

[This / Yesterday] morning, parents and students from our school were up early making fresh donuts at Johnson's Giant Pumpkin Farm out on Portsmouth Road.

I made a brief walk-through of the operation – where the kitchen is laid out with each of the steps in-order ... from mixing the batter, to dropping the donuts into hot oil, letting the donuts cool on racks, putting sugar on them, inspection, and finally boxing them up.

There's a sort of hierarchy of steps, and a pecking order as well: certain tasks were relegated to adults, other tasks to older students, and certain steps for the younger students. Yet everyone who wanted to could help, and everything led to the finished product.

Which, by the way, are for sale after Mass.

Today we celebrate the external Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord. Ascension has traditionally been celebrated on the 40th day after Easter – which was last Thursday. For various reasons, the Church has moved this particular Feast to the Sunday following. And so, here we are.

All three of our readings give an account of Christ's Ascension.

And we could perhaps get lost in perhaps only seeing this as an historical recollection of a past event.

Yet, every aspect of Jesus' life – from His Birth; through His Ministry; His Suffering, Passion, and Death; His Resurrection; and now His Ascension – continue to be played out in the lives of Christians for the past 20 centuries.

We are all Baptized into His Death. We are all anointed and called to lives of service. We unite our sufferings and difficulties to His Cross. We look forward to the Resurrection of the Dead, and the life of the world to come.

These things are all encapsulated in the Creed, which we recite together on Sundays and Solemnities.

And we live out the Life of Christ in our own lives and in the Sacraments.

Over the past few weeks, our school children have completed their Sacraments of Initiation – receiving Confirmation at the Bishop’s hands, and just lack week receiving their First Holy Communion.

Forty-some weeks ago, those who were catechumens for Baptism or candidates for full reception into the Church received or completed their Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. [Tomorrow / Today] we will receive [an / this] infant into the Church of God through the waters of Baptism.

Everything is done in an orderly and reasoned fashion. The structure of the Sacraments is played out through the hierarchy of the Church.

Nothing about our Faith is static or historic ... rather, our Faith is living and dynamic in our community ... and should be as well in our own lives.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ – let us pray that we may avail ourselves of the Graces of the Sacraments we have received ... so as to better live out the Christian life ... as members of Christ’s Body the Church.

May our lives – lived out in His Grace – show forth the saving mysteries of His Life – and be an example to the world that Jesus Christ is indeed risen from the dead, and ascended into heaven.