

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Catholic Parish—Spokane

1104 W Heroy Ave Spokane WA 99205 509-325-1321 Office hours Tues-Fri 9-12

May 16th, 2021



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.
- Mk 16:19-20

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Pastoral Staff

Pastor: Fr. Michael Blackburn, OFM

Deacon: Dave Dudinsky

Parish Staff

Office Manager: Anitra Turney

Youth Ministry: Tammie Fabien

Maintenance: Brian Sandner

Choir Directors

Sun.: Betty Ross

Sat: Mary Lou Bentley

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5pm

Sunday: 10am

Daily: 8am

Holy Days: 8am and 7pm

Parish Committees & Organizations

Pastoral Council: Frank Taylor

Finance Council: Wendy Sandner

Women's Club: Renee Lewis & Geri Wasson

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Thurs. 8:30-4pm

Sacraments:

Anointing of the Sick:

Masses with anointing 2 or 3 times a year

Baptism:

Parental preparation is required

Marriage:

contact the parish at least 6 months in advance

Reconciliation:

Saturdays 3:30-4:30 or by appointment

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH



A WORD FROM FR MIKE

The readings for the Ascension of the Lord predict the coming of a new age in the history of the world: the Age of the Holy Spirit! And this coming is accompanied by a new power from God. Listen to Jesus' final words to his disciples before ascending to his Father as recorded in Acts of the Apostles: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Luke's Gospel account of the Ascension echoes Acts, "And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high" (Lk 24:49). Paul reiterates Luke and Acts. Recall that Paul knew what it was like to live without this power. He himself experienced this power for the first time in his encounter with Jesus on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians. Paul's exhortation to the Ephesians: "May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe." (Eph 1: 18-19) The "surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe" is the presence of the Holy Spirit! Remember John's Last Supper discourse. Jesus attempts to comfort his followers even while predicting his departure, "But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you" (Jn 16:8). This truth of the coming of the New Age of the Holy Spirit is present in the New Testament and is also woven throughout traditional Christian catechesis. Baptismal catechesis proclaims a new birth by water and the Spirit. Confirmation catechesis promises a new coming of the Spirit to strengthen us as adult Christians. Paul's Letter to the Galatians witnesses to the Fruits of the Spirit as he experienced them after his conversion: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. And we are all familiar with the Sevenfold Gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, piety, fear of the Lord. I believe most of us are comfortable acknowledging intellectually the presence of the Holy Spirit. But I also believe that many of us have not identified this presence in our daily personal experience. This liturgical season offers the invitation to name and to be grateful for the presence of the Spirit in ordinary daily experience. Jesus has indeed fulfilled the promise he made to his disciples at the Last Supper! Now our daily lives are filled with the presence of the Spirit. During this Post-Resurrection season we have a special invitation to pause and be grateful for this presence: "Behold I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia" (Communion Antiphon).

May God bless you with the Holy Spirit during this holy season of Easter.

Shalom.

Women's Club of St Francis of Assisi Virtual Cookie Sale

after both Masses

May 15 and 16



The monies earned will be turned over to our Brothers and Sisters at St. Charles Parish.

We really love the support we have received from this community in our past fundraisers. We are hopeful for continued support for the "needy" at our sister parish.

Thanking you in advance,

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 16, 2021

SUN 5/16 *Ascension:* Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20
Seventh Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 [19a]/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19

MON 5/17 Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab [33a]/Jn 16:29-33

TUE 5/18 Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 [33a]/Jn 17:1-11a

WED 5/19 Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68: 29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab [33a]/Jn 17:11b-19

THR 5/20 Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Jn 17:20-26

FRI 5/21 Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab [19a]/Jn 21:15-19

SAT 5/22 *Morning:* Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 [7b]/Jn 21:20-25

SUN 5/23 *Vigil:* Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39
Extended Vigil: Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Dn 3:52, 52, 53, 55, 56 or Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39
Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 [cf. 30]/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 16, 2021

Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter; World Communications Day

