

June 1-2, 2019

The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:17-23

Luke 24:46-53

There have been enough hints to fill a Summer picnic basket! 'My children, I will be with you only a little while longer.' 'You have heard me tell you, I am going away and I will come back to you.' While preparing his Disciples for the eventuality of his crucifixion, Jesus was also prepping them to OPEN their minds and spirits to the mysteries of GRACE. With God, there is always more than one can quickly grasp and Jesus' words frequently have 'immediate' reasons for being said, with 'long term' implications and meaning. Having lived, breathed and completed the INCARNATION (God becoming human), in order for the CHURCH to be empowered and compelled to do as he (Jesus) did, it was necessary for him to cease being among us in his flesh and blood humanness. In the same way that our Seminarian Interns will eventually have to step into their roles as ORDAINED PRIESTS and do for themselves what they have watched me (us) do, so, the Church needed to take upon itself the cloak of GRACE and BECOME the 'MYSTICAL BODY of CHRIST' still present and effective within the world. Composed of sometimes broken men and women, through the centuries this institution, with Jesus as our head, has struggled to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus and call people to live lives of discipleship for everyone we encounter. Some of our members have sometimes given themselves to great evil (the ongoing clergy sexual abuse crisis comes to mind) but the GRACE of JESUS has never been withdrawn from us...we still have the power to change, heal and uplift people's lives. As is true of any great endeavor, in order to be as powerful a force for GOOD as we can be, it is important that we individually open ourselves to become VIBRANT and ENGAGED participants within our parish community. Thus, next weekend, PENTECOST, our assorted Ministries, Outreaches and Social Organizations invite you to our annual MINISTRY FAIR after all the Masses. Not only an opportunity to learn what we do and who we are, the Ministry Fair is an INVITATION and OPPORTUNITY for our parishioners (the more the merrier) to more actively participate with bringing Santa Clara de Asis to life. For us to be as alive and spiritually powerful as possible...we NEED YOU....JESUS NEEDS YOU! With the Ascension...it is up to us to claim ownership of Jesus' Church...will you open yourself and let Jesus use you?

Thank you for sharing this Ascension weekend with our Santa Clara Community. Please note that NEXT WEEKEND will be our Pentecost Ministry Fair, please allow extra time in your schedule to linger and peruse the many options by which you can add you skills, strengths and graces to help Santa Clara grow. Having honored MOMs in May, Father's Day is drawing near on June 15 & 16. If you wish to enroll your dad (or 'Father figures') in the special JUNE Masses, envelopes are available for this purpose at the exits. This being the week of our annual Diocesan Priest Retreat, a final reminder that there are NO 8:30am Weekday Masses here at Santa Clara this week. Give yourselves a break and sleep in. Please keep the Priests of the Diocese of Orange in your prayers...I look forward to sharing the humorous and serious happenings of the retreat with you upon my return. Until then, stay well and remember, you are loved.
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