

Dear Padre,

Why should I be confirmed?

In baptism, God calls you to be a priest, prophet and king. In confirmation, you receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to live out those vocations. A priest offers prayer and sacrifice. In confirmation, you are moved to make your everyday life a sacrifice that you join to the sacrifice of Christ on the cross (Romans 12:1). *Prophet* is from *prophētēs*, a Greek word meaning “spokesperson.” In confirmation, you are compelled to preach the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16), just as the apostles were when they received the Holy Spirit on the original day of Pentecost (Acts 2:2–4). When you were baptized, you were made a member of the royal family of God (1 Peter 2:9). Just as Jesus showed what it means to be a Servant King, so are we called to serve others in love. In confirmation, we are inspired by the love that God pours into us in his Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).

In his first public preaching, Jesus quoted from Isaiah the prophet: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me” (Luke 4:18). That was the beginning of his public ministry. When the bishop anoints you with chrism, you can say the same. Your confirmation is the beginning of your own public ministry. ●

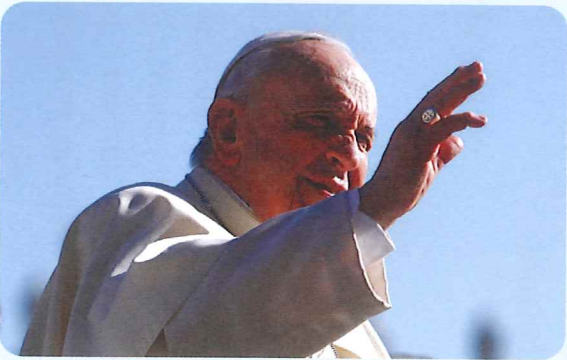


Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, CSSR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

A disciple follows the Master daily and shares the joy of discipleship with others. Not by conquering, mandating, proselytizing, but by witnessing, humbling oneself alongside other disciples and offering with love the love that we ourselves received. This is our mission...to show by our lives...that God loves everyone and never tires of anyone.

