



ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 12, 2024

St. James Catholic Church

*3909 Harrison * Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

Reflection from Patty McCarty

One thing about Jesus – he was ready. He was always ready. Ready for his passion. Ready for his pain-filled death. Ready for his joyous resurrection. And now, 40 days after that, after visiting and reassuring his faithful friends, he was again ready. Ready to say goodbye to his always dear friends and relatives, to the land and people he knew and loved so well. They had been there when he needed them, as he had been for them. Well, this was different. There wouldn't be any coming back for a long time, and Jesus knew it.

And so, he looked at the people he loved. And loved them. He looked at Mary, his mama, and loved her as she had always loved him, even when he was so little he didn't know what loving meant. Like most mamas, she was there because she wanted to make sure everything was going right. And because she loved him, there was no place she would rather be.

He thought of all the people he had loved – how important they were to him – and he loved them now, in this moment, good and hard, just for the delight of loving them. And he looked at the world that he had loved. Looked at it and enjoyed it, knowing it was his – every bit of it. He thanked God for it and all it had given him and all it had meant to him.

Thank you, God, for every moment. Every friend, every foe. For every good time. Every bad time. For every moment well-used. For every minute wasted. For all the days and all the nights. For this wonderful world. I couldn't have made it better myself. In fact, I think I did.

"My spirit empowers you," he said. "Let people know." And a cloud took him from their sight.

