

The Solemnity of the Ascension



The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on the fortieth day after Easter (or on the Sunday following). “The mystery of the Ascension has been interpreted to mean that Christ’s human nature is taken up into the realm and mystery of the divine Trinity. In the divinization of Christ’s human nature is the hope for the glorification and divinization of our own humanity” (*Holy Days in the United States: History, Theology, Celebration*, 44). Thus, in the celebration of the Ascension, we catch a glimpse of what we hope someday to be: caught up in the mystery of divine love that is the Trinity.

The days between the Solemnity of the Ascension and the Solemnity of Pentecost are days of intense prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit. When the Ascension is observed on the Thursday, this time of prayer comprises a novena.

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