# Sunday Q&A

Your Faith in Focus

### OUR LORD'S UPLIFTING GIFT

## Why did Jesus ascend into heaven?

A s we celebrate Jesus' Ascension today, we ask, "Why?" Why not just stay with us? Why did Jesus go to heaven forty days after the Resurrection? Fr. Josh Johnson addresses "why" in this adaptation of an episode from his podcast, Ask Fr. Josh.

#### Jesus' Humanity Enters Heaven

Christ's ascension marks the definitive entrance of Jesus' humanity into God's heavenly domain, [from where] he will come again (see Acts 1:11); this humanity in the meantime hides him from the eyes of men. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 665)

So get this: You and I, we are humans, and we also will be in heaven at some point. Our bodies and our souls will be reunited and glorified in heaven. For us as members of the Body of Christ, this is huge. God is giving us this opportunity, this great gift that we can anticipate.

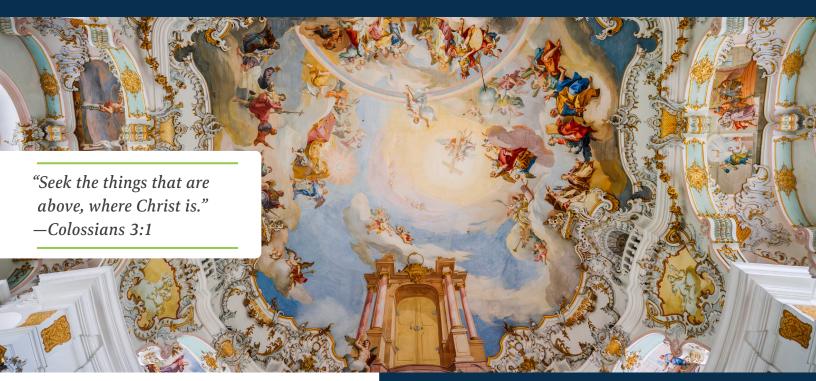
#### Why Didn't He Stay?

The body of Jesus Christ is in heaven now. If the body is so good, why would Jesus take his glorified body that the apostles got to experience—that Mary the Mother of God, Mary Magdalene, and so many others got to experience and ascend into heaven? Why didn't he stay with us?

#### St. Thomas' Answer

St. Thomas Aquinas, one of the greatest intellects of our Church's two-thousand-year history, wrote many great works, including *Summa Theologiae*, a theology text about God, creation, humanity, Christ, and the sacraments. In the *Summa*, Aquinas prays with Colossians 3:1, which tells believers in Christ to "seek the things that are above, where Christ is." Why? Jesus Christ wants us to direct the fervor of our love toward heavenly things. He wants us to fix our eyes on heaven, the beatific vision, the glory that awaits us.

We often experience the great gifts that God gives us throughout our walk toward eternity, and we're grateful. But because we're so weak, we focus on the gifts that God gives us more than we focus our attention on God, the one who gives us the gifts.



#### Ponder and Pray

- How do I imagine Jesus' Ascension?
- What does it mean to understand that Jesus, in his humanity, is actually in heaven?
- How am I doing when it comes to keeping my eyes fixed on heaven?



#### Make It Your Own

Keep your eyes on heaven this week in anticipation of Pentecost. Scan the code or visit https://ascensionpress.com/pages/ novena-to-the-holy-spirit to join a novena to the Holy Spirit and track your progress on the lines below.

#### **Dive Deeper**

To watch Fr. Josh Johnson's full episode about Jesus' Ascension, scan the code



or visit the URL: https://media.ascensionpress.com/ video/why-the-ascension-couldnt-jesus-have-stayed/

Fr. Josh Johnson is the vocations director for the Diocese of Baton Rouge. He is well-known for his popular Ascension podcast, Ask Father Josh, and his Q&A videos on Ascension Presents.

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