

## May 16<sup>th</sup> - The Ascension of the Lord



### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**Saturday, May 15**

9:00am

**Sunday, May 16**

8:00am *St. John Parish*

10:00am *Matthew Elsbernd (bday)*

12:00pm † *Alberto Sevillano*

**Monday, May 17**

9:00am † *Rodrigo Tarantan*

**Tuesday, May 18**

9:00am † *Carol JoSmith*

**Wednesday, May 19**

9:00am † *Bob Passmore*

**Thursday, May 20**

9:00am *YMI Brothers*

**Friday, May 21**

9:00am † *Albert & Michael Gragnani*

**Saturday, May 22**

9:00am *St. John Parishioners*

### SECOND COLLECTION

Today's second collection is for **Catholic Charities**

Catholic Charities supports families struggling with homelessness; cares for aging adults and adults with disabilities; welcomes immigrants and refugees with love and compassion; and offers youth a safe place to learn a grow. Thank you for your generous support to this great cause.



### Congratulations to our First Communicants!

What a special weekend for our St. John family as **6 children received their First Holy Communion!** We congratulate them and invite all parishioners to pray that our First Communicants will continue to grow in love for Jesus as they receive Him in the Eucharist.

### From the Desk of the Pastor ....

**LEAVING.....** At one time or another in our lives, we know we must take leave. We may leave a home, a job, a way of life. We leave because we believe something better lies ahead. We do not do this lightly. Most of us take time to make that determination. While we leave with a tinge of sadness, at the same time, we take courage with a measure of hope.

The Gospels according to St. Mark and St. Luke speak directly about the ascension of Jesus. St. Mark gives only a single line reference. St. Luke, on the other hand, is more expansive. He recalls the Ascension narration in the opening of his second book, the Acts of the Apostles. St. Luke mentions that Jesus' ascension occurred forty days after the Resurrection.

As Jesus returns to the Father (ascends) and thus disappears from their physical sight, the apostles are filled with awe, they remain riveted and absorbed staring up to heaven. The angels have to bring them back to earth, so to speak, reminiscent of the angels addressing the stunned women at the tomb on Easter morning. The new reality begins to sink in them: Jesus will no longer be present in the old, familiar way. They must learn that though Jesus left them, he did not abandon them. He is wholly present. They will receive, experience and know him in a new way.

When we fail to see Jesus in our everyday lives, we cannot follow where he leads. We look for him in technology and in material possessions, and we neglect to find him in flesh, in word and in mystery. Sometimes, in order to discover Jesus' life giving presence, we have to 'wait'. Like fruit ripening on a vine or like a woman anticipating the birth of a child, we cannot hurry or pre-empt the process.

We at time cannot wait, we may want an exact timeline, right here, right now ... but Jesus says we must 'wait'. To discover the glory of heaven, we must find it in the commonplace reality on earth.

Jesus, gives the Eleven Apostles the mission of teaching, baptizing and carrying out all he had commanded. Their mission to reach the ends of the earth has been given to us. We are assured that Jesus will be with us everywhere and always, right up to the end of time.

### PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

**Sunday masses are celebrated at 8am & 10am in English and 12noon en espanol**

**The church** is open for personal prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays from 8:00am to 1:00pm. The Parish thanks the Knights of Columbus, Council 615 and our liturgical ministers who generously offer their time, talent and treasure in faithful stewardship every weekend, keeping watch in the church and taking care of the church

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. After Jesus rose from the dead, on Easter Sunday, He remained on earth and appeared to many in resurrected form. After forty days, Jesus ascended into Heaven, leaving the mission of the Church under the care of the Apostles and promising to send the Holy Spirit as their guide on Pentecost. Why did Jesus ascend? Was He abandoning His followers? By no means! Jesus ascended in order to reign over the kingdom of the Church from heaven. But He did not leave us orphans. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to guide us. In saying to His disciples, "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you," He promised the very presence of the divine with them. Jesus is fully God and so is the Holy Spirit. Thus, whether Jesus stayed or ascended, God would be with them! Jesus, in His flesh, was limited to one geographical location. By ascending and sending the Holy Spirit, the faith could spread to the ends of the earth. Just imagine having to travel to Israel to meet Jesus in person! Instead, the Holy Spirit dwells within us here and now; and Jesus is present to us in the Eucharist whatever part of the world we are in. Jesus sent His disciples to be "witnesses" to the ends of the earth, and He promised to give them everything they would need to succeed. The fact that we are following Jesus 2,000 years later is evidence of their success.

As disciples, we are called to put our faith into action, grow to be more like the Lord, be united with other believers in community, and bring others to Christ through the way we live our lives. In so doing, we will live a life worthy of our call in Christ, a life of unity in the Spirit, of hope and peace.

Jesus calls us to be His witnesses to the world by spreading the gospel. The Holy Spirit gives us everything we need to succeed.

**Prayer to Christ Ascended Into Heaven** O Lord Jesus, I adore you, Son of Mary, my Savior and my Brother, for You are God. I follow You in my thoughts, O first-fruits of our race, as I hope one day by Your grace to follow You in my person into heavenly glory. Until then, do not let me neglect the earthly task which You have given me. Let me labor diligently all my life with a greater appreciation for the present. Let me realize that only by accomplishing true human fulfillment can I attain Divine fulfillment and ascend to You at the completion of my work. Amen