles in the Upper Room and inspired them to go out boldly to preach the Gospel.

### **3. The work of the Church had to begin**

Just before he ascended, Jesus gave his apostles the great commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19).

He had already given them the authority to celebrate the Eucharist and to forgive sins, and had instructed them to return to Jerusalem to await the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit came, on Pentecost, the evangelizing mission of the Church began, and some 3,000 were baptized that day.

The fledgling Church needed the power of the Holy Spirit, and Jesus had to ascend in order for the Holy Spirit to come upon the Church.

#### **4. He remains present in the world in a new way**

Even after the Ascension, Jesus is with us. The Church recognizes his presence in the Church, in the hearts of his faithful, in the sacraments, in Scripture and wherever his faithful are gathered. That's a mystical or spiritual presence. But his Real Presence — his body, blood, soul and divinity — remains with us in the Eucharist itself, in the elements of bread and wine consecrated by the priest. Jesus ascended to heaven, but his promise to remain with us is fulfilled most perfectly in the Eucharist.

#### **5. Jesus ascended to return at the end of time**

The work of the Church begun at Pentecost will not be completed until Christ returns in power at the final judgment. As the angel told the apostles as they stood staring into the sky after Jesus' Ascension, "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

That's something to reflect on as we celebrate the feast of the Ascension.

*Gerald Korson, a veteran Catholic journalist, is a member of the Knights of Columbus in Indiana.*

*Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the May 29, 2020 issue of Knightline and has been lightly edited for this publication.*

### **40th Anniversary of the Assassination Attempt on St. John Paul II**

One of the most impactful pontificates in history, strongly supported by the Knights, was almost cut short less than two years after it began. [READ MORE](#)

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**Enduring Faith: The Story of Native American Catholicism**

To begin to understand what it means to be a Catholic in North America, one needs an appreciation for the many Indigenous communities throughout the continent who were practicing their faith centuries before the founding of the United States.

The new K of C-produced documentary *Enduring Faith: The Story of Native American Catholicism* explores the rich contributions that Indigenous people have made to the Church across several centuries, while examining how Christ reveals himself through the uniqueness of every culture.

Beginning May 16, the film will air on ABC affiliated stations across the United States. To view the complete broadcast schedule, [click here](#).

### [WATCH TRAILER](#)

#### **Men Share Their Stories of Becoming Knights**

In these videos, Knights explain what attracted them to the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization.

- In Jared Zimmerer's adult years, he found that he lost the sense of brotherhood that he previously had with Catholic men. That's when he realized the Knights of Columbus offered "a vast amount of opportunities not only for men but for their families to live and grow in the faith together." [WATCH](#)
- When Jeremy Gay learned about the opportunity to join the Knights of Columbus at his parish, the call to be a man of action and to participate in his community was "a natural choice." [WATCH](#)

***Share these videos with a Catholic man you know, and let him know that through June 30 he can join the Order for free using promo code MCGIVNEY2020 at [kofc.org/join](https://kofc.org/join).***

#### **Tell others about *Knightline***

Forward this newsletter to Catholic men interested in the Knights, and let them know that through June 30 they can become a member for free online using promo code **MCGIVNEY2020** at [kofc.org/join](https://kofc.org/join). You can also share your questions, [feedback and story by emailing \[knightline@kofc.org\]\(mailto:knightline@kofc.org\)](mailto:knightline@kofc.org).

Any links to third-party sites outside of the Knights of Columbus are provided for information purposes only. This is not an endorsement of the service providers. Share questions and feedback by emailing [knightline@kofc.org](mailto:knightline@kofc.org).

## **The Ascension**

The death of a member of his family or of a loved friend, must be the saddest event imaginable in the life of an atheist. He is one who really is convinced that there is no God, no future life and therefore that the relative or friend is to turn into dust in the grave, never to be met with again. The thought that every day that passes is bringing him too nearer to that same sad fate, death, which will be the end of all his ambitions, all his enjoyments, the end of everything he thought he was or had, must be something hard to live with.



Thank God, we have the good fortune to know, and reason and faith convince us of this truth, that death is not the end of man. It is rather the real beginning. Today's feast—the Ascension of our Lord in his human nature—to his Father's and our Father's home, is the confirmation and the guarantee of this doctrine of our faith. We shall all rise from the grave with new, glorified bodies and ascend to heaven, as Christ did. There we'll begin our true life of eternal happiness.

