

The Church's Calendar This Week

Sunday, May 16

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Masses at 6:00/8:00/10:00a/12:00/6:00p

Live-Streamed Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Monday, May 17

Monday of the Seventh Week of Easter

Masses at 6:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Tuesday, May 18

Tuesday of the Seventh Week of Easter

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Wednesday, May 12

Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Easter

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00 a.m.

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Thursday, May 19

Thursday of the Seventh Week of Easter

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Friday, May 20

Friday of the Seventh Week of Easter

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Saturday, May 21

Saturday of the Seventh Week of Easter

Mass at 7:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00 a.m.

Mass at 12:00 p.m.

Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Sunday, May 22

Pentecost Sunday

Masses at 6:00/8:00/10:00a/12:00/6:00p

Live-Streamed Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Stewardship of Treasure

Offertory Collection

5/3 – 5/9

Sunday Offering and Pentecost	\$ 6,341.15
Weekday	\$ 1,035.55
Online Giving	\$ 1,926.84
Feasts & Solemnities	\$ 429.00
Total Offertory	\$ 9,732.54

Other Collection

Repair & Maintenance	\$ 95.00
Catholic Communication Campaign	\$ 30.00
Holy Land/Operation Rice Bowl	\$ 58.00
Diocesan Retirement Fund	\$ 535.00
Others (Gallery, Candles, Intention etc.)	\$ 3,033.62
Total	\$ 13,484.16

Living the Liturgy

- “One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:5 – 6) is a beautifully stated creed that has identified us from our earliest times. Spend a few minutes to commit the line to memory and review it each day so it becomes embedded.
- Draw up a list of the roles St. Paul names in this text from Ephesians — apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher — and under each heading list one to three contemporary individuals who are living out that role.
- Proclaim the Good News to others by making a heavenly cloud windsock. Draw a cloud shape on white construction paper and cut it out. Write on it: “Until He Comes Again.” Glue or tape blue streamers or strips of tissue paper so that they hang from your cloud. Punch a hole in the top and hang it from ribbon or yarn.

Sharing the Faith

- Why do you think Jesus refused to answer the question about the restoration of Israel? Are we better off without such knowledge?
- In the Church, we tend to rank the various roles we are given. What is the spirit with which Paul calls us to embrace the different roles assigned to members of the body?
- Jesus gave his followers a mission to witness to his Good News until he returns. If Jesus returned this moment, what would he find you doing to help the world prepare for him?

Quote of the Week

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses . . .” (Acts 1:8).

May 16 2021 – Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

Acts 1:1-11 | Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 | Ephesians 1:17-23 or 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13 | Mark 16:15-20

The disciples' shock at the Resurrection is now superseded by their shock at the Ascension. Would they get along without him? Would they remember any of what he'd taught them? These are urgent questions that Jesus never answers. Instead, he gives a promise and a prophecy. The promise is the Spirit who will come to them with power. In that power, they will embrace their destiny, becoming witnesses to Christ in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth. It had to be that way. Every good parent knows children must eventually venture out on their own. But good parents never send children out without resources. Neither does Jesus.

That's why the promise. On their own, they would have surely failed. The opposition from without would have coalesced against them and the weakness from within would have consumed their unity. But the Holy Spirit would remind them of all Jesus said, give them courage to face enemies, and enlighten and embolden them and center them in truth. What's more, by ascending to the Father, Jesus assumed his rightful role as "head" and all his followers became the members of the Body they were meant to be. Jesus didn't leave his followers, he became part of each and every one. He is still here, in fact, in each of us. We are his Body and, through us, he still drives out demons and heals the wounds of a broken world.

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Next Sunday's Readings: "Pentecost Sunday"

Acts 2:1-11 | Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 | 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Galatians 5:16-25 | John 20:19-23 or 15:26-27; 16:12-15

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Cathedral Basilica Ohana,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

***"After he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God."* (Mark 16: 19)**

The Evangelist Mark ended his Gospel with the Ascension of Jesus into heaven and took His seat at the right hand of God. He presented Jesus' departure from His disciples and highlighted His glorification as He sits on the right hand of God. Interpreting this mystery literally may lead us to a different conclusion and misunderstanding of this event in the life of Jesus. If we think of heaven as a geographical place, we may be asking where heaven is. Is it in the sky? Is it beyond the Milky Way? Where? If it is somewhere out there and cannot find it, is Jesus no longer present with us?

The mystery of the Ascension is more than that. It is in the presence of God, that is, being with the Father. The Ascension event draws us to understand Jesus' words, in the Gospel of John, *"I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* It makes us understand that our life is moving towards the Father and our way to Him is through Jesus. And all these have to take place to complete the journey towards our salvation through Him.

In the Ascension account, what is also noticeable is Jesus' command to His disciples to go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. He entrusted His mission to them so that His message of salvation will be heard to all generations to come. Though afraid that things might happen to them what their Master experienced, they took it by heart and went out boldly to continue Jesus' mission. They were promised that He would be with them through the Advocate, Holy Spirit, to guide and lead them to fulfill their tasks.

The Feast of the Ascension invites us to realize our goal in life, that is, to be with God. It makes us also aware that God is always with us. It reminds us also to look deeper into ourselves if we are living rightly and justly as sons and daughters of God. It invites us also to continue the mission He has entrusted with us. To do our mission is to make known more and more people in the world that Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. Eventually, we glory in the Lord when He comes to rule and judge the world.

Our Easter Season is ending. As much as we can, let us always celebrate God's abundant blessings upon all of us with great joy. He gave us His Son, our Redeemer, to bring light and life to our world. He is the source of our peace, love, and joy. Through Him, With Him, and In Him, we have everything that we need in life. Let us trust in His goodness, for He is with us always!

May God continue to protect you and care for you, especially during these difficult times. May our Blessed Mother, Our Lady Queen of Peace, protect you and your family, always!

Your friend in Jesus,
Fr. Pascual