

## From the Pastor's Office

### *The Ascension of the Lord*

I have to preface my few words by saying that just because I am a priest doesn't mean that I understand everything there is about God. The world of God is full of mysterious things. I can't quite figure out Ascension. There is a moment a few weeks back when we were told that Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalen in the tomb. Naturally she was very excited to see Him so much so that she moved close to give Jesus a hug. Jesus responded by saying to Mary, "do not cling to me because I have not yet ascended to my Father." That makes me wonder. Does that explain why Jesus seemed to be half human flesh and half spirit? He seemed to walk through walls. He disappeared and re-appeared again. Did Jesus live in some kind of middle earth place between our earthly existence and our heavenly existence? Not sure. Ascension to the Father seems to be a journey up. When someone asks where Heaven is we tend to say that it is up. I guess it makes sense to say Hell is in the other direction. Jesus was taken up in a cloud. I don't know what that means. I am afraid to try to understand because my head is full of science fiction and all those superheroes. Ascension in the context of the Bible marks the day when Jesus departed from his earthly existence altogether and returned to His spiritual existence in Heaven. I hate goodbyes. I get so emotional I want to cry. I remember when my Mother died, just for a second, I felt like I was orphaned. My inner child cried out for a second, "who is going to take care of us now?" The parent says goodbye to their child first day of school. Goodbye at summer camp. Goodbye first day at the college dorm. It is natural for a minute to wonder. I am now by myself. I hope I can take care of myself. I guess there is never the right time. Sometimes you just have to dive in ready or not and get cracking. That's kind of how I feel about Ascension. Peter is now properly focused to become the rock on which the Church will build. They are all properly orientated. Jesus assures them that He will always be with them if they need Him. It is time to go.



With love,  
Fr. Pat