

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord – May 12, 2024



Jesus said to his disciples:
"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and

took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs. -Mark 16:15-20

Stay with Us

A presider at one post-quarantine mass admitted, with a beautiful poignancy, how much he missed the students. They and their networks of life had flown away at the end of each year to cope with living apart from each other, and course this went triple for the pandemic.

I can remember the same type of longing back in my own college days. When I travelled home I came from empty halls and empty rooms within broad, undisturbed yards of grass. Yes, we were all glad to have the school year done with, but at the same time, the buildings were now deserted, and the buzzing life of intermingling students was gone.

This must have been the kind of hollowness felt by the disciples in the sudden absence of Jesus from their world. Especially was this true of the women—who had loved him so much. The passion had been the worst part, as we said last week. What could ever fill such cavernous emptiness? Having tunneled through the narrow passageway of death—as you and I will do one day—we had seen Jesus giving everything he was to the Father out of sheer love. What sort of lives could any Christian have after the very center of their lives had been taken away?

Alright, you say, but there was the resurrection.

Correct, but we saw last week how confusing this new resurrected presence was to the disciples. "I will not believe this unless I put my hands on him," said doubting Thomas. And Christ's new presence did not last so very long, did it?

There was an event called the Ascension that again "emptied the school yards," so to speak, all over again. It was joyous, yes, but why did he have to go so far away, and forever?

But of course, instead of there being nothing left, there was now humanity transformed. Jesus had graduated from life into LIFE. He was marked with the totality of love and was on his way back to the dynamic swirling, Trinitarian circle of love from which his humanity had issued in the first place. He lingered after the Resurrection mainly in order to tell us about it, to comfort us, to ease the loss.

"Stay in Jerusalem until my Spirit comes to fill your heart," Jesus said to his followers. (First Reading from the Ascension).

Ok, but quite difficult to understand.

They were to be filled with all humility and gentleness, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit. (Ephesians 4:2-5)

And that was their answer and ours. The immense act of modest love that was the resurrection was now to be poured into believers. Jesus would continue to be alive within the world after all, but in a different form, that of the Holy Spirit. God the Spirit would be alive within their bodies and those of their neighbors. Loss and absence would be turned into real presence. These would linger in time by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In the Eucharistic Prayer and Communion, we take his body and blood into our body and blood. The Spirit helps us accept his whole life, death, and resurrection as these settle into us and into others around us. This real presence now abides forever in our midst, urging us, gently nudging us to say yes.

To put it another way, school is not out.

-John Foley, SJ

Readings for Ascension Sunday

Reading I: Acts 1:1-11

Reading II: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

Readings for Pentecost Sunday

Reading I: Acts 1:1-11

Reading II: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

FINANCE

1st Collection = \$2,828

This week's 2nd Collection is for Building & Maintenance.

Next week's 2nd Collection is for Peter's Pence.

St. Bernard Rosary Program Report:

God bless you... Over 5,000 Rosaries Prayed!

Rosaries prayed this week =59 Cumulative = 5,311

No names are required just a slip of paper with total.

2024 Sacred Liturgy Conference

Assumption-Ferndale and Bear River Bishop Robert

F. Vasa of the Diocese of Santa Rosa extends a warm welcome to the 12th annual Sacred Liturgy Conference, returning once more to the serene landscapes of Northern California. Under the theme "The Church on Fire in the Sacred Heart of Jesus" this inspiring conference will take place June 4-7, 2024, in the charming town of Ferndale, CA. Three sung Gregorian Liturgies and one Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at the Church of the Assumption, while the conference lectures will unfold at the Tish-Non Center, conveniently located next to the Bear River Resort. The **registration fee includes 16 conference sessions, reserved seating at the liturgies, an opening reception, three catered lunches, coffee breaks and a concluding banquet dinner.** An **optional chant workshop** is also available on Saturday June 8. The chant workshop with Dr. Lynne-Bissonnette-Pitre is for anyone interested in learning more about Gregorian chant and singers of all levels may attend. To register or for info about speakers, schedules and fees online please go to <https://sacredliturgy.org/>

Eureka Holy Mass Schedule:

Saturday, May 11

3:15 Confessions St. Joseph Church
4:00 pm +Jon Mitts St Joseph Church

Sunday, May 12 Solemnity of the Ascension

7:30 am Mass for the People St. Joseph Church
9:00 am +Thomas Barajas & +Luis Romo Sacred Heart
10:30 am +Clarence Enos St. Bernard Church
12:15 pm(Sp) No Intention Sacred Heart Church

Monday, May 13

12:15pm +Robert Plumage St. Bernard Church

Tuesday, May 14

7:30 am No Intention St. Joseph Church

Wednesday, May 15

12:15 pm +Don Cloney St. Bernard Church
*Followed by Confessions & Adoration St. Bernard
6:00 Adoration & Confession Sacred Heart Church
7:00 pm (Sp) No Intention Sacred Heart Church

Thursday, May 16

7:30 am No Intention St Joseph Church
11:30 am No intention St Joseph Hospital Chapel

Friday, May 17

12:15 pm +Celestina Cathey St. Bernard Church

Saturday, May 18

3:15 Confessions St. Joseph Church
4:00 pm Int. Nancy Giannini St Joseph Church

Sunday, May 19 Pentecost Sunday

7:30 am Mass for the People St. Joseph Church
9:00 am Int. Rodrigo de Guzman (HB)
+Victor Crisostomo Sacred Heart Church
10:30 am Ashlyn Ford St. Bernard Church
12:15 pm(Sp) +Gloria Ruiz (15 yr death) Sacred Heart

Please Pray For: Sharon Cranford, Cleenewerck Family, Mary Antolini, Jeremy, Leia and Cindy, Mary Murphy, Obdulia Walters, Paul Windham, Barbara Clement, Stephen, David Gerrman, Tate, Kayden and Naylor Family, Barbara Reese, Teri McNamara, Padilla Family, Adriana Barrett, Nancy C., Lily Ennis & Family, Joyce Marty, Karla Kincade, Caroline Brooks, Santos and Basil Mainus, Josephine Silva, Judy Weber & Family, Dn. Steve Justus, Biesecker Family, Hinton Family, Colleen Huddleston, Caden Naylor, Diane Kerr, Jim Mowery, Sharon P., Stormie C. Myers, Amber, Peter John A., Robert Francis, Dan, Stella, Sandra, Martha Fosnaugh, John Hinds, Marian Griffin, Margaret Knight, Millie Perrone, Star Salazar, Barbara, Shawn, Lauriee Moralez, and Anderson Family..

Please Pray For Our Beloved Departed:

Don Cloney, Clare, Gary Krietsch, Donald Burghart, Robert McCauley, Saturnina Tetrault, Patricia Lee Silva, Marilyn Zibilich, Lee Berning, Marie Giampaolo, Stella's Siblings, John Conant, Maryanne Elise Biesecker, Felipe de Jesus, Manuel Machado, Bettie Albright, Deacon Frank Weber, Deborah Justus, Jon Albert Mitts, John Eyeler, Patricia Kinsella Jurkovich, Robert Kerr, Merle Myers Jr, Dave Silverbrand, Betty Lutje Judy Williamson, Rosemary Buss, Vivian LaMont, and Chet Branum.

Fr. Bernard's 30th Ordination Anniversary On Saturday, May 25, 2024, beginning with a bilingual 12:00 pm Holy Mass, St. Bernard, St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Churches will host a celebration for Father Bernard's 30th year anniversary of his ordination at Sacred Heart Church. After the Mass there will be a social with food, fun and entertainment in the parish hall! We are now looking for volunteers to help. More information will be announced in the coming weeks. If you can help, please text or call Sue Lehman at 347-446-5508.

Marian Shrines Pilgrimage with Fr. Bernard D'Sa

Fr. Bernard will be leading a 13 day pilgrimage to Marian Shrines from July 7th – July 19th. The trip will visit shrines in France, Portugal and Spain. Some of the places visited will be Paris, Versailles, Chartres, Lourdes, Loyola, Oviedo, Santiago de Compostela, and Fatima. The price is \$4,595 per person (double occupancy). For more info contact Holy Land Tours and Travel at (1-800-655-8644, www.holylandtoursandtravel.com or info@holylandtoursandtravel.com)

2024 Annual Ministry Appeal

Each year, the Annual Ministry Appeal (AMA) allows us to unite as *One Family in Mission* to share God's love and mercy across the Diocese of Santa Rosa by sustaining vital diocesan ministries that strengthen families, form missionary disciples, and support our clergy and vocations. Our parish AMA goal is 28,800 for 2024. So far we have received \$17,430.

St. Bernard's Phone Prayer Line.

For those who are interested in joining the prayer chain or anyone with a prayer request, please call Alan/Illeen at (707) 442-6844. "Prayer is an act of love, words are not needed. Even if sickness distracts from thoughts, all that is needed is the will to love." ~ St. Teresa of Avila

Next Week Lakeport Outdoor Passion Play - May

18th & 19th The play is presented in its entirety on both days Saturday and Sunday in May in the beautiful foothills of Lake County by Clear Lake. Bring your own chair and sunscreen. No smoking, food drinks or pets allowed on grounds. Water is available and there are facilities for the handicapped. Time: 4:00 p.m-6pm.

Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. Your tax-deductible donation should be made payable to: Lake County Passion Play, P. O. Box 386, Lakeport, CA 95453. Call: 866-896-5277
LakeCountyPassionPlay.ORG

Catholic Bibles and Rosaries For Inmates and

Recovery There is a need for new Catholic Bibles and rosaries for inmates at the local Humboldt County Jail and for folks at the **Humboldt Recovery Center (bring to office)**. There are Bible paperback versions here: <https://www.christianbook.com/nabre-student-edition-bible/9780529064844/pd/9064847?event=Catholic-Resources|1006980> that are \$10 or less. For the Jail bring Bibles to the J St blue stairway doors and knock. Bibles should be new and softbound or paperback No Rosaries