Tuesday: St. John I, Pope and Martyr

Thursday: St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

Friday: St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

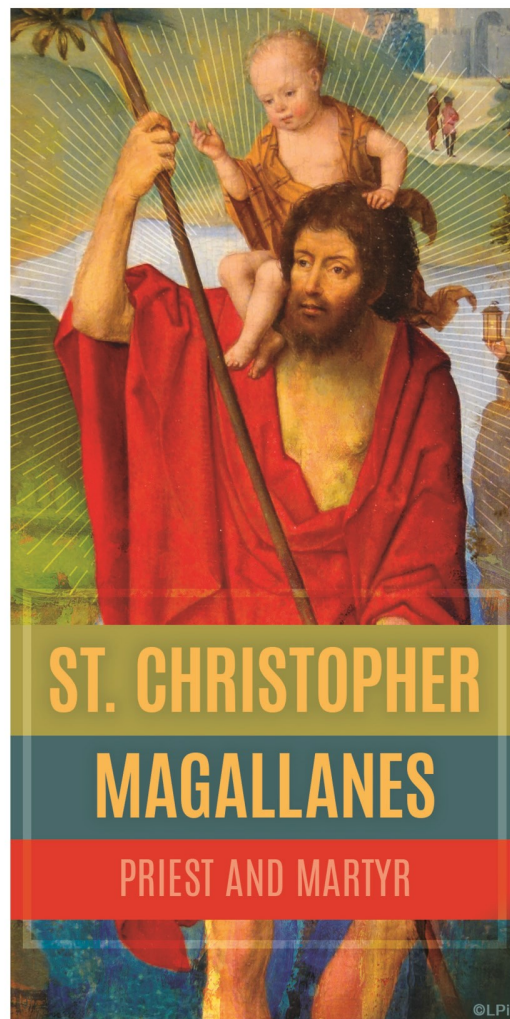
Saturday: St. Rita of Cascia, Religious

Next Sunday: Pentecost Sunday

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

When Jesus was physically with his disciples, he guarded and protected them. One of his greatest desires was that they share his joy completely. God's love is the source of all things and their sustenance. As we conduct the normal routines of our lives it is easy to get caught up in the immediacies of this world and lose focus. We become very self and worldly dependent, forgetting that God wishes to guard and protect us. The joy the resurrected Christ can offer cannot be found in this world. It takes a bit of faith to realize that God's will is a constant in our lives and that God desires only the sustenance and goodness of both our bodies and our souls. We need to trust in God's constant and rejuvenating love. This radical resurrection trust allows us to experience the joy of God's presence in all of the good and the bad, positive and negative, life building and life destructive events that we encounter. God remains where love remains.



ST. CHRISTOPHER
MAGALLANES
PRIEST AND MARTYR

“Your
word is
truth”

— JOHN 17:17 —

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

There is always something very tender and heartwarming about a kiss. When someone who loves us offers us a kiss, it sends a clear message that we are valued and special. We occupy a unique place in their lives and have a distinct purpose. Kissing celebrates the wonder and beauty of human life. In a very powerful way, we are connected, through intimate touch, with another human being. With the incarnation of Christ, God kissed humanity. God, revealed so perfectly in Jesus Christ, showed us that we have value and are made in God's image and likeness. Mortal human beings radiate with the presence of God and are worthy enough to reveal the intimacy of the Divine Mystery. The human race is not simply something God created from a distance but something special within which God dwells.

It is no wonder then, why the poor hold such an honored place in Jesus' ministry. They speak of God's love and they cry out for the compassion that is due them as children of God. Justice is about setting relationships right because we are all filled with God's love and have dignity. The human story is



understood as a partnership, a true and new covenant, celebrating a love relationship between all of creation and their Creator. It is a story that does not end with the Cross or even the Resurrection. The story finds its happy ending in the Ascension. Our human narrative is still evolving and moving ever more closely toward that day when all will be one in Christ.

Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father as the Christ of God. In the ascended state, we see what we are all meant to become and have before us the transformed life that awaits all of creation.

The disciples got a glimpse of what this transfiguration would be on the holy mountain and it is an essential part of the Good News we are called to proclaim! Christ, now ascended to the Father, sets our paths straight and gives us a look at what awaits us. The day-to-day challenges of life often find us struggling with our incompleteness. Today's celebration gives us the strength to persevere, knowing that we'll eventually be well. May our hearts be enlightened so that we can know this hope and the surpassing greatness of Christ's power!

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs. - Mk 16:19-20

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SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Local businesses and sponsors that advertise on bulletins need you now more than ever before. Please encourage and remind others to show their support during this time.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Why Are We Looking at the Sky?

Men of Galilee — why are you looking at the sky? It seems like a pretty foolish question for the angels to be asking the disciples. Their best friend just flew away in a cloud. I think in that situation, my first reaction would probably be to stop and stare, too.

But let's not forget, the disciples had a lot of work to do. A world full of souls to evangelize. I've always been a little amused at the thought of the angels shooing them down from Mount Olivet. Get to work! The kingdom isn't going to build itself!

In our own faith lives, we often find ourselves looking at the sky, don't we? We're the faithful, after all. We have seen Christ. We have accepted him. We have given ourselves to him. What more do we need to do? Perhaps we excessively dwell on the past, or anxiously anticipate the future. Perhaps we can't move on from a mistake we have made, or we are shying away from a challenge in front of us. We all have our own cloud that has bewitched us.

But let's remember, our faith compels action. Once again, the kingdom isn't going to build itself.

Why are you looking at the sky? The work is here. The hour is at hand. A good steward is to be mindful of the gift of time. What's the mountain you need to climb down? What is the task God is handing you? For what purpose has God placed you here, at this very moment in history?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Wednesday Night Bible Study

We meet from 7 pm to 8:30 pm on most Wednesday Nights in the Conference Room.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Tuesdays-2pm in the Conference Room
Both groups are open to men and women!

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Our annual envelope budget is: \$99,600.00

Year to date budget: \$85,945.16

Actual year to date collection: *\$89,474.50

Year to date: + \$3,529.34

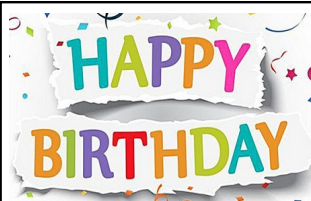
Thank you to all who continue to support our parish whether through online donations, mail in donations or collection at mass.

****I mistakenly added Easter into the last report, it should not be counted in the ordinary collection.***



Frank Rose, Steve Rij, Don & Mary DeLuca, Florence Himelspach, Kathy Bromley, Rita Loft, Ramona Jones, Marylin Connolly-Overbey, Kathy

White, Ellen Turnbull, Michael Brick, Mike Arcondizzy, MaryAnn Forcier, Gary Turnbull, Brian Chandler, Marlene Weller, Joyce Johnson, Helen Arnzen, Tom Bienemann, Jan Martin, Manny Baumbauer, Lindsey Fry, Sharon Stillwell, Stan Mundell, Mike Wojohowski, & Fran Hattenburg



Fran Wells
William Verry
Michael Wirt

Marvin & Kathie Feist—56 years!

