

Rogation Days & The Ascension

Rogation Days

Monday-Wednesday, 5/10-12

Liturgy of the Word at 12:00 pm

In the fifth century, a bishop facing dreadful calamities appointed that special prayers, accompanied with fasting, should be offered up to God (Rogations being the Latin name given to these supplications). The observance soon became widespread as the Church not only to prepares to celebrate with proper dedication our Savior's Ascension, but also repents and returns to the Lord and to ask his blessing on the fruits of the earth.

In our tradition, Rogation Days were diversified into observances for fruitful seasons, for commerce and industry, and for stewardship of creation. Rogation days thus help to properly orient, or reorient, us. We acknowledge the mercy of God the creator, the author of life, and we remember that it is by his hand that our needs are satisfied. We ask that we may be faithful in our stewardship, diligent in our commerce, and receive prosperous fruit in due season, not by our strength alone, but by the grace and mercy of God and his providence.

Such prayer and petition, reorientation to the way of the Lord, prepares us to faithfully bear witness to the Lord who has ascended. He leaves us, not in abandonment but, as a testimony to the Gospel of plenty in the midst of worldly scarcity, of the abundance of grace in the midst of brokenness and sin. The Lord calls on us to bear his fruit out in the world, fruit of the cross and the resurrection, fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Ascension Day and Novena

Thursday, 5/13

Sung Mass with Guest Preacher at 7:00 pm

We will celebrate the major feast of the Ascension on this Thursday, May 13, at 7:00 pm. According to the Book of Common Prayer, p. 15, Ascension Day falls into the same category of Easter, Christmas, All Saints, Pentecost, Epiphany, and Trinity Sunday. So, it's kind of a big deal. Additionally, we will have the pleasure to welcome Fr. John Thorpe as our preacher along with members of St. Michael's, O'Fallon. Consider making your way out on Thursday as we continue our Easter celebration.

Then following the Ascension of the Lord, we wait with the first disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit to guide us into the fields of ministry, to equip us for the work of the Lord, to bear fruit to the glory of God. In preparation, we take the period between the Ascension and Pentecost to devote ourselves to prayer over these nine days in between, a period also known as a novena. Devotional materials are provided as supplements to your own regular practices.

[Ascensontide Novena](#)