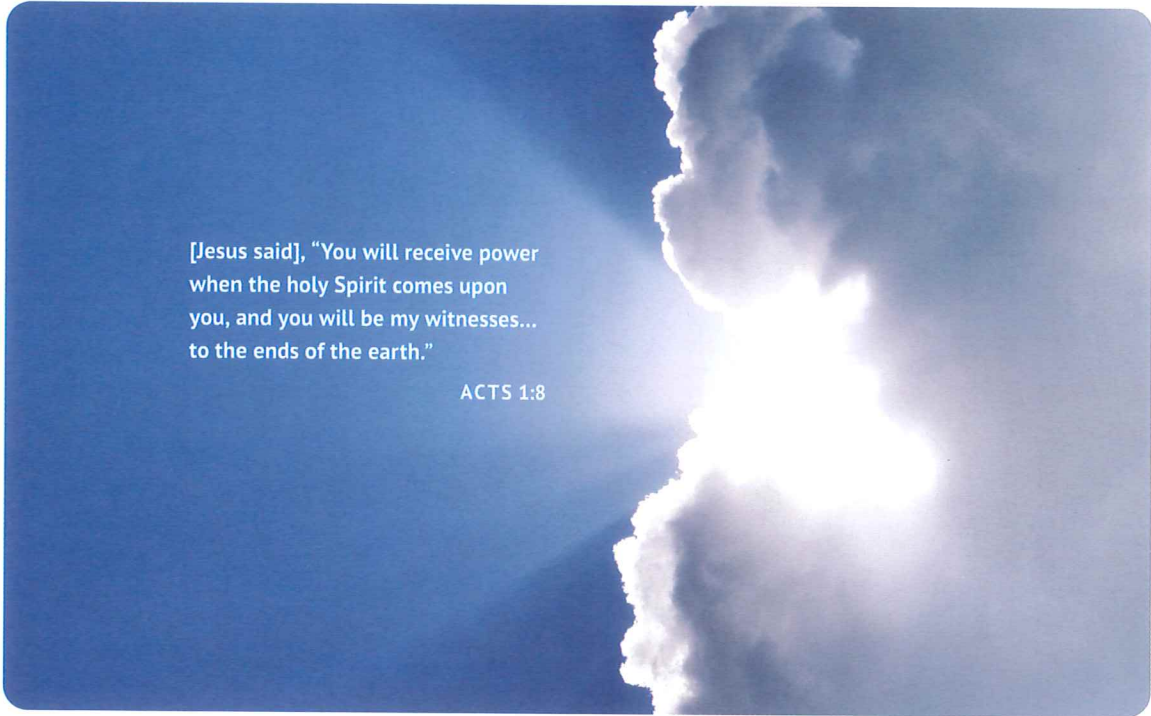
HOMILY, ROME, OCTOBER 20, 2019
CNS PHOTO/GUGLIELMO MANGIAPANE, REUTERS



MONDAY May 22 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 19:1–8 Jn 16:29–33	THURSDAY May 25 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 22:30; 23:6–11 Jn 17:20–26
TUESDAY May 23 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 20:17–27 Jn 17:1–11a	FRIDAY May 26 <i>St. Philip Neri, Priest</i> Acts 25:13b–21 Jn 21:15–19
WEDNESDAY May 24 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 20:28–38 Jn 17:11b–19	SATURDAY May 27 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 28:16–20, 30–31 Jn 21:20–25
	SUNDAY May 28 <i>Pentecost</i> Acts 2:1–11 1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13 Jn 20:19–23

Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 21, 2023
The Ascension of the Lord (A)
Acts 1:1–11, 14–17 / Ephesians 1:17–23 / Matthew 28:16–20



Power Unmasked

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When the Lone Ranger and Tonto rode across our TV screens in days of old, someone would often ask, “Who was that masked man?” Folks never learned his identity, and it didn’t matter. For that man had saved them from evil, restoring their lives. In a sense, the Ranger, with Tonto, had passed on to them the power to live safely and productively.

As he was about to return to his Father, the risen Lord said to the apostles, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8). Yet being blessed with the power that raised the Lord Jesus does not always feel much like a blessing. At times it can feel more like a burden that falls upon our shoulders, one to heal and mend as we try to bring peace and a better world. We wonder why we always must be the one who says, “I’m sorry.” Why must we always be the one who plans the evening out or writes the Christmas cards or calls Mom or spends time with the children or listens to someone’s tale of woe? Yet such is the power of Jesus for bringing about healing to both spirits and bodies, for creating joy, for designing bridges into the hearts of others, all because the Messiah rode off on a cloud of silver to be welcomed to the right hand of God. Thus, he empowers us. ●

Reflect

Have you ever been surprised by the good God has brought about through you?



Rectory & Parish Office
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Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek	355-1696
& Nanette Rice	355-7676

SOLEMNITY OF ASCENSION OF THE LORD

5/20/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Volunteer, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bamberger

Reader: Gwen Waechter

E.O.HC: Tino Rosales Jr., Karen Burden

5/21/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Volunteers

Reader: Mike Broeckelman

E.O. HC: Teresa Beltran, Karen Burden

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

5/27/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Lucy Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

Reader: Karen Burden

E.O.HC: Rosemary & Tom Bachman

5/28/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Kirbe & Kipton Koons, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller

Reader: Hannah Schauf

E.O. HC: Alvin Bergkamp, Bob Woodrow

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, May 20	4:00 p.m.	For the People
Sunday, May 21	9:00 a.m.	Suellen Bergkamp
Monday, May 22	8:30 a.m.	David Hoang
Tuesday, May 23	8:30 a.m.	David Hoang
Thursday, May 25	8:30 a.m.	Special Int. Powers F.
Friday, May 26	8:30 a.m.	Ritha Linenberger
Saturday, May 27	4:00 p.m.	For the People
Sunday, May 28	9:00 a.m.	David Bergkamp

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

MAY 21— ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Go and teach all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, until the end of the world

My friends, the early disciples of Jesus must have been wondering about some pretty big questions as they journeyed with Jesus and got to know him better. They heard him preach. They saw him heal. They saw him comfort and forgive and admonish and challenge and even cry. And they even saw him die --- saw their friend treated in incredibly cruel and unjust ways.

But then the seemingly impossible happened --- they witnessed his resurrection from the dead, saw him somehow come back to life. In one sense it clarified for them that Jesus was no “ordinary” man. They knew he was special, but now he was special in ways they couldn’t quite wrap their minds around.

