



Ascension of the Lord ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter



May 24, 2020

ATTENTION

**All scheduled masses and events are cancelled due to the ban.
As a Parish Family we pray for all who are affected by COVID-19.
The Church & Rectory will remain closed until further notice.**

**If you had a mass scheduled or offered the Bread and Wine or Sanctuary Candle for a loved one,
for this week or the upcoming weeks, please call the rectory to reschedule to a later date.
We apologize for the inconvenience.**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

ASCENSION OF THE LORD "Jesus ascends into a cloud" (Acts 1: 1-11)

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. The Risen Christ ascends into heaven to be with his Father. It is certainly a great celebration, but with recent events we are called to see it in another perspective. The first idea that comes to mind is that we cannot see this solemnity as a detachment from the harsh reality that we sometimes have to face. The Ascension is a feast where as believers we affirm that the Risen Jesus returns to the place from where he has come down to intercede for us. That is why we see Ascension as a reason to hope. It is our faith that is telling us that our brothers and sisters who left us due to the coronavirus enjoy and already live together with Jesus and his Father in heaven.

It is interesting to note that Jesus, before leaving His disciples, promises that He will be with them always. That is why today we can gather in "his name" as the new community of disciples. Let us listen carefully to his Word that brings us closer to the Risen Christ. May our fragile union be a cry for the spiritual union that we hope to achieve one day with Christ in heaven as long as we do not keep looking at heaven only.

When the group of 11 saw the Risen Lord the first time "they worshiped him but had their doubts" (Matthew 28:17). However, Jesus wasted no time and gave them the mandate to go and make disciples of all nations. Even though the apostles had not fully understood the prodigious fact that is the resurrection (passage from death to life), they were sent to evangelize.

We were also called to proclaim his Name beyond their limitations or lack of theological knowledge. The force of the resurrection makes us agents of life in the midst of the pain that death produces. Christ is still present in our world and we are called to serve his body, which is often downcast and humiliated not only by the coronavirus pandemic but also by our lack of solidarity with the impoverished of all times. Pope Francis likes to say that our church is like a field hospital in which we all have to contribute. For this reason, in this solemnity of the Ascension, let us remember that when we work to build the Kingdom of God in service to the poorest, we can clear the doubts of tomorrow that may appear uncertain. Let us not stare at the sky but build his Kingdom. We are a Church on a mission.

Once again, with the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord, let us affirm that we have not been left alone and dispossessed, but that " *we will receive the power from on high when the Holy Spirit comes upon us.*" The power of God continues to be active in the midst of our good actions that the same Spirit produces in us. So in this week that the Church is preparing to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, let us work with his power, his strength and gifts to build the Kingdom.

Happy Ascension Day.

Fr. Hernán, S.J.

Pope Francis invites the international community to promote "a sustainable and comprehensive development" that does not leave no one behind. "Will we be able to act responsibly against the hunger that so many suffer knowing that there is food for everyone? Will we continue to look the other way with complicit silence in the face of those wars fueled by desires for dominance and power? Will we be willing to change the lifestyles that plunge so many into poverties by promoting and encouraging ourselves to lead a more austere and humane life that enables an equitable distribution of resources?"

Weekly Remembrances

Bread & Wine
Tabernacle Candle
Memorial Candle
Memorial Candle



~ For the safety & well being of
the People of our Parish Community
~ † For all the lives lost to
~ the COVID-19 Virus



SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page (www.olmcsi.org). *Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."*

May 24: The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
Ephesians 1:17-23

May 31: Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34
1 Corinthians 12:3B-7, 12-13



KEEP CONNECTED WITH YOUR PARISH THROUGH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Fr. Hernán and Fr. Marc and Fr Luis Mario are offering virtual Masses and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament through our Facebook page.

Connect and follow us to see these transmissions in your homes. Search "olmcsi" and send a friend request.

Masses on Sundays; 10:00 am (English); 11:30 am (Spanish)

Masses from Monday to Friday; 12:00 pm (Spanish); Thursdays 11am (English)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays at 7:00 pm (Spanish)

LIVE-STREAMING MASS & PARISH SUPPORT - As we continue to stay at home and practice social distancing, we offer opportunities for prayer and worship through our live-stream. You can watch the live-stream on our Facebook page and follow the schedule above. Needless to say, the parish will be facing financial setbacks in the days ahead. Your weekly contributions are essential for the good of the parish. Your sacrificial giving is of great importance with meeting the cost of maintaining our parish. **Please Support Our Parish:** As we are all forced to make unprecedented adjustments to address the coronavirus crisis. Our church remains open for critical/essential needs but can only do so with your support. You may log onto the parish website to view the bulletin, see any new developments, review any CCD information and to register for OnLine Giving at www.olmcsi.org. From my heart, thank you for everything you do for us at OLMC-SB-SMA Parish. May Jesus bless and protect our whole parish, and all our relatives and friends.

REGISTER for ONLINE GIVING - WeShare allows parishes to receive online gifts and give their parishioners a safe and easy way to do so. You are able to set up recurring donations and manage your online giving accounts. If you've never donated online before, signing up is easy! Customer service number 1-800-950-9952 or weshare@4ipi.com.

- Visit our church website and click Give Online. (Parish Website: olmcsi.org)
- Select the collection or event of your choice.
- Setup your donation or payment.
- If you wish you may choose Click Recurring Donation, then enter your donation amount and frequency.

Once you've added your account information, donations will automatically deduct from your account. It's that easy!

THANK YOU! We are short for words to thank you enough for your good heart. We pray for you earnestly from the bottom of our heart that you and your family be blessed in every way with good health, peace and prosperity. May the good Lord keep us all in the palm of His hands and make His face shine upon us.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,

Come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there, And unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION - It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

MEMORIAL DAY: REMEMBER OUR VETERANS - And pray for them this Monday, when we honor and mourn those who died while serving in the united states armed forces.

On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace.

ACT OF PERFECT CONTRITION - In addition to not being able to receive the Lord in the Holy Eucharist, one of the devastating effects of this pandemic is that we can't experience God's mercy in the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation. Thank God the Church has a teaching to help address this very issue, "The Act of Perfect Contrition." Pope Francis himself is encouraging the Church to make an Act of Perfect Contrition at home. Here is the prayer: *My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.*
Amen