

May 25-26, 2019

Sixth Sunday of Easter - Memorial Weekend

Acts 15:1-29

Revelation 21:10-23

John 14:23-29

Expectant moms strolling around the market, humming to the child in their womb, they anticipate holding their infant, instructing them to walk, talk, run and play. There may be a passing fear of potential illness or hardships, but it is probably the VERY rare mom who anticipates the countless times when they will have to say goodbye to their son or daughter. Could even the young and expectant Blessed Mother Mary, knowing the MOST unusual manner of her pregnancy, have ever imagined the ways in which she would have to watch and accept the manner in which her son would leave this world? Who would? Yet, as we anticipate the celebration of Ascension next weekend, our minds/hearts are tweaked to remember that (with the exception of God) everything has a beginning and everything has an ending...so as to move on to the next beginning. Our kids grow and go off to college, marry, move away and live their lives. Tragically some parents are cruelly awakened late at night with phone messages that send their hearts spiraling. Still other parents stand proudly as their sons/daughters are commissioned/enlisted into our Armed Forces, pushing and hoping hard against remembered images of Arlington National Cemetery and other places of internment for our honored service members. None of us know what each day may hold. We each have our plans, our agendas, our anticipated pursuits, enjoyments and satisfactions pulling us ahead into each day, week, month and year. Ascension reminds us, not to be morose, but rooted in the potentialities of reality...strengthened with the knowledge that THERE IS NOWHERE WHERE THE GRACE OF GOD IS NOT and NOTHING EXISTS OUTSIDE OF THE GRACE OF GOD...even within the things that potentially frighten or disappoint us. Next weekend's Ascension leaves Jesus' disciples confused once again; they had already experienced the lowest of lows upon his Crucifixion and now they must deal with his presumed absence once more as he is seemingly taken into heaven and AWAY from them. Little did they grasp the fullness of God's design, that in order for the Church and the message of Jesus to spread and be alive, the disciples had to OWN IT THEMSELVES, hence the grace and outpouring of the Holy Spirit given on Pentecost that enabled them to do what they never would have imagined doing. On this Memorial Weekend we honor those who have given their lives in SERVICE to our nation, in particular those within our Armed Services who have perished during this past year since Memorial Day of 2018. As well, we remember THEIR FAMILIES, for whom their loved one's absence is fresh and painful. True DISCIPLESHIP and true PATRIOTISM compels us to pray, lift up, stand with and support those who mourn the loss of their loved ones...until they can embrace the full reality of Easter and prayerfully propel their wife, husband, mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister into the awaiting arms of Jesus.

Thank you for sharing this Memorial Weekend with our Santa Clara Community. We extend our prayers and hopes for our St. Francis Eighth-graders who will graduate this coming Friday.

*\* A reminder that our Annual Priest Retreat is approaching, from Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> thru Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> and there are NO 8:30am daily Masses that week.*

*\* Additionally, on the weekend of June 8-9, in addition to celebrating PENTECOST, we will be hosting our annual PARISH MINISTRY FAIR. Showcasing all of our ministries, outreaches and social organizations by which Santa Clara comes alive and thrives...it is an opportunity for YOU to become aware of all we do...and consider if there is something of interest to YOU so that our parish can be healthier, holier and happier because of your MORE active involvement among us.*

*\* Please plan to join us on Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> (Father's Day Weekend) at the 10am Mass as we bless Cheeyoon and send him forth to continue his Seminary preparation, God willing, leading to Priesthood. A Reception will follow allowing time for you to thank and extend your own personal best wishes to Cheeyoon for his year among us. (Those wishing to help with the Reception, please contact Maria McFarland, phone number in the Bulletin.)*

*\* Enjoy your Holiday Weekend, drive safe, use the best SPF you can afford....don't forget that your muscles might not be as young and as limber as you once remember them being...and of course, please hold tight to the knowledge that you are loved. FKB*