And then they witnessed what we are celebrating this Sunday--- Jesus’ ascension. And while this didn’t answer all of their questions --- it certainly did confirm one deeply profound reality: Jesus had come from God, and was returning to God.

In a very real sense, this was confirmation that there was more to reality than what they could simply see, more to reality than simply what they could feel and touch. They came from God and maybe one day would return to him, just as Jesus had.

Do we believe the same?

Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for May 14, 2023: Envelopes: \$785 Loose: \$334.50 ; Online Giving: \$1344.94 ; Total \$2464.44. Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under +703.27

CHURCH PROJECT GOAL \$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$27370.63 *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

QUESTION OF THE WEEK When have I doubted myself and my ability or will to do the mission Jesus calls me to do? How has the power from the Holy Spirit helped me overcome those doubts?

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (adapted from a prayer by St. Bernard of Clairvaux) Lord Jesus Christ, to complete your seamless robe, and so to complete our faith, you ascended through the air into the heavens before the very eyes of the apostles. In this way you showed that you are the Lord of all and the fulfillment of all creation. May every human being and every living creature bow down at your name. Give us the eyes of faith to see that all creation proclaims your greatness. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Matthew 28:16-20)

Lord of all Matthew doesn't include a story of Jesus' ascension because he presents the Resurrection itself as Jesus' exaltation into power and glory. Thus, the risen Jesus here declares that God has given him authority over everything (v.18).

Go make disciples... Having spent months or a few years teaching his followers what discipleship means and what it demands of them, Jesus now instructs them to teach others how to live as his disciples. This is the first time in Matthew's Gospel that Jesus specifically tells his disciples to teach. Before, Jesus was the only true teacher. Now that he is risen he shares his authority so that his followers may teach in his name.

...of all nations Jesus spent most of his public ministry among his own people, the Jews. Now he instructs his followers to proclaim him to everyone. The universal nature of this mission is celebrated with a new ritual: trinitarian baptism.

Emmanuel In Matthew 1:23 we hear the prophecy from Isaiah in which God promises to send his people a child named Emmanuel, which means God with us. Here Jesus promises to be that Emmanuel, the Risen One who stands with his disciples. Whenever someone meets one of Jesus' disciples, therefore, they meet the risen Lord (oursundayreadings.wordpress.com)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING OF THE WEEK - (Acts 8:5-8,14-17)

The prologue Luke begins his second book according to literary custom. He briefly sums up what happened in his first book (the Gospel). Then he prepares his hearers for what will happen in Book Two.

Theological geography Luke also connects his two works geographically. Jesus goes up to Jerusalem, then up to heaven. The holy Spirit comes down from heaven upon the disciples, who then go forth from Jerusalem to the rest of the known world. Jesus' mission is completed in Book One. The church's mission begins in Book Two.

Restoring Israel When the disciples ask if Jesus is going to restore Israel (v.6), they seem to expect some kind of physical change like the end of Roman rule. However, this isn't the kingdom that Jesus came to establish. Throughout Acts Luke notes the peace, unity, and joy that prevails in the church as it grows. Just how exactly the church spreads and when everyone will become believers isn't for the disciples to know. Instead they should follow the Spirit, for the Spirit is bringing about the kingdom they seek.

Ascension In both Jewish and Gentile writings revered people were shown being taken up into heaven. Their ascension was a metaphor for divine approval. Luke draws on this imagery to show not only that God approves of Jesus but that Jesus shares God's power. • In the Book of the Prophet Daniel one like a Son of Man comes on the clouds of heaven to exercise judgment (Daniel 7:13-14) • The prophet Elijah is caught up to heaven in a whirlwind, after which his successor, Elisha, shares his power to speak in God's name (2 Kings 2:9f). Jesus is like Elijah, and his disciples are like Elisha.

Empowerment These disciples are witnesses of Jesus' ascension, just as there were witnesses of his empty tomb. In both cases two men appeared to confirm what happened to Jesus and to redirect his followers. Once Jesus ascends he is no longer physically constrained, so he can be spiritually and sacramentally present everywhere. He now empowers his disciples to continue his mission. Just as the holy Spirit guided Jesus during his ministry, so now the Spirit leads the disciples during theirs.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"I am praying for them" John 17:9 Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation - not just our last resort. Pray for friends and family, and especially for those that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank, and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you. Teach others how to pray. It has been said that teaching someone how to pray is the best gift you can give someone.

