

# ASCENSION OF THE LORD



## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL BASILICA



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - St. Anthony of Padua Parish  
343 Via Mt. Carmel • Youngstown, Ohio 44505



**Pastor:**

Rev. Msgr. Michael Cariglio.....Ext. 103

**Church Phones:**

Office & Rectory.....(330) 743-4144  
Religious Education .....743-3508  
Church Hall .....743-7740  
Lower Church Hall.....Ext. 114  
Fax .....743-1035

**Church Secretaries:**.....743-4144

Office .....Ext. 100  
Mrs. Marie Ronyak.....Ext. 101  
Ms. Barbara McOwen.....Ext. 141  
Mrs. Cathy Zack .....Ext. 100

**Office Hours:** Mon. thru Fri. .. 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Permanent Deacons:**.....743-4144

Mr. Anthony Palasca, Jr .....Ext. 142  
Mr. Mark Izzo..... 330-533-1857

**Director of Music:**.....743-4144

Mr. Craig Ziobert.....(330) 770-6504

**Director of Religious Education:**

Mrs. Therese Ivanisin..... Ext. 121  
olmcTherese@gmail.com or 330-743-3508  
Youth Ministry Coordinator, Melissa Varso. Ext. 122  
olmcMelissa@gmail.com

**Church Caterer:**..... 743-7740

Mr. Louis Fusillo..... Ext. 131  
or 759-4010 (H)

**Parish Council Chairperson:**..... 743-4144

Mr. Louis Fusillo..... Ext. 143

**Business Manager/Accountant:**

Mr. John Didek, Jr..... Ext. 100

**Sunday Masses:**

Saturday Evening..... 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday..... 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

**Weekday Mass:** ..... Daily at 12:00 noon

**Baptisms:** Saturday after the 5:00 p.m. Mass  
and Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

**Sacrament of Penance:** Saturday 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
or by personal request.

**Weddings:** Please schedule marriage at least 6 months  
in advance.

**E-mail:** olmc343@aol.com

**Website:** www.OLMCSTA.com



*Masses  
For The Week*

**Sat., May 15:** *St. Isidore*  
 12:00 noon Anthony J. Orlando by Wife, Nancy & Family  
 2:00 p.m. Wedding of Nicholas Capone & Courtney Taylor Powell  
 5:00 p.m. Anthony & Catherine Petruzzi (A) by Bill & Mary Ann Petruzzi

**Sun., May 16:** *The Ascension of The Lord*  
 9:00 a.m. John & Rose Marsco by Grandson, John  
 11:00 a.m. Bambina Silvestri (A) by Tony & Lisa

**Mon. May 17:**  
 12:00 noon Edward DeBartolo by Family

**Tues., May 18:** **10th Week of St. Anthony Novena**  
 12:00 noon Dave Weikart (B) by Family

**Weds., May 19:**  
 12:00 noon Rose Marie Nudo (B) by Husband, Joe

**Thurs., May 20:** *St. Bernadine of Siena*  
 12:00 noon Carmelo Foti (B) by Clara Foti & Family

**Fri., May 21:** *St. Christopher Magallanes & Companions*  
 12:00 noon Josephine & Nancy Carella by Carella & Caravella Family

**Sat., May 22:** *St. Rita of Cascia*  
 12:00 noon Jim Talley by Maria Panozzo  
 2:00 p.m. Wedding of Karli Weller & Michael Day  
 5:00 p.m. Dominic & Geraldine Pillin by Phil & Marie Pillin

**Sun., May 23:** *Pentecost Sunday*  
 9:00 a.m. Rachel Sammartino by Daughter, Lenore Patrone & Husband, Donald Patrone  
 11:00 a.m. John Trimboli by Daughter, Delight & Frank



*Parish Support*

May 9 (259 envelopes)	\$9,489.00
St. Anthony Shrine/Novena	\$ 742.00
Mother's Day	\$1,938.00

Grazie!!

