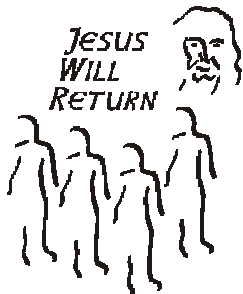


MAY 20, 2012 – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



WHO IS THEOPHILUS?

The author the Gospel according to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles dedicates both books to someone named Theophilus. His identity is a mystery. Some think that he might be a nobleman who is a Christian. Luke may have seen him as a sponsor for his ministry. Others suggest that he might have been a Roman judge. Luke might have been trying to defend Christianity during a persecution, or perhaps during Paul's trial. Many have the opinion that he is not a specific person because "Theophilus" means "lover of God" in Greek. So, in a way, the book may be commended to all who adore the Lord--all of us.

A MOUNTAIN IN GALILEE

The book of Acts tells us that the Ascension of Jesus into heaven took place near Jerusalem. Jesus told them "not to leave Jerusalem". Why then, does Matthew say that the event happened at a mountain in Galilee? The answer may be that there were two different traditions of where Jesus' departure took place. Another possibility is that Matthew interprets the mission of the Apostles as beginning at their homes in Galilee, from where they went forth. Finally, there is a distinct tradition in Jerusalem that the Mount of Olives was home to Galileans while on pilgrimage to the holy city. It would have been a convenient stopping point on the way from Galilee. Hence it might have been a "little Galilee" just as some cities have immigrant sections like "little Italy", etc.

PASTOR'S CORNER

The great feast of the Ascension is, of course, about Jesus and about the Church. First of all, the Ascension celebrates the fact that Jesus sometime after the resurrection enters a new and higher dimension of existence. Do not think of the Ascension primarily in special terms as though Jesus is now in outer space somewhere. Think of it more metaphysically, Jesus with his humanity now lives in a higher state of being. Just think of a triangle that has become a pyramid or a square that becomes a cube. In such transformation, the triangularity is not lost, it has been transfigured and the square did not disappear, but elevated into a cube. This example seems simplistic but I hope it gives you some idea of what resurrected, glorified or ascended means.

For us in our church, it means we continue the work of Jesus in this world. Jesus said to his disciples and to us, "Go into the world and proclaim the gospel to every creature". We become the instrumental cause of the coming of the kingdom. We participate in making the kingdom of God happen and fully realized in this world. God is so good that he allows us to participate in the transformation of the kingdom of God. And that is what it means to celebrate the feast of Ascension.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your wonderful hospitality and affirming attitude towards my tenure here at Holy Spirit as well as Star of the Valley. My last Sunday Mass for Star of the Valley is this Sunday and for Holy Spirit parish it will be on June 17th. Again, my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of you as it has been a healing and a wonderful ministry for the past eight months.

Peace and Blessings! **Fr. Luis**

MASS INTENTIONS

May 19 Sat.	5:30 PM	Int. of the Celebrant	May 22 Tues.	9:00 AM	(FT)
May 20 Sun.	7:30 AM	+Christina Mankins	May 23 Wed.	9:00 AM	(FT)
	10:30 AM		May 24 Thurs.	9:00 AM	(FT)
May 21 Mon.	9:00 AM		May 25 Fri.	9:00 AM	For the Celebrant (FT)

OUR SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please remember in your prayers this week the following intentions: **For Healing:** Holy Spirit Prayer Chain, Charm Smith, Robin Hagerman, Teresa Hrones and Jay Benn. **For the Soul of:** Vi Kahl.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY last weekend of \$3535.13 and for our Building Maintenance Fund of \$1,260.00.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY LITURGY takes place every Sunday during the 10:30 AM Family Mass – a wonderful opportunity for the children to understand the Sunday Gospel "in their language".

ALTAR FLOWERS are being donated this weekend by Marianne Majer in loving memory of Drago and Robert Majer.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR “CONFIRMATION”, June 1st, 7 PM, and plan to be present to support our youth and celebrate with them—Emily Bryars, Jacob Ciernick, Matt Daly, Jessica Griffin, Michael Look, Grant Mattingly, Nicholas Purugganan, Laura Shanahan, and Kerry Smith.

A PARISH RETREAT - A VENERABLE CATHOLIC TRADITION

On **June 7, 8 & 9**, we will be holding a parish retreat entitled “**LIVING CHRIST: Opening Our Hearts to Jesus.**” The retreat will take place at the parish rectory over two evenings (6-10pm w/dinner) and one morning (8am-1pm w/breakfast & Mass).

I know life moves fast. The schedules are packed and there isn't time for much fooling around with things that aren't in that schedule. “There just isn't time,” is real!! And what better example can we have than Jesus taking the time to get away?

The retreat is limited to the first 25 participants. Think of it this way – two relaxing dinners and a great breakfast for \$25 (cost is never to keep anyone away). **Registration deadline May 30, 2012.**

Please, take the time: To come closer to the heart of the Lord, to pause and allow Christ to grow within, to intentionally build an inner life in the Spirit that will bear much fruit.

