

## **The Ascension of the Lord By Fr. Rick Poblocki**

### **Q: What is the Ascension of the Lord?**

A: The Ascension of the Lord refers to “the entry of Jesus’ humanity into Divine Glory in God’s heavenly domain, forty days after Easter” (CCC 867).

### **Q: When did the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ occur?**

A: The Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ occurred 40 days after His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. At His Ascension, the Lord Jesus ascended Body and Soul into heaven (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-11). The Ascension took place in broad daylight on the Mount of Olives, in the presence of His Apostles and disciples.

### **Q: If Jesus is God and His Body was glorified in the Resurrection, why is His Ascension into Heaven so necessary?**

A: It is true that Our Lord was “glorified” at the moment of His Resurrection. But in reciting these words of the Lord Jesus to Mary Magdalene: “I have not yet ascended to the Father, but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God” (John 20:17), the Catechism of the Catholic Church points out: “This indicates a difference in manifestation between the glory of the Risen Christ and that of the Christ exalted to the Father’s right hand, a transition marked by the historical and transcendent event of the Ascension” (Catechism, 660). In other words, as the Lord Jesus appears to His Apostles and disciples after His Resurrection, they experience Him in a risen and glorious state. In the Ascension and exaltation of the Lord Jesus in glory at the Father’s right hand, the disciples are also able to experience Jesus’ risen glory as one of triumph and exaltation.

### **Q: If Jesus possesses glory as God, why does His human nature need to be glorified?**

A: As God, Jesus already possesses endless and infinite glory. The significance and importance of the Ascension is that Jesus’ human nature – His Body and His Soul – are exalted in the Ascension. He lets this happen because by the exaltation of His human nature, He can pass that exultation and glory on to those who become “members of His Body,” the Church through being united to Him by the Holy Spirit in Baptism! So, by being exalted in His human nature, Jesus makes it possible for unto be exalted and to share in His exalted glory. In His human nature Jesus was exalted so that our human nature could be exalted! The Ascension is a saving act!