"Estoy rezando por ellos..." JUAN 17:9 La oración es la base de nuestra Fe y Corresponsabilidad. La oración es siempre la mejor opción en cualquier situación, no simplemente nuestro último recurso. Ore por sus amigos y familia, y especialmente por aquellos que no lo tratan muy bien. Ore para dar alabanza, para agradecer y para pedirle ayuda a Dios. Ore para ver lo que Dios quiere que usted haga con los dones que le ha dado. Enséñeles a otros como rezar. Se ha dicho que enseñar a alguien como orar es el mejor regalo que se le puede dar. (www.archstl.org)

Question: **Why don’t all Christians celebrate Christmas on the same day?**

We regard time linearly because we experience it this way: each day marching in a progression toward the future. We view the past similarly, only fixed as if set in amber. It's natural to imagine the birth of Jesus as we do our own birthdays: stamped on the calendar on December 25th and celebrated on its anniversary annually.

Except in the East, where Christ's coming is observed on January 6th. How can this be?

Consider that the ancients told time in terms of the great sky clocks, sun and moon. Seasons and occasions were established according to the heavenly orbs, not to mention patterns of rainfall. Calendars were shaped by familiar cycles so crops might be planted and harvested successfully.

Another significant factor in dating was the succession of rulers. So Matthew tells us about a new star in the heavens signaling a new king's arrival, but also that this occurred during the present reign of King Herod. Luke also acknowledges who held the reins of power during this event: Roman Caesar Tiberias, Palestinian procurator Pontius Pilate, and high priests Annas and Caiaphas. Details we might prefer—day of the week, date of the month, or month itself—weren't recorded. A study of celestial anomalies of this period hasn't produced an exact calendar date for the newborn king.

As the early church spread out across many cultures, news traveled slowly. Inevitably the church experienced natural divisions and differing customs. Churches of the East and West were both improvising. The winter solstice, the longest night of darkness around December 21, was already a significant observance. It seemed fitting to celebrate the arrival of the Light of the World as days grew longer beyond the solstice. Jerusalem tradition had chosen January 6 for the celebration of this Theophany, Greek for "Divine Manifestation," and this custom was embraced throughout the Eastern churches. Many of these churches observed a sequence of "epiphanies" leading up to the great one: annunciations to Zechariah and Mary, Mary and Elizabeth's visitation, John's birth, the annunciation to Joseph, and finally the birth of Jesus.

Meanwhile, Western Christians called this same divine manifestation by the name Epiphany, observing it in late December. In time, Eastern and Western traditions mingled to create a unified liturgical chain between Nativity and Epiphany. Choosing a precise date for a historically unknown event was less important than preparing to receive this manifestation with minds and hearts fully awake. Alice L. Camille.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Consume media with care

He couldn't have foreseen the technological advances the 21st century would bring. Yet in 1967, Pope Paul VI appreciated the need for a World Communications Day. He established the Sunday before Pentecost as an annual reflection on the opportunities and challenges of presenting the gospel message to a global society. The press, movies, radio, and television all commanded great attention in his generation. The internet and cell phones exponentially increase the range today. What are we saying and absorbing through all this media? Be a discerning steward of words and images. (Preparetheword)

SOLEMNIDAD DE LA ASCENSIÓN DEL SEÑOR

Ten cuidado con los medios

No podía haber previsto los avances tecnológicos que traería el siglo XXI. No obstante, en 1967, el Papa Pablo VI apreció la necesidad de una Jornada Mundial de las Comunicaciones Sociales. Estableció el domingo antes de Pentecostés como una reflexión anual sobre las oportunidades y desafíos de presentar el mensaje evangélico a una sociedad global. La prensa, el cine, la radio y la televisión acaparaban gran atención en su generación. Hoy en día, Internet y los teléfonos móviles aumentan exponencialmente su alcance. ¿Qué estamos diciendo y absorbiendo a través de todos estos medios? Sé un custodio prudente de las palabras y las imágenes.