Anyone interest needs to **call Bernard, 539-4495, Ext. 13, or email ciernick@sbcglobal.net to register.**

UP-COMING EVENTS

- 1) **Grades 1-6, TODAY, Session 25, 9—10:15, Last Session**
- 2) **Confirmation, Fri., Jun. 1, 7 PM, in the Church**
- 3) **A Parish Retreat, Jun. 7, 8 & 9, in the Rectory**
- 4) **“Good-Bye Celebration for Fr. Luis”, Sat., Jun. 16, following 5:30 PM Mass**

	TIME	READERS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, May 26	5:30 PM	P. Smith, K. Schmoll	D. Bowman, A. & J. Storm
Sunday, May 27	7:30 AM	B. LeRoy, E. McCarthy	B. Connolly, B. Hughes, A. Pimenti
<i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	10:30 AM	B. O'Shell, S. Pola	R. & B. Vidalin, R. Cooney, T. Pimentel, K. Snodgrass, M. Hoeft, E. Roque
	TIME	GREETERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Saturday, May 26	5:30 PM	M DeMeo, P. Edson	R. Ciernick, N. Purugganan
Sunday, May 27	7:30 AM	K. Castro, A. Mitchell	A. Smith, J. Ciernick
	10:30 AM	N. & J. Schweitz	Z. Davis, M. Howard
HOMEBOUND MINISTRES: Week of May 23:		B. May, S. Ayres, P. Breuer	Friends House: Jeanne Huffman
Children's Liturgy: Vickie Chavez and Jennifer Duran			
Reading I: Acts of the Apostles 2:1—11 (63B) Reading II: 1 Corinthians 12:3b—7, 12—13 Gospel: John 15:26—27, 16:12—15			

YOUTH MINISTRIES-JUNIOR HIGH/HIGH SCHOOL - UPCOMING EVENTS!

May 20th - Yep, I know it is the night before finals - that is why we are playing Dodgeball. Don't wait until Sunday evening to get your work done - finish it early and get out some of that anxiety and play dodge ball. Hey, let's throw in a pillow fight too! Bring an old pillow if you have one! 6:30pm

June 3rd - Beach Day! Sand - Surf - S'mores! Celebrate the end of the year with us!

FACEBOOK - We have a teen page on **FACEBOOK**, the first 5 teens who "like" our page will get a Juice Shack gift card. The page is Holy Spirit Teens. It will be interesting to see who really reads the bulletin, and who goes on **FACEBOOK!**

CONTACT: if you have any questions concerning any of these events go to the **FACEBOOK** page - **HOLY SPIRIT TEENS** or contact **Alison at xoxoal@comcast.net or text at 321-3748**

EVENTS OUTSIDE THE PARISH

THE SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT CENTER INVITES YOU TO JOIN FOR AN INTRODUCTORY TALK ON THE Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. The presentation will take place on Monday, May 21st upstairs in the Parish Life Center of St. Eugene's Cathedral. Time 7:30—8:30 pm.

A JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF TO HEALING – Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos, May 25—27, Dir. Fr. Joseph Fice, S. J., Non-silent retreat for men and women.

MEMORIAL DAY HOLY EUCHARIST at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, 2930 Bennett Valley Road, on Memorial Day, May 28 at 10 AM. The Department of Catholic Cemeteries invites you to attend the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. It will be a special occasion to join in prayer for all those who have died in war that we may live in peace, and for all others who are buried in our cemetery.

THE MAY BUSY PERSONS ' RETREAT at Mont La Salle in Napa is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, 9—12:30 pm at the De La Salle Christian Brothers' Retreat and Conference Center, 4401 Redwood Road, Napa. The theme is "GOD: THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL". Reservations are not necessary.

THE SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT CENTER invites you for an introductory talk on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. The presentation will take place on Monday, May 21st, upstairs in the Parish Life Center of St. Eugene's Cathedral, 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. *For further information call 707-546-1781.*

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING classes begin on June 9th in Santa Rosa. Go to www.ccli.org for more information and registration. Any questions, call (707) 538-3635.

ST. ELIZABETH SETON'S WOMEN'S RETREAT "*Life's Journey, Growing in Love*" with Tom Allender, S. J. and Gloria Fahy will be held on Saturday, June 2nd. The morning begins with Continental Breakfast at 8:45 a.m., Lunch at noon, Retreat Conferences and quiet prayer time 9—12 p.m., 1—3 p.m., and Mass for Retreat Attendees at 3 p.m. All women are invited. No children. Free offering will be collected. For more information: Please RSVP to attend by May 29. Call Gloria Fahy 707-483-3053.

USCCB NATIONWIDE BULLETIN – "RELIGIOUS LIBERTY"

THE MOST CHERISHED OF AMERICAN FREEDOMS, Past and Present: In 1634 a mix of Catholic and Protestant settlers arrived in Southern Maryland from England aboard the *Ark* and the *Dove*. They had come at the invitation of the Catholic Lord Baltimore, who had been granted the land by the Protestant King Charles I of England. While Catholics and Protestants were killing each other in Europe, Lord Baltimore imagined Maryland as a society where people of different faiths could live together peacefully. This vision was soon codified in Maryland's 1649 Act Concerning Religion (also called the "Toleration Act"), which was the first law in our nation's history to protect an individual's right to freedom of conscience.



Maryland's early history teaches us that, like any freedom, *religious liberty requires constant vigilance and protection, or it will disappear*. By the end of the 18th century our nation's founders embraced freedom of religion as an essential condition of a free and democratic society. So when the Bill of Rights was ratified, religious freedom had the distinction of being the First Amendment. Religious liberty is indeed the first liberty.

This is our American heritage. *If we are not free in our conscience and our practice of religion, all other freedoms are fragile*. If our obligations and duties to God are impeded, or even worse, contradicted by the government, then we can no longer claim to be a land of the free.

Is our most cherished freedom truly under threat? Among many current challenges, consider the recent Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate requiring almost all private health plans to cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs. For the first time in our history, the federal government will force religious institutions to facilitate drugs and procedures contrary to our moral teaching, and purport to define which religious institutions are "*religious enough*" to merit an exemption. *This is a matter of whether religious people and institutions may be forced by the government to provide coverage for contraception and sterilization, even when it violates our religious beliefs.*

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM? Go to www.usccb.org/conscience today! Thank you for joining the effort to end this unprecedented government coercion of conscience and intrusion in religious affairs.