



Ascension of the Lord

May 16, 2021



7th
**SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

"As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth." - Jn 17:18-19

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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SATURDAYS 5:00 PM
SUNDAYS 10:30AM MASS
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WEEKEND MASSES:
SATURDAYS AT 5PM
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

DAILY MASSES:
TUES & THURS 8AM

RECONCILIATION:
SATURDAYS 3:30 - 4:30PM

HOLY HOUR:
WEDNESDAYS 6 - 7PM

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FURTHER NOTICE.**

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Donna Falzone
Mark Gryl
Marc Horner

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 15

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish
5:00pm: Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish

Sunday, May 16

10:30am: Otto Cortesi
Gretchen Callahan
Sonya Lamarr

Monday, May 17

8:00am: John De Rose

Tuesday, May 18

8:00am: Mary Rinaldi
Ryan Smith
Maria Rosales

Wednesday, May 19

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish

**Thursday, May 20**

8:00am: Gaspare DeLuca

Friday, May 21

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish

Saturday, May 22

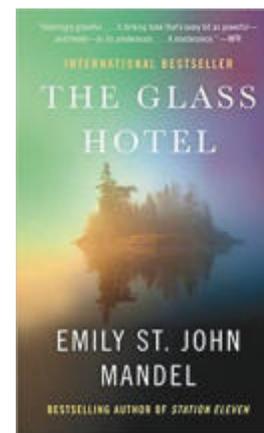
8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish
5:00pm: Ray Geraci
Barbara Stephens
Jerome Stachniw

Sunday, May 23

10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish
Gernnarino Vena
John De Rose
Audrey Lakin
Dr. Hugo Muriel

**ST. TERESA
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**“The Glass Hotel”
by Emily St. John Mandel
Tuesday, May 25
Zoom Meeting 7:00pm**



327 pages

A captivating novel that portrays the infinite ways we search for meaning in our lives. Everyone welcome to join us.

Please contact Bertha at berthaf@gmail.com or Mary at 847-722-2996 for the zoom link.

Father Mike's Homiletter – May 16, 2021 The Ascension of the Lord

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9; Ephesians 1:17-23; Mark 16:15-20

In this age of computers, last week was a celebration of the “hands on” art of mothering. I hope all of you had a lovely day – greeting the mother-figures who are still with us and remembering those who have gone home to God. Let's continue to let them know how much we love and admire them every day – not just once a year!

We are coming to the end of the Easter season – today we celebrate the feast of the Lord's Ascension – His return to His Father after His life on earth. As many of us would do when taking leave of a situation, in both our first reading and the Gospel, Jesus seems to be trying to get in “one last thing” – telling his disciples what they are going to need to know in the days to come. Perhaps He is uncertain of how they will take this next step in His, and their, journey. How very human! How often do parents have one last word for the babysitter before leaving for an evening out? Or one last reminder for the child going off to school or camp? Jesus is trying to make sure his disciples “get it” before He leaves. But the points He is making are larger than life – at least larger than the lives of the disciples. Jesus predicts big things for them – they will be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. A prospect most of the disciples would have difficulty imagining – after all, these were mostly Galilean fishermen whose biggest trips would have been treks to Jerusalem to worship at the Temple – the journeys to Jerusalem they made with Jesus may have been the first for some of them. They probably couldn't even imagine “the ends of the earth.” But there's more: they will drive out demons, speak new languages, survive poisons, and heal the sick. They had seen Jesus do these things, but them? Without Jesus?

Jesus has a response to the unasked questions - the disciples will be baptized in the Holy Spirit and will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them. And then He leaves them, ascending to heaven. I can just imagine the disciples after Jesus' departure – in one account, after two men in white tell them Jesus will return, probably thinking, how fast can He get back here? What do we do now? The only thing they knew was that they should stay in Jerusalem and wait for the arrival of the Holy Spirit – and they were probably wondering what form that would take.

But being men used to hard, unrelenting work, the disciples do what they have been doing with Jesus – they go to the temple to pray at the appointed times, tell anybody who would listen about the man Jesus who had been their companion – and found that their words and their work were confirmed through the kinds of signs Jesus used to perform. They felt His presence even though He was not physically with them anymore. We can understand that – we feel the presence of those we love and admire even when they are not present: our mothers saying things like “mind your manners,” or a mentor outlining how to resolve a business problem.

For most of us the Ascension is probably something we think about only when we are reciting the Apostles' or Nicean Creeds – a reference that goes by so quickly that we don't really spend any time on what it *means* for us. If we stop to think about it, Jesus has taken our humanity into heaven, to sit next to God the Father and confer with the Holy Spirit. *He is the first human to be in heaven.* Although also divine, Jesus knows how we humans think and act *from His own hands on experience.* He has inhabited our world and experienced our weaknesses. He knows we get crabby when we are tired or hungry. He knows we do dumb things when we are afraid or angry. He knows we run out of energy and ideas. St. Paul tells the Ephesians he prays that the “eyes of your hearts” will be enlightened. This would be a good week to think about the meaning of the Ascension – and pray that the eyes of *our* hearts will be enlightened.

