

PARISH CALENDAR



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| Saturday, May 20 | 5:00 p.m. | Mass |
| Sunday, May 21 | 7:00 a.m. | Mass |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Mass (Live Stream) |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Mass |
| Monday, May 22 | 8:00 a.m. | Mass - St. Rita's Feast Day |
| | 9:30-11:00 a.m. | Food Pantry Open |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Mass- St. Rita's Feast Day |
| Tuesday, May 23 | 8:00 a.m. | Mass |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Finance Council Meeting (Virtual) |
| Wednesday, May 24 | 8:00 a.m. | Mass |
| | 9:30-11:00 a.m. | Food Pantry Open |
| Thursday, May 25 | 8:00 a.m. | Mass |
| Friday, May 26 | 8:00 a.m. | Communion Service |
| Saturday, May 27 | 10:00-12 pm | Confession - 87-1511 Nakii St. |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Mass |



NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Acts:2:1-11: On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was sent to the disciples in the form of fiery tongues.

1 Cor:12:3b-7, 12-13: The apostle Paul wrote that there are many gifts but the same Spirit, different ministries but the same Lord.

Jn:20:19-23: Jesus appeared and told the disciples, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. . .Receive the Holy Spirit.:"

We continue to Live Stream the Sunday Mass @ 9:00 a.m. @ <https://www.stritananakuli.org/livestream>

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS 2023

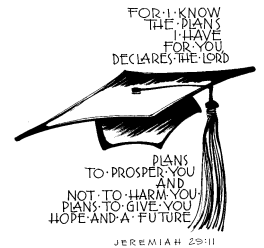
We congratulate the following youths from our parish who have graduated from high school:

Tyana Rose Hoohuli
Haiti Tautua'a

David Kalili
Johnny Werner

Madden Kamahele

Congratulations to all those who have graduated from College



Only Mark and Luke speak directly about the ascension of Jesus. Mark gives us only a single line. Luke, on the other hand, is more expansive. He also recalls the Ascension narration in the opening of his second book of the Christian Scriptures—the Acts of the Apostles. This second narration, taken from Acts, is our first reading today. Luke alone states that Jesus' ascension occurred forty days after the Resurrection.

As Jesus returns to the Father and thus disappears from their sight, the apostles remain riveted and absorbed. The angels have to bring them back to earth, so to speak. They address the apostles, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there?" The words are reminiscent of the angels addressing the stunned women at the tomb on Easter morning: "He is not here, for he has been raised, just as he said" (Matthew 28:6).

Today's Gospel proclamation is solemn and grave. Matthew's Gospel does not mention Jesus' ascension. Rather, Matthew is concerned about handing on the mission of Jesus. The apostles offer homage; Jesus acknowledges this gesture by announcing that God, his Father, is the source of his authority. Jesus acts as one duly authorized to give the apostles the mission of teaching, baptizing, and carrying out all he had commanded.

The questioning and anxious waiting, which are recorded in the first reading, are absent in today's Gospel proclamation. The whole of Jesus' ministry is handed on to the eleven. Their mission is to reach the ends of the earth. They are assured that Jesus will be with them everywhere and always, right up to the end of time.

His presence among us continues forever

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN (CCC): Today we take up the collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Your support helps the CCC engage and build Catholic communities in the United States and around the world using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half the funds we collect remain here in the Diocese of Honolulu, to support local efforts. Be a part of this campaign to spread the gospel message. Support the collection today! To learn more visit www.usccb.org/ccc.

SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE: Come learn the peaceful, prayerful method of sidewalk advocacy from Sidewalk Advocates for life and help women and men entering the abortion facility to choose life! We offer a peaceful, prayerful, law-abiding method that is very compassionate and woman-oriented and credited with saving thousands of lives at abortion facilities across the United States and beyond! Our next training will be held on Saturday, June 17, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at St. John Apostle & Evangelist Catholic Church in Mililani, if you would like to learn this method and check out our program, please contact Program Leader Patrick Guzman, at (808)351-6179 or email pguzman_5k@yahoo.com. More information at www.sidewalkadvocates.org!

WORD OF LIFE: "The Lord says to us, 'Do not fear: I am with you' (Isaiah 41:10). He speaks these words not as one who merely observes our pain, but as one who experienced immense suffering. And the very wounds that bear witness to his suffering indicate the essence of our identity and worth: we are loved by God. Reflecting on the healed wounds of the Risen Christ, we see that even our most difficult trials can be the place where God manifests his victory. He makes all things beautiful. He makes all things new." **"Be not Afraid" NABRE © 2010 CCD. Used with permission**

WEEKLY READINGS

May 21 Sun: Ascension of the Lord

Acts:1:1-11; Ps:47; Eph:1:17-23; Mt:28:16-20

May 22 Mon: St. Rita of Cascia

Prv:2:1-15; Ps:27:1, 3, 4, 5, 11, 13; Rm: 12:9-21; Jn:15:1-14

May 23 Tue: Easter Weekday

Acts:20:17-27; Ps:68:10-11, 20-21; Jn:17:1-11a

May 24 Wed: Easter Weekday

Acts:20:28-38; Ps:68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab; Jn:17:11b-19

May 25 Thur: Easter Weekday

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

May 26 Fri: Saint Philip Neri, Priest

Acts:25:13b-21; Ps:103: 1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn:21:15-19

May 27 Sat: Easter Weekday

Acts:28:16-20, 30-31; Ps:11:4, 5 & 7; Jn:21:20-25

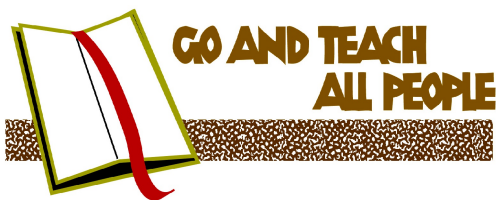
NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