While it is true that even for good Christians the death of a beloved one is a cause of sorrow and tears, this is natural as we still are of the earth earthly. Yet the certitude that our beloved one has gone to his true life and will be there to meet us when our turn comes, is always at the back of our minds to console and comfort us. What all human beings want is to live on forever with our dear ones. Death breaks that continuity but only for a little while. That break is necessary for the new life to begin.

It is only in heaven that this natural desire of an unending life with all those we love can be realized and death on earth is the door to that eternal life.

Look up to heaven today. See Christ ascending to his Father and our Father. Say : Thank you, God, for creating me, and for giving me, through the Incarnation of your beloved Son, the possibility and the assurance that if I do my part here, when death comes it will not be an enemy but a friend, to speed me on my way to the true, supernatural life which you have, in your love, planned and prepared for me.

It was written, and foretold, that Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory. The servant is not above the Master. I too must suffer. I too must accept the hardships and the trials of this life, if I want, and I do, to enter into the life of glory. Christ, who was

sinless, suffered hardship and pain. I have earned many, if not all of my hardships, by my own sins. I should be glad of the opportunity to make some atonement for my past offenses, by willingly accepting the crosses he sends me. These crosses are signs of God's interest in my true welfare. Through him he is giving me a chance to prepare myself for the day of reckoning, for the moment of my death which will decide my eternal future. For every prayer I say for success in life, I should say three for a successful death, a death free from sin and at peace with God.

Excepted from *The Sunday Readings*, Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

### **Sacrament of Baptism**

**please call:**

**Rev. John Yake, I.V. Dei  
902-535-2231**

Instructors for baptism:

Mary Fougere, SJB 902) 535-2699

Rose Pâté, SP (902) 302-7011

Vera Doucette, HGA (902) 785-4018

### **Sacrament of Matrimony**

Please call Fr. Yake six months prior to the wedding date.

### **Pre-Marriage Program**

**May 29, 2021**

Offered by Family Service of Eastern Nova Scotia, Glace Bay.

Register by phone: 902-849-4772

For more information, contact:

Tasia Boucher

EAP/Pre-Marriage Program Coordinator & Admin Support

[tboucher@fsens.ns.ca](mailto:tboucher@fsens.ns.ca)

Website: <http://ensfamilyservice.ca/>

### **Weekday Liturgy**

**Please note: Mass intentions should be arranged with Mary at office.**

**May 16, 2021 receipts (HGA only)**

## **Holy Guardian Angels**

Envelopes & Loose \$661.00

**Total** **\$661.00**

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RAFFLE**

**The Knights of Columbus** is happy to announce that all tickets for May 31, 2021 raffle have been sold. Thank you to everyone.

**Please call the office** when covid-19 restrictions are lifted to reschedule Masses that were missed during closure.

### **Facebook Live with Fr Patrick O’Neill and John Ratchford**

#### **Sundays at 7 pm**

Fr. Patrick and John will host a 30-minute presentation of spirituality, talks and taking questions from viewers. Fr. Patrick is pastor of Our Lady of Fatima, Sydney River, as well as producer of Mass for Shut-Ins and chaplain for the Canadian Armed Forces and CBRM police. John Ratchford is a renowned photographer from North Sydney who has shared his personal experiences of faith and mental illness as part of our Youth Ministry Let’s Talk events in 2020 and 2021.

#### **To view the livestream:**

<https://www.facebook.com/frpatrick.oneill>

### **From EWTN**

Given all that we face in the world today, do you believe it’s possible to live a saintly life?

Meet Blessed Carlo Acutis. Born in 1991, he is the first Millennial to be named “Blessed” in the Church.

We invite you to watch *I Am With You* – an EWTN Original Documentary that will introduce you to his amazing life and help you to better understand, live, and share your own faith.

From May 1–31, we are making this available Free and On Demand. Simply [sign up](#). In addition to sending you access to the documentary, which you can view at your convenience, we will also

send you the eBook bundle: *Seven Lessons in Holiness from Blessed Carlo Acutis* and *The Twelve Stations of the Most Holy Eucharist*. The Eucharist was central to Carlo's life and gave him the strength to live the life of a saint.

