

St. Peter Claver Chapel

Hahnville, LA | 337-453-3142 | info@societyoftheholyghost.org

Rev. Fr. Christopher Spray – Pastor

Sunday Within the Octave of the Ascension

Monday, May 18 | NO MASS | **St. Venantius, Within the Octave**
Poor Souls - Anonymous

Tuesday, May 19 | 7:30am | **St. Peter Celestine, Within the Octave, St. Pudentiana**
Private Intention - Rojas

Wednesday, May 20 | 7:30am | **St. Bernardine of Siena, Within the Octave**
Eric Griss - Anonymous

Thursday, May 21 | 9:00am | **Octave Day of the Ascension**
Private Intention - Rojas

Friday, May 22 | 7:30am | **Feria**
John Feminelli - Anonymous

Saturday, May 23 | 7:30am | **Vigil of Pentecost - FAST AND PARTIAL ABSTINENCE**
Teresa Gay - Anonymous

• Sunday, May 24 | 9:00am | **PENTECOST SUNDAY**
Pro Populo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Collection

5/10 - \$925

- The sanctuary lamp burns this week for the healing of a loved one by the Rojas Family
- There will be no Mass on Monday
- Saturday is the Vigil of Pentecost and is a day of fast and partial abstinence

Sunday Within the Octave of the Ascension

The Sunday within the Octave of the Ascension occupies a unique, almost breathless pause in the liturgical year. Christ has ascended into heaven, disappearing from the physical sight of His disciples, but the Holy Spirit has not yet descended at Pentecost. The apostles find themselves in the Upper Room, caught in the "already but not yet". They are no longer walking with the visible, earthly Jesus, nor are they yet empowered by the rushing wind of the Spirit, making it a season of holy waiting.

Most of us dislike waiting, living in a culture of instant results, immediate transitions, and constant noise where we want the next chapter of life to start tomorrow as soon as one ends. Yet, this Sunday honors the spiritual necessity of the gap. The disciples didn't immediately rush out to preach the moment Jesus left; instead, they returned to Jerusalem to pray and wait, just as He commanded them. This period is traditionally recognized as the model for the very first Novena—nine days of intense, expectant prayer for the coming of the Paraclete.

In the Gospel for this Sunday, Jesus speaks directly to the reality of His physical absence and the trials the disciples will face. He doesn't sugarcoat the future, but He gives them an anchor by promising the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who will bear witness to Him. This Sunday speaks directly to our own moments of spiritual dryness, uncertainty, or transition. When God feels remote, the Ascension can initially feel like a departure, leaving us wondering where God is in the midst of our daily struggles, but this Sunday reminds us that His physical absence makes way for a deeper, interior presence through the Holy Spirit. When we face periods of uncertainty or spiritual waiting, isolation is our enemy, and we are meant to wait together just as the disciples went together to the Upper Room, joined in prayer with the community and Mary. This is not passive waiting; rather, it is active, longing anticipation that serves as a time to examine our hearts and ask what we are asking the Holy Spirit to renew in our lives.

As we navigate this octave, let us lean into the quiet expectation of the Upper Room. We don't need to rush ahead to the fire of Pentecost just yet. Today, it is enough to sit in the stillness, to pray, and to trust that the Father always keeps His promises.