



St. Rita Catholic Community

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website: StRitaPDX.org

The Ascension of the Lord/Seventh Sunday of Easter

*We are a people called to be Christ for
one another through Prayer,
Eucharist, Community Involvement
and Social Justice.*

Worship & Devotions Schedule

Sunday Liturgy ~

Vigil Mass Saturday 5:30 pm
Mass Sunday 7:30 am
Sunday 10:00 am

Weekday Mass ~

Monday-Thursday 7:45 am

Penance/Reconciliation ~

Saturday 4:00 pm
(or by appointment)

Holy Days ~ As Announced

Pastoral Ministry

Fr. Todd Molinari-Priest Moderator

Lisa Porter-Pastoral Administrator/
Email: lporter@stritapdx.org

Barbara Stanton-Faith Formation Director/
Email: bstanton@stritapdx.org

Diane Anthony-Faith Formation Assistant

Laura Dieken-Bookkeeper/
Email: laura@stritapdx.org

Tony Rimmer-Maintenance

Cynthia Bjore-Parish Musician

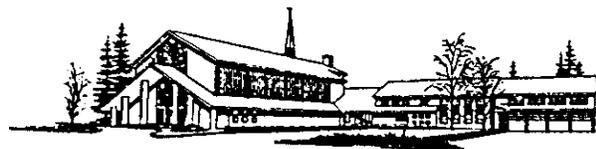
Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm—Please leave a
message on the phone or email and someone will get
back to you.

CLOSED ON FRIDAY

This Week...
Memorial of
St. Rita of Cascia,
Religious
Sunday, May 22nd





St. Rita Catholic Church - Portland, OR

SUNDAY, MAY 16TH -

The Ascension of the Lord

Mass 7:30 AM - Msgr. Tim Murphy

Mass 10:00 AM - Fr. Todd Molinari

MONDAY, MAY 17TH

TUESDAY, MAY 18TH

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19TH

THURSDAY, MAY 20TH

FRIDAY, MAY 21ST

Office Closed

SATURDAY, MAY 22ND

Confession 4:00 PM

Mass at 5:30 PM - Fr. Todd Molinari

SUNDAY, MAY 23RD

Mass 7:30 AM - Fr. Todd Molinari

Mass 10:00 AM - Msgr. Tim Murphy

GOSPEL REFLECTION AND PRAYER ~ THE ASCENSION / 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ MARK 16:15~20

Having ascended into heaven, Jesus is no longer confined to time and space. The risen Christ now accompanies his followers through the generations and across the earth. As the risen Christ empowers us today, we are probably not going to pick up poisonous animals or quaff toxic drinks, but we can console those who suffer and oppose evil. By letting the power of our risen Lord flow through us, we reveal that Jesus truly is Lord of heaven and earth. *Lord of heaven and earth, you exercise your saving power through those who have been baptized in your name. Make us holy. Send us to those people and places in need of healing, reconciliation, and liberation. Make us living witnesses of your eternal glory, for you live and reign with God, the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

**SAVE THE DATE!!!
MULTICULTURAL PENTECOST CELEBRATION
NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 23RD AT THE 10 AM MASS!!!**

SCRIPTURE FOR DAILY PRAYER

Mon. May 17	Acts 19:1-8 ; Jn 16:29-33
Tue. May 18	Acts 20:17-27 ; Jn 17:1-11a
Wed. May 19	Acts 20:28-38 ; Jn 17:11b-19
Thu. May 20	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 ; Jn 17:20-26
Fri. May 21	Acts 25:13b-21 ; Jn 21:15-19
Sat. May 22	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 ; Jn 21:20-25
Sun. May 23	Acts 2:1-11 , 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 ; Jn 20:19-23

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon. May 17 ~ 7:45 am	+ Moon Chun Lee & Joanna Kong
Tue. May 18~ 7:45 am	In Thanksgiving
Wed. May 19~ 7:45 am	In Thanksgiving
Thu. May 20 ~7:45 am	Anne Nguyen & Ron & Lisa Porter
Fri. May 21 ~~~~~	~~~~~
Sat. May 22~ 5:30 pm	In Thanksgiving
Sun. May 23 ~7:30 am 10:00 am	For the People Cham Lee

THE TRAVELING CRIB – COMING SOON!

The Traveling Crib will be coming to St. Rita Church for the month of June. The Crib will be here to collect baby items and maternity supplies for clients receiving services from Catholic Charities' Pregnancy Support. By donating, you are supporting women faced with an unplanned pregnancy.

May 16, 2021 ~ The Ascension of The Lord/Seventh Sunday of Easter

Homilies are from previous week

Homily ~ 6th Sunday of Easter B 5.9.21 ~ Father Todd Molinari

Dear Friends in Christ,

Jesus proclaims to us the Good News in the Gospel of John: God is love. God has chosen us, not the other way around, to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. During this latter part of the Easter Season we are invited to break open the Word of God and reflect on what it means to be the Church that continues the mission of the risen Lord after His resurrection and ascension. We are invited by the words of Christ to reflect: How are we, the Church, the community of initiated disciples, called to concretely manifest that God is love in our world today? What does it mean to bear fruit that will last? The readings help us to deepen our initiation into Christ and to bear witness to God's love in the world today.

