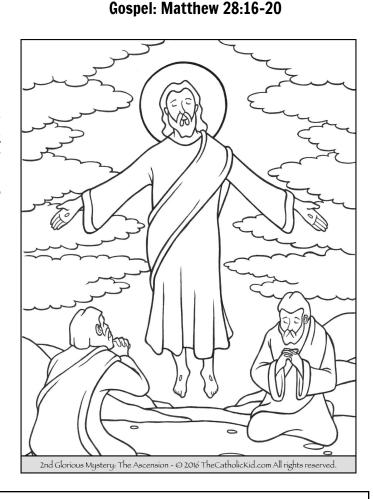
Sunday, May 21, 2023

The Feast of the Ascension is celebrated today, the seventh Sunday of Easter. The Ascension is when Jesus rose to His Father in Heaven. It is also when he commanded the eleven to build and grow the Church, which they did once they received the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, celebrated next Sunday. Imagine, for a moment, what it must have felt like to be one of the disciples who witnessed the Ascension - the sadness at Jesus' departure, the wonder and awe at his Ascension in glory, the apprehension and nervousness over the mission to which Jesus was calling them. Do as they did: trust in the Lord and do as He says!

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

- Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20)



## **FAMILY TIME**

At the dinner table, in the car, we talk about our faith, wherever we are!



In this week's second reading, St. Paul reminds us that Christ is the head and we are His body. We have each been given gifts that will build up the body of Christ: "And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers..." (Ephesians 4:11).

**LITTLE ONES:** Name a few things you're really good at doing. You're good at these things because God gave you these gifts. Take time to thank Him!

**BIGGER ONES:** Think of a group of people who work best when they work together (a sports team, people who work in a hospital, etc.) Describe how their different talents work together to make them better as a group.

**FAMILY CHALLENGE:** Take turns telling each member of the family what gifts you see that the Lord gave them and talk about how He might be asking each person to use these gifts to strengthen His Church, the body of Christ. Pray that Christ enlightens each person with understanding as to what his or her gifts are and how he or she can use them to serve.

Psalm 47: "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord."

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Saint Rita of Cascia lived in Italy during the last part of the 14th century and the first part of the 15th century. She was first a wife and mother but later became a nun after her husband died. St. Rita was virtuous, disciplined, and always devoted to God even though she faced many hardships. She wanted to suffer as Christ did and upon asking Him in prayer for this wish, she received a wound on her forehead like the crown of thorns that lasted until her death. Her prayers were often answered, and she remains a faithful and efficacious intercessor today. Her body, after her death, was discovered to be incorrupt and can be found today at her shrine in Cascia, Italy. She is the patroness of impossible cases, challenges in marriage, and parenthood. We celebrate the feast of Saint Rita on May 22. Saint Rita, pray for us!

"Most Holy Sacred Heart of Jesus, help my heart to persevere in all that is holy."

- Saint Rita of Cascia