

Ascension

Dear Parent(s),

During the Easter season—a season that lasts seven weeks—we have been focusing on the gift of new life in Christ. This week we focus on the Ascension.

This Take-Home Page is filled with activities to reinforce what we're learning and discussing in class. It is divided into three sections: Warm-Up Exercises, Getting Started, and Putting It into Practice. May the activities suggested here provide you with additional tools for nurturing your child's faith.

Warm-Up Exercises...

Gather the family around the Easter candle. Have one member of the family light the candle, and another read this passage from Scripture.

A reading from Luke 24:46-51

He told them: "The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer, then three days later he will rise from death.... So beginning in Jerusalem, you must tell everything that has happened. I will send you the one my Father has promised, but you must stay in the city until you are given power from heaven."

Jesus led his disciples out to Bethany, where he raised his hands and blessed them. As he was doing this, he left and was taken up to heaven.

After sharing the reading from Scripture, discuss how your family shares the Good News with others.

Getting Started...

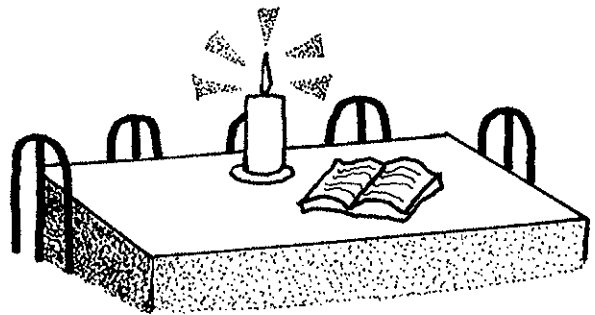
Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he shared a final blessing or prayer with his followers. Ask your family: How often do we, as followers of Jesus, pray? How often do we share blessings and prayers with others? Starting today, make

an effort to spend more time in family prayer.

Here are a few suggestions to get you started: Extend your meal-time prayer by having your family pray for the intentions of others, especially for those who don't have anyone to pray for them. Establish a daily family "prayer time" when everyone in the family prays for and with each other.

Putting It into Practice...

Now is a perfect time to help your family learn to appreciate the Catholic tradition of the novena, which dates back to the time of the apostles. Novena means "nine." A novena is any prayer that is prayed for nine days in a row. Why nine days? Because we know that during the nine days between Jesus' Ascension (40 days after Easter) and Pentecost (50 days after Easter), the disciples met in prayer as they waited for the Holy Spirit to come. "The apostles often met together and prayed with a single purpose in mind" (Acts 1:14).



Holy Spirit Ornament

“Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there” (Acts 2:2-4).

The Holy Spirit is sometimes described as wind and fire, sometimes as a dove. Make these symbols of the Holy Spirit, and then hang them in the classroom or at home.

Supplies needed:

white computer paper
yellow computer paper
template
2 wiggly eyes per ornament
black magic marker
scissors
pencil
craft scissors with patterned edges
white thread
white glue or glue stick

Directions:

1. Have children cut the dove template out of yellow paper. They will also cut a slit on the body of the dove where indicated.

2. Using craft scissors with patterned edges, cut the yellow paper into a rectangle 6 inches by 5 inches, then fold it accordion style into 5 even folds. (See diagram below.)
3. Repeat step 2 using white paper. Both the white and yellow papers will be used as “wings.”
4. Insert both folded “wings” into the slit.
5. Glue the edges of the yellow and white papers together to extend the wing span above the dove. (See diagram below.)
6. Insert thread through a small hole in the top of the wings, to form a loop for hanging the dove. Glue on wiggly eyes.

