

Notes from Fr. Nick

Ascension, First Eucharist

Our celebration of the Paschal Mystery continues. Since Christmas, we have observed the Christ's birth, life, passion, death and resurrection. This weekend we commemorate the ascension of Jesus into heaven, which completes the God's entry into human history. Only one more piece remains: Pentecost—the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Church.

Could salvation have occurred in a different way than with Jesus? God can do whatever God wants, but God chooses the perfect course for His unfolding plan. I believe Jesus came as a human being because learning from the teaching and example of other people is the way we learn best. Jesus was the perfect manifestation of God to us. Had he come on a throne in the clouds, the Christ could have dictated salvation but we would not have the deep human relationship with him that commits us to faith.

Thirty-seven of our young people will celebrate their first reception of the Eucharist this coming Saturday. It will mark another step in their journey with God: they have met God in the fellowship of their families and the Church; they know God in stories of the Bible; they have received his grace in Baptism and Reconciliation. Now they will join the community receiving Christ's precious blood and body. The grace of Eucharist will be present with them for the rest of their lives, as part of the Christian community. Our congratulations and prayers go with them. Thanks especially to Heather Skinner, to her Faith Formation teachers, and to the children's families, who have done a beautiful job of forming these children in Christ's image.



*Gustave Doré, l'Ascension de Jésus (1879)
Petit Palais, Paris*