Peace be with you!

Father Mike

Food for Thought...

The simple eye sees in each person “a Christ coming to be.” It places self at the service of all...so that Christ may emerge and grow in them. It sees in each person a Christ being born, who must grow, live, do good, a new child of God who must die, rise, and be glorified....

-Chiara Lubich,
Essential Writings



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Despite current guidelines we are still required to maintain signups for our Masses and services. In order to do this, it is imperative that you **sign up for weekend Masses by Friday at 9am** so that we are able to have complete list for our greeters to check you in and make this a smooth process. It is becoming problematic as many are signing up after the deadline. In Christian fairness to everyone we would ask that you please comply to this reasonable request. We will keep you informed of any changes to the current guidelines.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Registration for the 2021-2022 PREP year is now posted on the parish website. Don't miss out on the early bird registration incentives!



The learning and teaching that took place during Zoom was incredible! We have an amazing team of students and catechists. **Come join us** as we learn about our faith and prepare for the sacraments **in person** this fall.

Any questions please contact our Director, Barb, at PREPOffice@icparish.org.

“Trust me.”
-GOD

Marriage & Banns

Lauren Feely &
Matthew “Gus” Schweiterman I

Meditation Garden Project is Underway

Next week we will be cleaning and staining the Stations of the Cross as well as continuing more preparation for planting. Please join us on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm if you are able to help.

Our plan is to continue to work on Wednesday afternoons as needed, weather permitting.

All are welcome, even if you would like to sit and chat with us while we work.

Please contact Midge Berardi with any questions midgeberardi@comcast.net or 224-619-5864



FIRST COMMUNION 2021



On Saturday, May 8th, 29 PREP students experienced their First Holy Communion. It was the first time in almost a year and a half the students were able to all be together. They were split when we had to add a second section to this class, then they were separated due to the pandemic. It was very special having this group be all together to celebrate receiving the Eucharist for the first time. The weather made for a lovely day, too!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH 2021 First Holy Communion Class

Caleb Adams

Camila Alcantar

Jazzlyn Aragon

Hannah Brunk

Olivia Cardenas

AJ Casey

Margaret Clagg

Hailey Cordova

Charlotte Drummond

Maya Edison

Neena Edison

David Ehr

Rowan Flanagan

Skylar Grant

Nellie Hershberger

Maddie Hintermeister

Kaleb Hurtado

Hadley Killeen

Aislinn Kohlstedt

Sonia Kovacevich

Melissa Montes

Holly Pedersen

Guilianna Pesce

Canella Papakos

Ebby Schmieder

Alina Skilrud

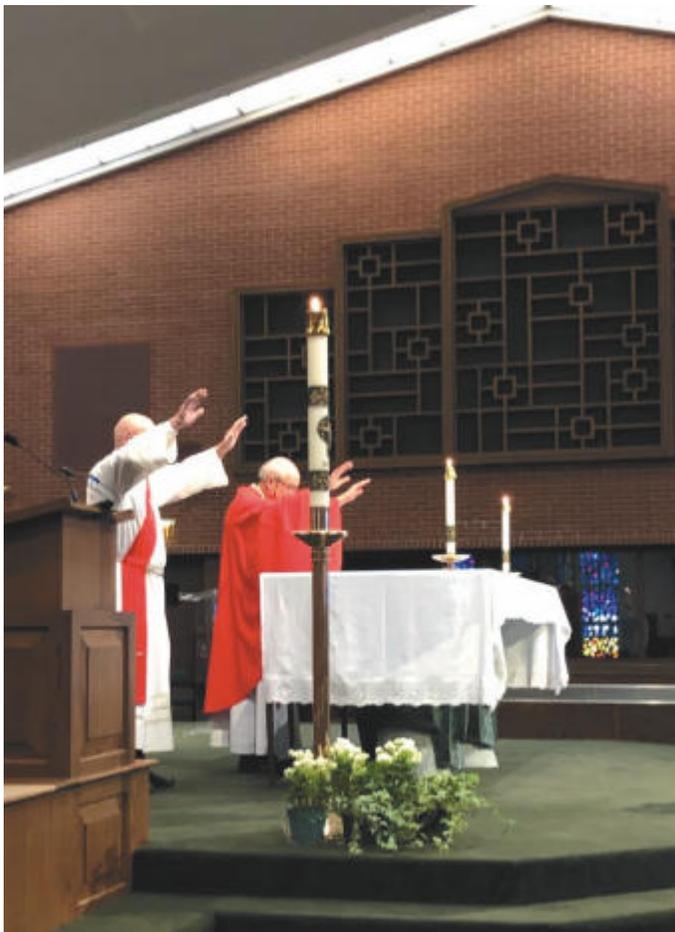
Finley Smith

Addison Soriano

Julia Terranova



CONFIRMATION 2021



The following students received the sacrament of the Holy Spirit at their Confirmation Mass on Wednesday evening, May 5, 2021.

