

May 27-28, 2017

The Ascension of the Lord - Memorial Weekend

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:17-23

Matthew 28:16-20

Endings and beginnings/beginnings and endings. While 'unofficial', Spring is now 'ended' and Summer is upon us. The Easter Season, which began with much fanfare back on April 15-16, is morphing through an ENDING so as to BIRTH a fresh BEGINNING. Ascension, commemorating the physical departure of the resurrected Jesus from human history, sets the scene for the promise of PENTECOST, the giving of 'another advocate' (a fresh beginning), to be fulfilled. In like manner, our eighth graders at St. Francis, in order to progress to High School and the full lives that await them, must leave/end their time here at the elementary level. Entire nations must sometimes pass through endings/beginnings, our own American Revolution, Civil War and numerous other conflicts have tested our dedication to the Founder's words and allowed us to evolve into who we are today (especially as we honor ALL those who have died in these conflicts.) In a very 'Santa Clara way', this weekend is our blessing and sending forth of Seminarian Daniel (an ending) so that he may continue and, with the grace of God, complete his preparation leading to Ordination to priesthood (a beginning.) For some, endings are greeted with relief and enthusiasm, for others, endings are uncomfortable, a disruption of that with which we have become familiar. Beginnings as well are complex, some receive them with exuberance and fresh optimism, others resist them, continually looking back with a wish to return to what was tried and true. While important liturgically, the deeper meaning of Ascension is as a nudge for us to review our OWN endings and beginnings....both those that were embraced peacefully/happily and those that were/are resisted. Wherever we ARE is where the grace of God IS for us...we cannot return to the past, we can not speed up the arrival of the future...the sufficiency of GRACE is given to each of us for where we are NOW, today. We may be uncertain or confused as to the present moment, we may even wish to return to the familiarity of the past (better the devil we knew than the ones unknown.) Knowing that Pentecost is but days away, sometimes called the 'Birthday of the Church', what graces are needed so that you may be at peace with NOW? How have your past endings altered the direction of your life? Over your lifetime, with what 'beginnings' were you MOST pleased...and what need to end so that you could experience them? Endings and beginnings/beginnings and endings, some things never change.

While still officially slightly more than three weeks away, WELCOME to Summer! Thank you for sharing this Memorial weekend with our Santa Clara community. **You are reminded and urged to take the name of one of our American Servicemen/women who have been killed while on active duty since Memorial Weekend 2016.** Please pray for them...AND ESPECIALLY... for their families. Look them up on the internet and become familiar with who these people are who gave their lives in service to our country because they followed our orders. Lastly, if you wish to do a HUGE kindness, write the family of the deceased Serviceman/woman a note of prayer and support, letting them know they are not forgotten...one American to another. **With our St. Francis graduation this Friday, just a reminder that Adoration will cease at 3pm....and due to Priest Retreat, there are no morning Masses starting Monday, June 5th thru Friday, June 9th.** More than just coffee and donuts, this weekend we offer a slightly expanded array of post-Mass treats as our way of acknowledging **Seminarian Daniel's** presence among us for the past 9 months and providing an opportunity for you to wish him well in his continued studies...but remember, especially on Sunday, he has to get ready for the next Mass! Enjoy your holiday, fire up the

barbecue, please be mindful of those who wish they had more than a folded flag ... and don't forget, you are loved. FKB