

Homily  
Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter  
May 9, 2024

When is your last day of school? Who's excited about that? Who's looking forward to time off this summer? Anyone going on vacation?

Who's sad about the end of school? Who's going to miss being at school? Will you miss your friends? Will you miss your teachers? Will you miss the schoolwork?

And in about three months, school begins again. Who's excited about the next school year?

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples that they will soon no longer see Him. But His disciples are sad about that; they don't want Jesus to go away. But Jesus tells them that He must go away. He is going to His Father. There will be times when they weep and mourn while the world rejoices, but then their grief will become joy.

It's like that for us. Sometimes we are sad. Maybe we miss spending time with our friends while it seems everyone else is happy. Sometimes, when we make a mistake, when we do something we weren't supposed to do, or didn't do something we were supposed to do, we have to make up for it; we have to make things right. This is where Jesus comes in. We come to Mass and we listen to God's Word, we hear Jesus in the Gospel, and then we receive Jesus in the Eucharist. We become full of Jesus; we become one with Him and one with each other. Then we go out after Mass and we share Jesus with everyone we meet. We share Jesus by being kind and helping others. We receive Jesus in Mass and then we share Jesus in the world.

Who knows what we celebrate this Sunday? The Ascension. This is when we remember Jesus rising to heaven to take His place at the right hand of God. And what is the next Sunday? Pentecost. This is when we remember the Holy Spirit descending on the Apostles. These two Solemnities remind us of how much our God loves us. And they bring an end to the Easter Season.

Jesus tells His disciples that they will weep and mourn. When do we weep and mourn? When we don't see Jesus. And when don't we see Jesus? When we turn away from Him. Sometimes we make mistakes; sometimes we are impatient; sometimes we are selfish; sometimes we are mean. It is in these times that we need to turn towards Jesus and remember that He loves us no matter what and wants to be with us all the time. Jesus wants us to be happy. And we are the happiest when we remember Jesus and how much He loves us. It is then that our grief becomes joy. Jesus is our joy.

Remember to bring Jesus with you on all your adventures. Bring Jesus with you on summer break. Bring Jesus with you when you go on vacation. Bring Jesus back to school with you in the fall. Whenever you feel sad, remember Jesus is with you always and wants you to be happy. Jesus is our joy.