

Ascension

Happy Feast of the Ascension. If you haven't done so, take some time to meditate on our beautiful window of the Ascension... Just don't do it now, during the homily.

Did you hear about the man who was given the honor of speaking to God directly... and he asked him, God, Is it true that to you, a second is like a thousands years? And God said, well, yes, that's what the scriptures say... that is true. And the man went on, so then it would logically follow that to you a penny would be like a million dollars? And God thought about it, and said, Yeah, I guess you could say that.

And the man then smiled, and said, Well, God, do you think you could maybe spare me, say,.... A nickel? To which God replied, "Well, sure!!! Just wait a minute.

I tell you that story, because, at the end of today's first reading from Acts, the Angels tell the Men of Galilee that Jesus will return again in the same way as they saw him taken up..... And most of the people of the time were expecting him to return very very soon.... And Well..... we've been waiting for almost two thousand years now.

But Jesus, himself, didn't tell his disciples to wait for HIS return. He told them to WAIT in Jerusalem for "the promise of the Father about which they had heard him speak." He says, "for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." And next week we will celebrate Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles in the upper room.—Another one of our Magnificent glass Masterpieces to ponder.

And just WHAT is this Holy Spirit? Is it just the tiny tongues of fire that we see in our window? Well, in the letter to the Ephesians which we heard today, Paul prays for a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of HIM, so that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, that you may know of the HOPE that belongs to our call. (Remember that—HOPE) and that we may also know what are the Riches of Glory in his inheritance among the holy ones—and that’s not the riches of the nickel that our silly man is asking of God, for, it’s much more, ..it’s eternal wealth.

And finally, he asks for the gift of the spirit so that the Ephesians may know “What is the surpassing Greatness of His power... For US who BELIEVE.”

Now, I said to remember Hope.. and our HOPE is the forgiveness of our sins through repentance. That’s what Jesus asked the Disciples to go forth and Preach. That’s why Jesus suffered and died and rose.

And after they received the Holy Spirit, they did go forth and preach the good new to the ends of the Earth. But, We’ll hear more about that NEXT Sunday... Stay tuned.

When we were baptized, we too, were given this Spirit that Jesus promised. We too share in the hope. As adopted Children of God, we share in the riches of God’s inheritance. We also share in greatness of the power... if we believe.

After 2000 years, many people have grown tired of waiting. Their faith has waned, and they’ve turned to the instant gratification of this world.

But Folks, Jesus is coming Back someday, the way he went up. And you believe it, or you wouldn't be here today. And the Church is asking us to help the original disciples in the preaching of Jesus Christ during this year of CoVid recuperation—in A New Evangelization. Not by any special telecommunications, Zoom Conference, or anything, but just by living our lives as a witness to our beliefs.

Witness to the joy that Jesus gives us in the forgiveness of our sins. But Don't Wait!! Jesus is returning... And some one you know--- may need to know that..... TODAY! Not SOME DAY. Let them know that the rope has been taken off of their pew. Welcome **them** back to Mass; to the magnificent REAL presence of our Lord Jesus in the Eucharistic Celebration. He will.... Literally..... be here...on this altar.... In just a minute.