**25th, 40th, 50th and over Wedding Anniversary Celebration**

The Diocese of Youngstown is sponsoring a **Wedding Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, June 13, 2 p.m. at St. Columba Cathedral** in Youngstown, honoring couples observing their 25th, 40th, 50th and over wedding anniversaries in 2021. The wedding Anniversary Celebration will include Mass with Bishop David J. Bonar, renewal of marriage vows and a personalized certificate for each couple. Couples may opt to attend the Wedding Anniversary Celebration Mass in person at St. Columba Cathedral or they may participate remotely via livestreaming on the diocesan website at [www.doy.org](http://www.doy.org). Limited spaces are available for couples at the cathedral. You must make reservations in advance for this event by contacting your parish office before **May 20th**. Thank You!

**WEEKEND ASSIGNMENTS—May 22/23  
Ordinary-Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 p.m. Deacon Mark Izzo, Rose Bisignani  
 9:00 a.m. Deacon Anthony Falasca, Jr., James DeToro  
 11:00 a.m. Deacon Anthony Falasca, Jr., Stephanie Chimento

LECTORS

5:00 p.m. Christine Piccirillo  
 9:00 a.m. Scott Schulick  
 11:00 a.m. David Schifferli

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00 p.m. Gianna Howe, Gabriella Howe, Jeffrey Howe  
 9:00 a.m. Francisco Rivera-Ocasio, Santino Rivera-Ocasio  
 11:00 a.m. Luke Pipala, Zachary Pipala, John Paul Pipala

**Friday The Day Christ died for us**

**Every Friday the Basilica will broadcast for the homebound the following spiritual exercises on Face Book:**

12 noon Daily Mass  
 3:00 p.m.. The Hour of Divine Mercy with The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction

**The Hour  
for the whole  
World!**

"At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for poor sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. I will allow you to enter into My mortal sorrow. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion..." (Diary, 1320)

**3 p.m.  
of Mercy**

**Of the Most Blessed Sacrament.  
Basilica is open for in person worship during the above times. Welcome!**



## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



Earl Ducay, Martha Aliberti, Regina Altiero, Melinda Amon, Peter Angelides, Karen Banic, Fred Batcha, Sandy Battaglia, John Beene, Madelyn Brudis, Zayne Bryce, Isabelle Corradi, Kim Bowser, Marko Calko, Dominic Calko, Janice Marinelli Campbell, Lori Capone, Michael (Cal) Calipare, Carl J. Carbon, Roseann Cencia, Joseph Cencia, Anthony, Cathy Chimento, Joseph Chimento, Stephanie Chimento, Christopher Centofanti, Damian Chordas, Joseph R. Cioffi, Mary Rose Colucci, Johnny D., Ed Derek, John Didek, Anna DeLuco, Michelina DiVito, Greg Diorio, Grace Ducay, Angela Elmo, JoAnn Elmo, Roberta Elmo, Dolores Elston, Deacon Anthony Falasca, Gina Fecko, Jason, Monroe, Mara Frease, Sebastian Green, Margie, Joseph Haus, John, Reese, Lisa, Joshua, David, Carl Jr., Kaylee, JoAnn George, Emily Gerome, Rose Giampetro, Donald "Duke" Girardi, Dante Greco, Dominic Greco, Josie Greco, Jennifer Greco, Michael & Carol Gromada, Claudia Hernandez, Gail Hubbert, George Iati, Loretta Julian, Mark Julian, Peter Julian, Kerri, Glory & Family, Jeff Knorr, Dennis Kopnisky, Jackie Golden, Gerard Kopnisky, Hillary, William & Melinda Kopnisky, Agnes Kowis, Rocco Kovacs, Lenny & Cheryl, Lavonne, Lucille, Linda Maiorana, Cheryl Maniccia, Allan Maniccia, Mary Louise Mancini, Bill Marcavish, Missy Marrie, John Mascardine, Jennifer McCon, Paul and Greg Medina, Jean Medina, Livia Marinelli, Ellen Monroe, George Panno, Beverly Poidmore Pariza, Mary Pesa, Ronald Pesa, Phil Pillin, Ron Pondillo, Sr., Brielle, Vincent, Paul III, Giovanna Pace, Isabel Pupino, Joseph Pizzola, Barbara Poghen, James Poghen, Charles Richards, Joseph Richards, Joseph Ridel, Chris Ritter, Scott Rodgers, Marti Runyan, Mark Roberts, Richard Rouan, Ben Russo, Chuck Saulino, Mark Stilson, Carmel Scocca, Ellie Sullenberger, Chris Sultan, Greg VanSuch, Paula VanNest, Rita Varacali, Valerie Villani, Jodi Walters, Kathleen Wienand, Lilah Dovie, Todd Zamary, Skevos Zimbillas, **Mary, Help of the sick, pray for us!**  
**Please let us know when the person is well. Thanks**