Please hold this fine group of young adults in your thoughts and prayers as they continue their Catholic faith in high school and beyond.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
2021 Confirmation Class

Raenier Samonte Ampou

Isabella Adriana Contreras

Sofia Andrea Contreras

Jackson Tyler Casimir Droll

Miles Michael Peralta Gans

Luis Gonzalez

Ava Heimgartner

Audrey Bernadette Madison Johnston

Charles Michael Luke Kellogg

Jameston Thomas Killeen

Declan John McDonough

Margaret Mary Elena Moreno

Luca Vincent Joseph Piagentini

Anne Louise Regalado

Michael Robert John Wiswald



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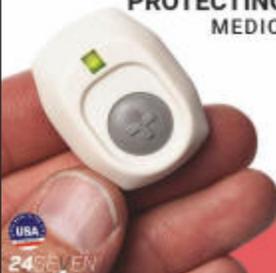
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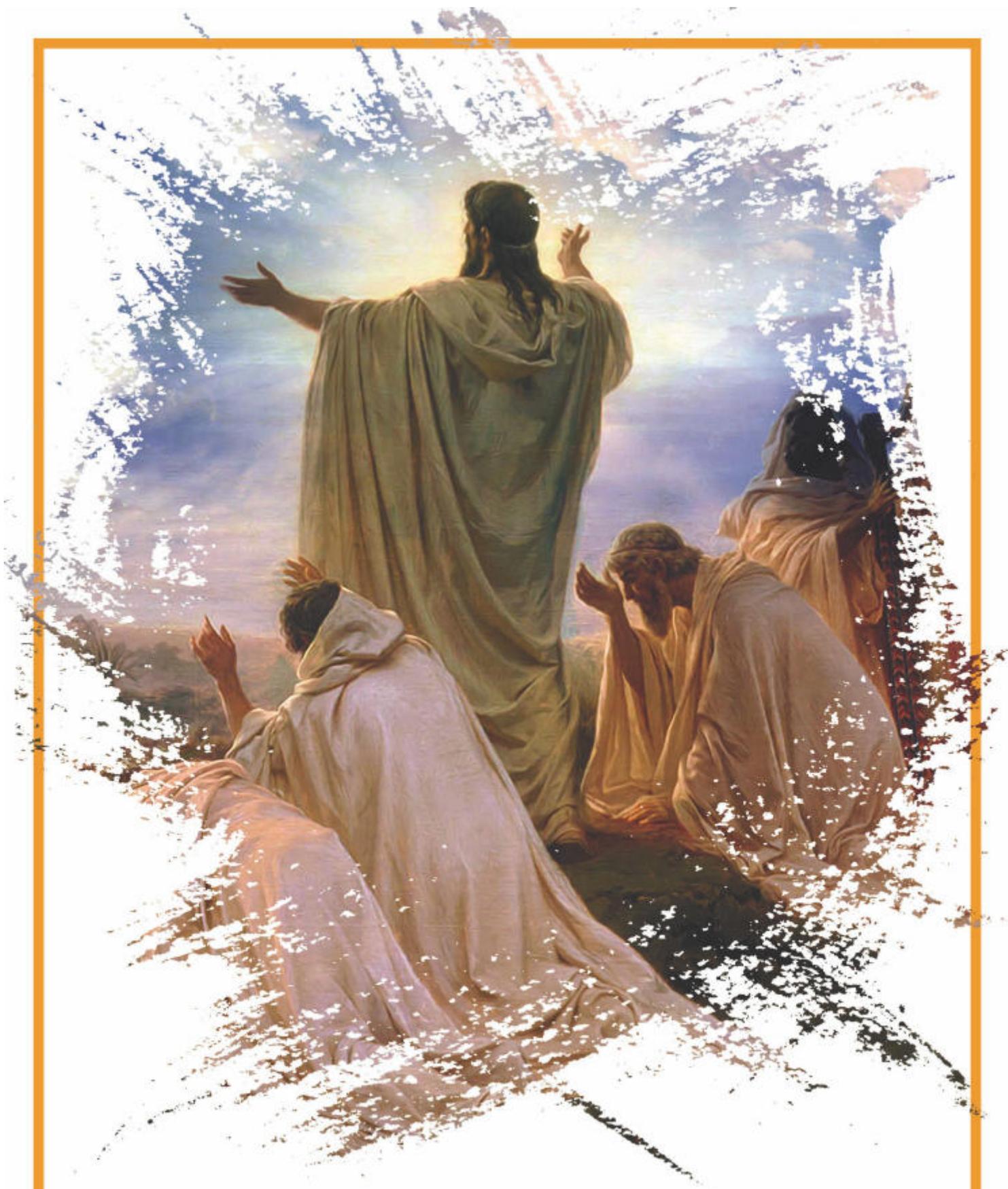
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“YOUR WORD IS TRUTH.” —JN 17:17

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER