



Happy  
Feast of the  
Ascension!

May 12, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

# Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11 | Eph 1:17-23 | Mk 16:15-20

## **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

It's easy for me to get impatient with the Lord - to wonder why he makes me wait for an answer to a prayer or, worse, why his answer may be no. However, when I look back at the lessons of the Bible, it becomes clear that God works on his timetable, not mine. That same message comes through in today's first reading. The apostles ask Jesus whether he will be restoring the kingdom to Israel, and he is clear in his answer: "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority." And then, after saying this, he ascends to the Father. Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus has left his disciples again. But instead of leaving them to weep and mourn - as happened after his death - this time, our Lord left them with a mission. They were to "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." They did, faithfully, and they traveled far and wide. Armed with the gift of the Holy Spirit which they received at Pentecost, they baptized countless people as they shared the Good News about Jesus and his gift of salvation.

## **GO** EVANGELIZE

### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

After Jesus gives the disciples the command to go out and preach the Gospel, he says that "whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." He offers salvation for those who believe in him. And he says that the disciples, and us, will be his witnesses in the world. Sacred tradition tells us that Andrew and Philip preached in Asia Minor while Bartholomew and Thomas spent time in India. Others are said to have gone to Palestine, Persia, and Ethiopia. All died a martyr's death - except John who had been entrusted with the care of our Blessed Mother. We are his witnesses today, and we are also commissioned to go into the world and proclaim the Gospel. Today, as we celebrate his ascension into heaven, let us allow ourselves a moment to gaze upward and behold Jesus' power and glory. Let the Ascension renew our commitment to do the work he has asked us to do, and remind us of his presence here with us in all that we do.

**PRAY** We know the mission Jesus has given us and we know we have the Holy Spirit to help us carry it out. For prayer this week, meditate on Paul's words to the Ephesians and ask the Lord for "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of [our] hearts be enlightened, that [we] may know what is the hope that belongs to his call."

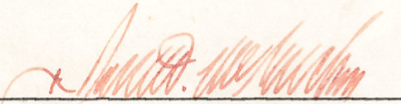




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I, Joseph T. McGucken, Archbishop of San Francisco, solemnly testify that on the twenty-ninth day of the month of October, in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and sixty-seven, I solemnly blessed the new Church in Saratoga, in honor of the Ascension, according to the form found in the Roman Ritual.

Given in San Francisco on this the thirtieth day of the month of October, One Thousand Nine Hundred and sixty-seven.

  
 Joseph T. McGucken  
 Archbishop of San Francisco



### Rise to the Occasion

Today's Feast of the Ascension gives wide recognition to a rather complex idea—that Christ both ascended to heaven and remains with us. In fact, we get a taste of heaven when we unify ourselves with Jesus in spirit and action. Saint Augustine taught "although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace." From attending Mass to aiding the needy, on this feast day we can all take a step toward unity with Christ. -*Preparetheword.com*

### Catholic Communication Campaign

May 12

Half of the gifts support our local diocese's communications programs. The other half funds communication activities at the national level and projects abroad. Thank you for your generosity.

### MASS INTENTIONS

May 11	Sat	05 pm	Rose & Alex Lenarduzzi +
May 12	Sun	07 am	Josephine Gembala +
		09 am	Agnes Sison (L)
		11 am	Remedios Doria +
		05 pm	Aida Lobos +
May 13	Mon	08 am	Sharlene Pereira (L)
May 17	Fri	08 am	Henry Pereira (L)
May 18	Sat	09 am	Mary Lucas (L)

### Come and Celebrate with Us

Saturday, May 18, 2024

5:00pm Mass

Join Bishop Cantú and several priests in this special Mass that officially closes the Parish 60th Jubilee Year and includes the Confirmation for our Youth.

### Ascension's History

(Continues from last week bulletin)



In November 1966, the first of the great laminated beams of our present church building were hoisted into place. On Ascension Thursday, June 4, 1967, the first Mass was offered on the new marble altar. On October 29, 1967, Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken formally dedicated the new church. The building was intended as a multi-purpose church-hall to serve the spiritual and social needs of everyone in the community. For this reason, the pews were placed on runners so they could be removed to use the building as a social hall and this was done successfully for years.

Then for many reasons plans changed. In 1974 ground was broken for a new parish center and the church-hall building became our Church. Many great things have happened in our Parish Center over the years and it has been the scene of much growth, spiritually and socially, for our parishioners.

In 1977, founding Father Worner was succeeded by Monsignor John T. Dwyer who stayed at Ascension until 1987. Then Fr. Art Harrison took over as pastor until 1989, when Fr. Robert Passalacqua became an administrator. Fr. Robert Leger was pastor from 1990 to 1995. Fr. Paul Duong took over the reins from 1995 to July 2007. Fr. Joe Galang led the parish for 12 years from 2007. Then in 2019 Fr. Hao Dinh became pastor of our Parish while concurrently served (for four years) as Vicar General and Chancellor for the Diocese of San Jose. He and Fr. Rey Sarmiento, parochial vicar, led the Parish during the challenging Covid-19 pandemic (2020-2023) when the liturgies were celebrated outdoors, in the parish hall, and finally in the church, while adhering to public health safety measures.

Since the first Mass in "The Barn," our parish life has been filled with memories -- some joyful, some sorrowful -- but they are memories of a great parish family. We see what has been accomplished with the enthusiastic cooperation of so many loyal and devoted people and we think of what more can be planned, organized, and completed in the future.

### Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California

[www.ascensionsaratoga.org](http://www.ascensionsaratoga.org)

408-725-3939

Mass Schedule

(Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p

(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Confessions (Sat) 4:00-4:45pm