### DAILY MORNING OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, though the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

### THE WORLD OF FINANCE

Let us pray for those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its

### UPDATE ON FESTIVAL TICKET SALES

Tickets sold through 5/9/21:

Raffle tickets sold: 2,019

Raffle tickets needed to break even: 1,481

Ticket Goal: 8,500

**We have now reached 25% of our goal. Keep up the good work! If you need more tickets to sell or buy, please call the parish office. Thank you!**

### St. Anthony Shrine and Novena

**\$200.00 GIFT**

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Orzechowski

**\$50.00 GIFT**

Mr. and Mrs. John Wakin

**\$30.00 GIFT**

In memory of AL BACA by Norma

In memory of ROSEANN BACA by Mom

In memory of ROSE MARIE FIORE by Norma

**\$25.00 GIFT**

In memory of DON CHEFFO by Wife, Jackie

Ms. Joanne M. Diana

Ms. Dena Tufaro

In memory of Husband LEW BONACE & DAUGHTERS

LORI, CHRISTINE & ANDREA by Beverly Bonace

In Loving memory of MARY ANN PELLEGRINI by Cleto

Mr. Robert V. DiFabio

**\$15.00 GIFT**

Ms. Janice Jasinski

**\$10.00 GIFT**

In memory of ANNA MAE WILLIAMS by Craig Ziobert

Mr. and Mrs. Amico Colzizzi

Mrs. Angela M. DeTunno

Mrs. Jennie Dundee

Miss Mary J. Kraiosky

Mrs. Rose Marie Matasic

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Struble

Miss Dorothy Varie

### Stewardship Thoughts:

*"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God." - John 4:15*

How strong is your faith? When you have an opportunity to either defend or clarify a question about our Catholic faith, do you do it? Or, do you remain silent so that others don't think you are weird? Pray for the courage to be strong in all circumstances and to joyfully share your witness with others.

### Intercession for Vocations:

That seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven, the Lord will share His wisdom with those discerning their vocation and open their eyes and hearts in faithfulness,  
**We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.**



**Treasure Chest Dinner and Raffle will be held on July 24, 2021.** More information will become available via letter.



**Birthdays for the week of May 16-22**

Michael Ciccone, Loraine DiCioccio, Elizabeth Febo, Michael Gromada, Christine Langer, Patrick Misel, Leanna Pipala, Benjamin Whistler, Carmine White, Tiffany Aliberti, Catherine Bolan, Kathryn Butto, Ralph Cavallaro, Cooper Kirkwood, James Maruca, Phillip Snyder, Irene Tufaro, Nicholas Bellino, Timothy Domer, Alfonso Pecchia, Anna Pecchia, Ellen Rose, Nicholas Larson, Grace Sloan, Amico Colaizzi, Greg Hann, Mark Leone, Jr., James Monroe, Edith Orlando, Gerald Rivello, Karen Tauro, Lawrence Bako, Dino Cencia, Cheryl Ross, Michael Colla, Julie Garthwaite, Marissa Grande, Thomas Kinnick, Carmel Scocca, Sienna Smith.



**ST. ANTHONY LIGHT: May 16-22**

In memory of Frank Elmo (B)

by Roberta

**BLESSED SACRAMENT LIGHT: May 9-15**

In memory of CARMELA BERONJA by Daughters, Debbie, Terry, & Sandy

**SANCTUARY LIGHT: May 16-22**

In memory of ELEANOR DELUCO by Family

**BLESSED SACRAMENT LIGHT: May 16-22**

In memory of JOSEPH & JULIA TAURO by Sandy & Natalie Triyeri

**OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL LIGHT: May 16-22**

In memory of FRANK PUGLIESE (B) by Bob, Bonnie, Cindy, Nicole, Zack, Dena, Matt & Caleb

**INFANT JESUS LIGHT: May 16-22**

In memory of SAM G. & ROSE M. DIBACCO by Ron & Edie DiBacco

**GUARDIAN ANGEL LIGHT: May 16-22**

In memory of GENE CALCAGNI

by John & Judi Mascardine

**ETERNAL FLAME: Sunday, May 16**

In loving memory of TONY YORK

**ETERNAL FLAME: Monday, May 17**

In memory of MONICA MATTEO by Adorers



2nd Banns

Nathaniel Miller & Ashley DeSantis



**Craig's Corner**  
**A note from our Music Director**

Often times at the death of a loved one, many people state that "I wish I just had one more moment with them so we could have one final conversation for closure," or something of the sorts. The good thing for us is that Christ gave us a perfect discourse after he washed the disciples' feet before he suffered and died on the cross. The words come from the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of John's Gospel and make up the offertory solo and choir anthem "In My Father's House" this weekend by Philip Stopford.

*In my Father's house are many dwellings, and if I go to prepare a place for you I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Do not let your hearts be troubled, you have faith in God, have faith also in me. In my Father's house are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you I am going to prepare a place for you? Where I am going, you know the way for I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you also know my Father. My Spirit will be with you always, the Advocate, the Spirit of all truth will remind you of all I have said: peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.*

What perfect words of comfort and of peace coming from Christ who is to be our best friend! He not only said these words to His disciples, He says them to us too! That's the beauty of our common baptism. Christ may have ascended to the Father in heaven, leaving us in charge of His Church on earth right now. We must still long for our Father's house in heaven but while still carrying on the mission of the Church as Christ commissions us in the gospel this weekend and as we sing in our closing hymn, "Go into the world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." This job isn't just for priests and deacons but rather for every Christian in what we say, what we do, and how we live. The end of each Mass is in a way a copy of these last words of Jesus on earth when the priest or deacon say, "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord"; "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life"; or simply, "Go in peace."

The suite which I chose this weekend's prelude and postlude from, Olivier Messiaen's *l'Ascension* ("Ascension Day") carry a very odd and interesting sound to them but offer much theology to the mystery of the ascension. The prelude, *Prayer of Christ Ascending towards His Father*, is the conclusion of the entire work, was composed with no real end or beginning, but rather simply ascending. The postlude, *Majesty of Christ*, is inspired from the same chapter of John's Gospel as the prelude and also creates an eternal tone, where the music doesn't have a destination. Instead the piece alternates between melodic ideas. The only real motion felt in the movement comes in the final minute as the melodic idea from the rest of the piece is elongated as it ascends.

Christ has ascended to God's right hand in glory but he leaves us comforting words. Pray those words often. These words should strengthen us to live out our Christian call of discipleship so that we know, too, that if we carry out Christ's mission on earth that we will be with him in his many dwelling places in heaven, where he has gone we hope to follow.

**Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord: L'Ascension – Olivier Messiaen**

**Prelude:** Movement 4: Prière du Christ montant vers son Père ("Prayer of Christ Ascending towards His Father") **Postlude:** Movement 1: Majesté du Christ demandant sa gloire à son Père ("Majesty of Christ Praying that His Father should Glorify Him")

ASCENSION  
OF THE LORD

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



### APOSTOLATE OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

This past year has presented many obstacles to the beautiful Apostolate of Perpetual Adoration which has been in effect at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica for the past 27 years. As we enter our 28<sup>th</sup> year of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, we now have an abbreviated schedule for adoration. As we work to rebuild a full schedule of 24 hours a day 7 days a week, we need your help.

We wish to acknowledge all the steadfast, loving people who have dedicated hours praying and keeping company with Our Blessed Lord. As of April 11, 2021, Divine Mercy Sunday, we have resumed adoration.

We are inviting each of you to come spend one hour with Our Risen Lord truly present body, blood, soul and divinity. The King of the Universe is waiting for YOU! You may come at any time to adore our Lord, but the **following hours need to be filled:**

**Sunday: 4-5p.m., Sunday: 5-6 p.m., Monday, 3-4 p.m., Monday, 7-8 p.m., Tuesday, 10-11 a.m., Tuesday, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Wednesday, 2-3 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Thursday, 3p.m.- 4 p.m., Thursday, 5 p.m.. - 6 p.m.**

### Our present schedule is:

Sunday 4pm-8pm  
Monday: 1pm-8pm  
Tuesday: 8am-8pm  
Wednesday: 1pm-8pm  
Thursday: 8am-8pm  
Friday: 1pm-4pm (Divine Mercy Devotion and Benediction at 3pm)

**To schedule a time call, Jean Talley 330-758-3335 or Maria Panozzo @ 330-372-5141.**

### Readings for May 16, 2021

**Sunday Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord**  
Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13; Mk 16:15-20

Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in his name, reminding them that he is always present through his Spirit. Having ascended to his Father amid cries of gladness, we are to be his witnesses for we have been gifted with his Spirit of wisdom and revelation. Let us, therefore, live in a manner worthy of the call we have received.



### ST. ANTHONY MASS & NOVENA

Tenth Tuesday at 12 noon and ending on June 8th. **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel—12 noon Mass and Novena. At 7:00 p.m. there will be Benediction and Novena.**

### PRAYER TO ST. ROCCO

O Great St. Rocco, deliver us,  
We beseech thee, from the  
Scourges of God; through thy  
Intercession, preserve our  
Bodies from contagious  
Diseases, and our souls from  
The contagion of sin.  
Obtain for us salubrious air;  
But, above all, purity of heart.  
Assist us to make good use  
of health, to bear sufferings  
with patience; and, after thy  
example, to live in the practice  
of penance and charity, charity, that  
we may one day enjoy the  
happiness which thou has  
merited by thy virtues.  
St. Rocco, pray for us—3 times

### Congratulations! To Basilica cantor and psalmist Christine

**Langer** who was recently awarded the "Basic Cantor Certification" by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM). The certification states that Christine possesses the fundamental skills for serving as a cantor and psalmist in the national Roman Catholic Church. Christine recently passed a sung and written exam proctored by Barb Zorn and Dr. Daniel Laginya at Saint Columba Cathedral. In addition to her cantor work at our Basilica, Christine has served as a cantor and psalmist at her home parish St. Paul's in North Canton and St. Columba Cathedral. Christine learned about the cantor certification process through the Cecilia Project, a program in the Diocese of Youngstown for high school and college students who desire to improve their skills as cantors, pianists, and organists in the Catholic Church. One of our Basilica altar servers, Scott Cross, is also currently studying as part of the Cecilia Project in organ. Best wishes to Christine and Scott in their future liturgical music endeavors. If anyone has any nominations or interest in the Cecilia Project for the diocese, please see our director of music ministry, Mr. Craig Ziobert at any time. We are truly blessed to have a thriving music ministry at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Saint Cecilia, patron of musicians, pray for us.

**REGISTRATION:** Members of the parish should be formally registered. If you are not receiving Our Lady of Mt. Carmel envelopes, please call the rectory Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m. For a change of address or telephone number, please call the rectory at 330-743-4144.

Sponsor of the week:

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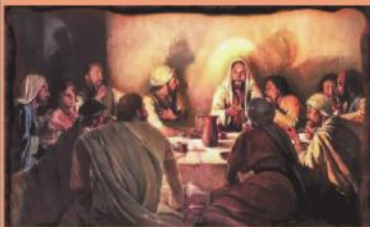
Christ called us to be doers.

“Go and teach all nations,  
says the Lord;  
I am with you always,  
until the end of the world.”

Mt :19,20

**First Communion**

Congratulations to Audrey Ann Arundel, Nathaniel Frank Cox, Ariana Marie Rago, Paulina Rose Schiraldi and Lorenzo Giorgio Sorice upon receiving their First Holy Communion May 15th & 16th.



May you continue to be nourished by the love and mercy of God through the Eucharist.

**Baptisms**

Expecting or adopting a child? Now is the time to call and schedule their Baptism.



The most asked question is,  
“Who can be a Godparent?”

\*Godparents need to be a fully Initiated member that is active and in good standing with the Catholic Church. Meaning he or she has been Baptized, Confirmed and received the Eucharist in the Catholic Church. \*Must have 2 Godparents or 1 Godparent and 1 Christian Witness. A Christian Witness must be Baptized in a Christian Faith and active in their faith.

**Looking for our Graduating High School Seniors**

Please call or email the Religious Education office and let us know that your son or daughter will be graduating this year and from which school!

Congratulations.



It has been a year of not knowing but with faith you took everything in stride and are coming out a better person.

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel ~St. Anthony Of Padua**

Set-up your own personal account.

\*Visit our parish website [www.olmcsta.com](http://www.olmcsta.com)

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Thank you for your continuous support.

**ITALIAN CULTURE WEEK IS BACK!!!!**



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**July 19th—23rd**



**Contact Information for Religious Education**

330-743-3508 [www.olmcsta.com](http://www.olmcsta.com) FAX: 330-743-1035 (Out of the office on Monday) and Friday

**Director: Therese M. Ivanisin / Mrs. I** [OLMCTherese@gmail.com](mailto:OLMCTherese@gmail.com) ext 121

**Coordinator of Youth Ministry: Melissa Varso** [OLMCMelissa@gmail.com](mailto:OLMCMelissa@gmail.com) ext 122

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

# Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

### Ascension Sunday

Acts 1:1-11  
Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9  
Ephesians 1:17-23 or  
Ephesians 4:1-13  
Mark 16:15-20

**Monday May 17**  
Acts 19:1-8  
Ps 68:2-7ab  
John 16:29-33

**Tuesday May 18**  
Acts 20:17-27  
Ps 68:10-11,20-21  
John 17:1-11a

**Wednesday May 19**  
Acts 20:28-38  
Ps 68:29-30,33-36  
John 17:11b-19

**Thursday May 20**  
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11  
Ps 16:1-2a,5,7-11  
John 17:20-26

**Friday May 21**  
Acts 25:13b-21  
Ps 103:1-2,11-12,19-20  
John 21:15-19

**Saturday May 22**  
Acts 28:16-20,30-31  
Ps 11:4,5,7  
John 21:20-25

working for the Lord and wonder: Will I be effective and successful? Will I like it? Or will I be sent where I'd rather not go?

Those who are grieving know this feeling. After a loved one is taken home to the Lord or a friend is lost in a failed relationship, our lives change drastically. It feels like it shouldn't have. How can we recover from the emptiness, which by its very nature forces our attention onto ourselves and our unmet needs, so that we become full of service to others?

Sometimes we find ourselves in the same posture as the disciples in Acts 1:1-11, looking up at the sky, staring at nothing, waiting for Jesus to come back and rescue this world from evil.

Our world needs the Second Coming of Christ—and now! What's the delay? Ahhh, but he's told us not to wait but to go forth and spread the Good News. He told us to take what he's given us and use it to continue the works of his ministry.

Why do we stare at the empty sky? Because we feel inadequate.

Parents know this feeling. After giving birth or adopting a child, we have the awesome task of raising this person into a faith-filled, emotionally healthy adult.

Graduates know this feeling. After completing college or a Lay Ministry training program or ordination or final vows, we stand on the threshold of



Every change in our lives is a commissioning. Every loss is the beginning of a new calling. Every experience is training for a work of God's kingdom that the Lord wants to accomplish through us.

Why are you standing there looking at the sky? Jesus has been your teacher and your guide: Although you cannot see what he's doing now, he has not abandoned you. He is fulfilling his promise: "You will receive power from the Holy Spirit, and you will be my witness throughout the earth." Indeed, you were given that Holy Spirit in baptism, and it is this Spirit of God that empowers you to continue the ministry of Jesus using your particular gifts and talents and experiences.

#### Reflect & Discuss:

1. What thresholds or new beginnings are you facing?
2. How are these opportunities for the continuation of the ministry of Jesus?
3. In what ways are you doing the works of Jesus?
4. Which parish ministries could use your gifts and talents?
5. How do you rely on the Holy Spirit to get it done?

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