Our first reading from Acts 10 shows one of the most decisive episodes in the history of the Apostolic Church with the conversion of the Gentile Cornelius. Here for the first time, Peter is sent to preach to a Gentile household. He is sent to the home of Cornelius, and upon his arrival, the Holy Spirit comes upon Cornelius even before he is baptized. This is true initiation: The love of God in Christ manifests itself and takes the lead in human affairs. God, as always, leads the way - and He doesn't require our help, but He asks us to participate in what He is already doing. The initiated disciples are the expression of God's love as it wells up from within humanity in our encounter with the Risen Christ.

For Peter, the initiative of God and the truth of the absolute equality of all humans took time for him to recognize, but the gift of Faith helped him to see the truth: "I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality. Rather, the man of any nation who fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to him." To be initiated into resurrected life is not about personal preferences, feelings or our egos. Nor is it about reacting to people based on their outward appearance. Peter broke down the wall that divided Jew and Gentile, and he did it with a new way of seeing his fellow humans with Christ-like love and understanding. Yet it also called for a two-fold conversion or initiation: His own and that of the people he was sent to baptize. In other words, Peter cannot ask the Gentiles to be initiated without being prepared to do the same himself. He had to enter into a deeper way of being a disciple of Christ. Yes, his initiation was a deeper initiation into the risen Jesus, but it was an initiation nonetheless; and one can say that his was the more difficult initiation because it was easier to rationalize that he was "already saved" and thus had less motivation or need to change. God instead called him to be more truly what he already was: more truly initiated into being Christ-like, which means he had to go deeper into his own understanding of what it means to love as Christ loves. In order to be a faithful disciple and in leading others to initiation one must be open to a broadening and of changing one's life by the Risen Christ more profoundly. There is no room here for status quo or fixities or for mediocrity. It is the same for us, even though we live in different times and in a different culture than Peter's. The Corneliuses in our lives (and there are many) are the people we think are outside of the bounds of salvation, for whatever reason. In fact whenever we do not love someone we are saying that they are beyond the mercy of God. We, like Peter before his initiation and sending-forth, think that somehow we are above or preferred to the "uninitiated". Yet the Spirit will puncture through this to call us to reevaluate our biases and positions. Many people think that to be open to evangelizing the uninitiated we just have to change our moral teachings and lower the bar with regard to our ethical commands on a superficial level. We are like the pre-Cornelius Peter when we say "Only after this person cleans up her act will I then take them seriously or love them as they are" or "Only if this person does think in a certain way (and fill in the blank) will I love them." Putting conditions on one's willingness only confirms that we are not open to love as God loves us in Jesus. The community of disciples really should be the "place" where we wrestle with these questions raised by the Gospel.

Jesus presents this deepening of our initiation in today's Gospel when he says, "I call you friends." Christ-like friendship is the truth of being the community of the initiated disciples. The Church, the community of disciples, is the "place" where Christ-like friendship can take place and which enables the risen Christ to bear witness to love in the world. But friendship means more than being a casual acquaintance or that I can relate to others in the Church as if it were my social circle. Initiation into Christ is about a willingness to enter into each other's lives on a deeper and more intimate level. It involves warmth, support, fellow-feeling and respect. But it also involves dealing with contradictions, conflicts and frictions together and facing tough rough waters with love for each other. Christ-like friendship means I am open to being vulnerable in entering into another person's life with love, sacrifice and respect, and that I am open to the same by others to me. If the non-Christian or uninitiated can't find friendship in this sense within the Church, why would he or she ever want to become baptized? We can look at what it is by looking at what it is not: In the extreme ends it would either be a self-enclosed elitism, a Church of cliques and gossipy hypocrites, or it would be a community of anonymous individuals who go through the routines required by Church rules but otherwise don't have anything to do with each other and each other's lives, or where we barely tolerate each other due to ideological splits and divisions. To be the Church means to struggle to find the right balance in our lives and in the community to avoid the extremes and forge genuine friendships rooted in our friendship with Christ. Another way to look at it is to say that if it is true that the baptized are all friends of Christ, then we at least have the potential to face each other with a Christ-like love, even with contradictions and real differences.

It is true we are attracted to some and not to others, and that there are real tensions between people and communities within the community of disciples. Yet Christ proclaims that we are called to be more deeply initiated into his love, and that means leaving behind or overcoming the ways in which we may have viewed another person, or judged them, or not love them. To accept friendship from Christ means to be open to enter into people's lives with a willingness to let go of our certainties and our judgements.

Can we honestly say we are friends of Christ? The evidence for that is in how we treat those that we do not like, or have judged, or have rejected. Therein we will find the love of God in Christ.

LET US PRAY FOR:

Hermia Arias, Charlotte Benfiet, Jennifer Benfiet, Margaret Bennett, Jo Betich, Cynthia Bjore, Carlos Chavez, Maria Chavez, Jerry Ciraulo, Susan Clark, Troy Classen, Ken Dobos, Alex Espy, Bonnie Estes, Anita Fazio, Karen Fitterer, Sergey Fureyster, Malcolm Fylan, Johnny Gamenara, Curt Gefre, Bonnie Greeninger, Dottie Griffin, Elaine Haskell, Gary & Liz Heckman, Patty LeCount, Joseph Molinari, Eunice Monsrud, Barbara Nisbet, Betty Jo Noble, Shirley Orr & Family, Joe Panowicz, Jocelyn Park-Gillespie, Eleanor Pine, Skye Porter, Laura Ramirez, Sharon Roberts, Pat Shanahan, Peggy Smith, Rodney Smith, Charlene Steier, Jim Swanberg, Leticia Valdefiera, Casey Yager, Sharon & Leon Young

Please call or email the office if you would like to add a name to this list.

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