

Christ Child Catholic Church
***Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service***

23230 Summit Road
Los Gatos, CA 95033-9278
Phone (408) 353-2210
Pastor: Rev. Eugenio Arámburo
Web Site: www.christchild.org
Email: eugenio.aramburo@yahoo.com

The Ascension of the Lord
May 24, 2020

*The voice of GOD is always speaking to us and
is the Word of God and in world and personal
events.*

*So my invitation to you at this time of the
pandemic to hear His voice. And do what it tells
us, part of our life and work.*

With love I miss you and prayers.

Fr. Eugenio

1st Reading, Acts 1: 1-11

**Prologue – The Holy Spirit Promised – Jesus
Ascends to Heaven**

Peter and Paul were so prominent in the early
church that the entire Book of Acts can be
outlined around their activity: chapters 1-12 are
about Peter and 13-28 are about Paul.

Luke wrote the Book of Acts to a man identified
only as **Theophilus** (Grk. “friend of God”). He
was very possibly a Roman official.

The **infallible proofs** of His resurrection and
victory over death were critical to the birth of the
church, as His disciples were about to give their
lives in Christ’s service.

The **Holy Spirit** is mentioned in the Book of Acts
more than 50 times. Any attempted work of the
church is doomed to failure without the Spirit.
Many believed Jesus was going to bring a literal
kingdom on earth. Along with focusing on when
Christ will return, believers should also
concentrate on witnessing to a dying world.

Jesus told the disciples the means by which the
gospel would advance: the **Holy Spirit** imbued the
early Christians with **power** so that their
accomplishments were supernatural. The Great
Commission appears in all four of the Gospels as
well as here.

Christ’s work in redemption rests primarily on four
pillars of truth: **His incarnation, His crucifixion,
His resurrection, and His ascension.**

The ascension was the exclamation point,
completely and finally demonstrating that His
atonement had forever solved the problem that sin
created.

With this declaration, the angels confirmed that the
second Person of the Trinity was then, and forever
would be, God and Man. Just as He left, so would
He return – in His glorified body.

This is a part of every Christian’s hope! Christ was
the first fruit of the resurrection, meaning that
when all things are made new, His followers will
be made like Him.

**Purpose: To emphasize that Jesus’ ascension is
not the end of his story. Jesus is alive and well in
heaven, having ascended there from earth.**

2nd Reading Ephesians 1: 17-23

Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom

After the praises, this next section is a prayer. Paul
has worked to express the wonder of believers’
spiritual endowments. Now he prays that they may
be able to embrace these truths with their hearts.
God’s mighty power is anchored in heaven itself,
since the Lord not only **raised Jesus from the
dead** but took Him bodily into heaven and seated
Him **at His right hand** - a place of authority and
power.

The Gospel Matthew 28: 16-20

The Great Commission

It is tempting to imagine the Resurrection itself
immediately transforming timid disciples into
heroes of the faith. This verse (16, 17) is a
reminder that transformation does not happen
quickly. Even after Jesus’ followers saw Him alive
and heard Him speak, some of them **still doubted**.
The “Great Commission” has not changed since the
moment Jesus uttered it. Christians are to **go... and
make disciples, baptizing** them and **teaching**

them to obey. And they are to accomplish all of
this by His power and for His sake, through His
Spirit. When followers of Christ are slow to share
their faith or pour into the lives of others, it is
often because they do not really take Jesus at His
word: **I am with you always.**

**And so the feast of the Ascension is a challenge
and a consolation.**

**It’s a challenge in the sense that it exhorts us to
follow the directions that Jesus gave us for
journeying to our heavenly destination.**

**It’s also a consolation in the sense that it
reminds us that Jesus is with us every foot of
the way. He is sitting in the next car, just in
case we need help.**

**This is the message of today’s feast. This is the
assurance we celebrate today. This is the good
news of Ascension!**

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request or appointment

Anointing of the Sick

Please individually by appointment

For Pregnancy Support

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

MASS INTENTIONS May 23 to 29

Saturday + Calvin Andrew Stafford Jr.

Sunday + Summer Reeves

Monday + Bryn Donnelly

Tuesday Gail Hanley

Wednesday Angela Rendon

Thursday + Martina Dunham

Friday + Antonio Rodriguez

Socially distant, spiritually connected

Quarantine has been challenging for everyone;
the physical, financial, spiritual and emotional toll
is a hard burden to bear. Celebrating Mass through
livestream, praying on video calls, and connection
with friends and family in socially distant ways
has become our new normal. It is easy to
understand how the pressure of isolation damages
our sense of community, which is a fundamental
aspect of our lives. For many, sitting alone

simulating community through technology isn’t
enough. Now, more than ever, finding the
connections that sustain us is a critical task.

We are becoming increasingly creative in our
quest to feel connected. My neighborhood in
Jersey City, New Jersey, has decided that every
night at 7 p.m. we will all bang pots and pans in
a moment of solidarity and support. The church
bells have joined in the nightly ritual, as have
some car horns. The symphony of support
reminds everyone in earshot that we are not
alone. The nightly clanging is just one way we
have made the often-intangible reality of our
interconnectedness physically present...

The interconnectedness has a primal origin. We
are physically linked to every part of creation
through our complex ecosystem: just one
organism among many depending on the
intricacies of this planet. Our growing awareness
of climate change and the degradation of Earth
have made our connection clear. Our social
distancing has helped reduce emissions around
the world. We, our lives and actions, have a
direct and dramatic impact on Earth, showing us
that the interconnectedness of creation is a two-
way street, or perhaps a dance so complicated we
haven’t yet noticed all the patterns...

Just as the clear physical and emotional signs of
our interconnection have always been with us,
our spiritual connection is not a new reality
resulting from our experience of the
Coronavirus. Spiritual connection is a constant in
our lives, through our membership in creation
and our relationship to our Creator. Baptism
deepened the spiritual connection when the
family of the church welcomed us into the body
of Christ. We are all of one spirit because of our
connection to God (1 Corinthians 12:13)
revealing the truth of our spiritual connection as
the foundation of our lived experience... Take
notice, accept the challenge. Staying rooted in
our relationship with others, ourselves and with
God can carry us through our experience of
quarantine as we grieve and pray alone together.
Sister Amanda Carrier is a Sister of Mercy.