To watch the documentary, *I Am With You*, free On Demand and to receive these two free eBooks, visit [ewtn.com/carloacutis](http://ewtn.com/carloacutis). Hurry because this offer ends on May 31.

May God bless you.

In Christ,

Your EWTN Family

## **Letter from Bishop Kirkpatrick**

May 6, 2021 (St. Francois de Laval)

My Dear People,

Today is the Feast of St. Francois de Laval, the first bishop of Canada and the patron of Canadian bishops, an outstanding educator whose spiritual presence was widespread. It is on this day that a new third-party service for reporting situations of sexual abuse either committed or covered-up by a bishop has become available in our diocese and across Canada.

The *Canadian Reporting System for Sexual Abuse or Cover-up by a Catholic Bishop* is now linked to our website. Link and details are available at [antigonishdiocese.com/responsible](http://antigonishdiocese.com/responsible) ministry.

Individuals can access the reporting system online ([BishopReportingSystem.ca](http://BishopReportingSystem.ca)) or via a toll-free number (1-866-892-3737) from anywhere in Canada, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in English or French. The system operates on a confidential, secure platform developed by ClearView Strategic Partners, allowing users to remain anonymous if they so choose, and ensuring all communications are documented and preserved.

The system is a direct response to Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter entitled [Vos estis lux mundi](#) (You are the light of the world). In this Letter, the Pope calls on dioceses throughout the world to establish "...one or more public, stable and easily accessible systems for submission of reports..." and standardizes the procedure for handling allegations. The reporting system for Bishops introduces an additional level of accountability for Church leadership in Canada to address reports according to both Church and civil law, alongside the existing diocesan protocols for reporting and responding to sexual abuse or other sexual misconduct by priests, deacons, religious, and mandated lay pastoral personnel. We welcome this system as part of our Responsible Ministry, because of Pope Francis' call and because it supports our efforts for safety and transparency, ensuring bishops themselves are accountable as are clergy, religious and laity working in our diocese.

Graphics and Questions and Answers to help spread awareness of this new system are available from our website, or from our Communications Officer, Jennifer Hatt, [Jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca](mailto:Jennifer@dioceseofantigonish.ca)

To learn more about the *Canadian Reporting System for Sexual Abuse or Cover-up by a Catholic Bishop*, please visit [www.antigonishdiocese.com/NewReportingSystem](http://www.antigonishdiocese.com/NewReportingSystem)

*For details on Responsible Ministry protocols for the Diocese of Antigonish:*

[www.antigonishdiocese.com/ResponsibleMinistry](http://www.antigonishdiocese.com/ResponsibleMinistry)

*To read Vos Estis Lux Mundi, the letter of Pope Francis:*

[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu\\_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190507\\_vos-estis-lux-mundi.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190507_vos-estis-lux-mundi.html)

Fraternally,

+ Wayne Kirkpatrick

(Most Rev.) Wayne Kirkpatrick

### **Year of 'Amoris Laetitia Family'**

**March 19, 2021 - June 22, 2022**

March 19 was the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the joy and beauty of family love and the start of the year 'Amoris Laetitia Family', a 15-month journey leading to the 10<sup>th</sup> World Meeting of Families in Rome, June 2022.

#### **Read *Amoris Laetitia* on Our Bookshelf:**

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/bookshelf/>

"The gift shop at the Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine in Mabou will open on Saturday May 1st The hours and days are as follows: We look forward to opening the gift shop at Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine on Saturday, May 1st Hours are from 1:00 to 4:00 pm daily. On Saturday, May 22nd the hours will be 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Saturday and 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday. The Shrine is open daily for visitation as it has been all winter There is public health protocol in place in both the Shrine and the gift shop.

If you have any inquiries, please call 902-945-2221."

Thank-you Betty Ann

### **Pray the Rosary Daily in May For An End To The Pandemic**

Pope Francis is requesting that during this month of May, particularly dedicated to Our Lady, the entire Church invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the end of the pandemic.

Thirty Marian Shrines will take turns leading this prayer throughout the Church while offering the faithful a series of prayer moments for them to participate throughout the entire day. Among the Marian shrines chosen is that of Notre-Dame-du-Cap, in Trois-Rivières (Québec).

Daily prayers will be live broadcast through the official online channels of the Holy See. Further details are available on the Pontifical Council's website:

<http://www.pcpne.va/content/pcpne/en.html>