In today's Gospel Jesus charges his followers to "make disciples of all nations." What exactly is going on here? What is this Great Commission anyway? Good stewards know they are directed to share what they exercise stewardship over: their life of faith in Christ Jesus. They know Jesus didn't direct them to go to church and to keep quiet about it; or to go out into the neighborhood, workplace or marketplace and just be nice. Christ's Good News is meant to be shared. Many people in our communities don't know about Jesus Christ. Does that bother us? Do we care? Do we realize we are supposed to do something about it? **(International Catholic Stewardship Council)**

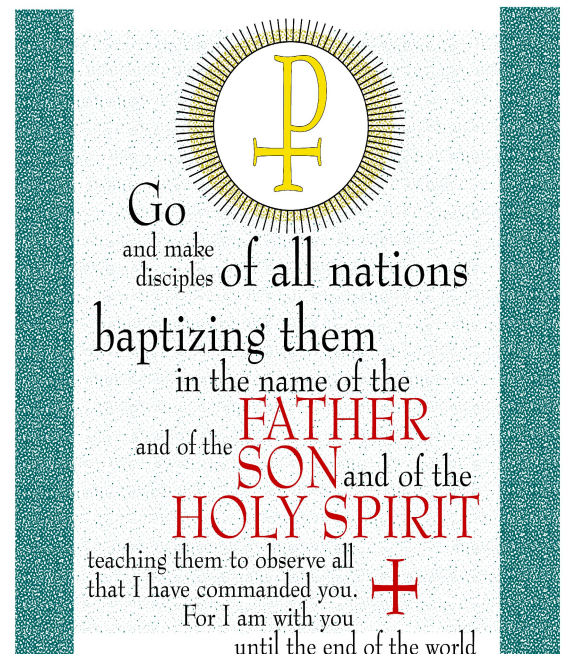
The death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, as well as the descent of the Holy Spirit, comprise the inseparable Paschal Mystery. We take each event in time, of course. We observe and honor one facet, then another throughout Triduum and the Easter season. Our celebration of the Ascension of the Lord focuses on Jesus' necessary departure. The apostles had been warned, or reminded, "I tell you the sober truth, it is much better for you that I go. If I fail to go, the Paraclete will never come to you, whereas if I go, I will send him to you" (John 16:7). Jesus will no longer be present in the old, familiar way. He whom they have seen with their very own eyes, he whom they have touched will no longer be there. We can easily sympathize with the apostles. We can forgive them for staring up to heaven in awe, riveted to that place on earth, wishing this were not so. Or wishing they could join him. Or wishing he would return soon. But the apostles have a mission. They also have the assurance of Jesus' presence with them to the very ends of the earth and until the end of all time. God has all space and all time covered, so to speak.

For the apostles this is quite a stretch. They must tarry awhile on this earth. They must learn that though Jesus left them, he did not abandon them. He is wholly present. It is for them to receive and experience and know him in a new way. This will make all the difference to them; it will make all the difference in the world.

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SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



Empower Us

Almighty God,
you empowered the apostles
to bring others to faith
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Help us continue their mission
in our families, schools, neighborhoods,
workplaces, and parish.
Gift us with the courage to witness
our faith.
Inspire us to show the world our belief
with our words, actions, and gestures.
Use us as instruments of your grace
through Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 21, 2023
You Will Be My Witnesses

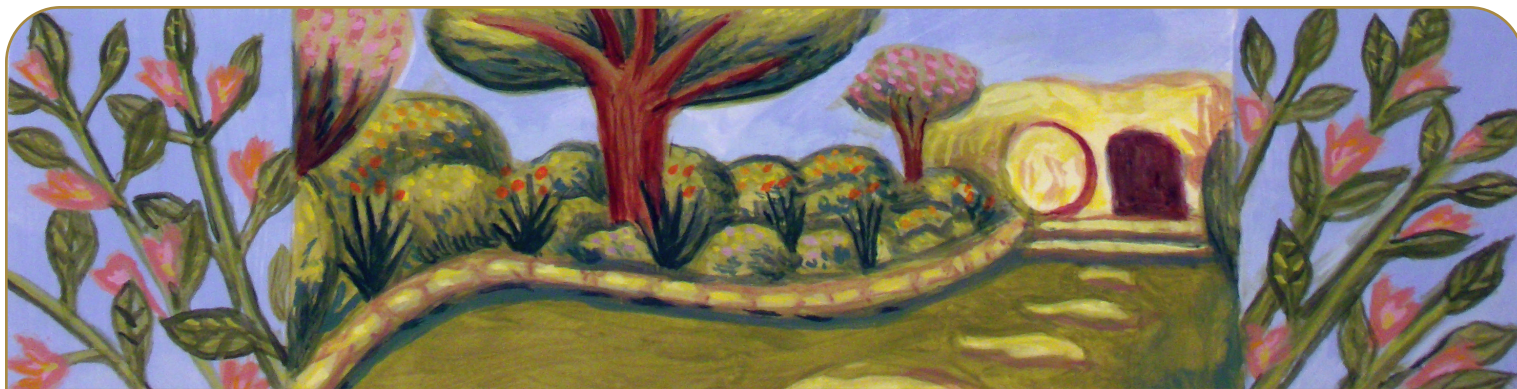


Today's readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9 (6); Ephesians 1:17–23; Matthew 28:16–20. Our Scripture readings for almost every day of the Easter season have taken us progressively through the Acts of the Apostles. In this book, Luke pens with broad strokes the Church's development from the resurrection of Jesus to the apostle Paul's first incarceration.

Today we flip back to the very beginning of Acts. In the opening scene, Luke sets the stage for the foundation of the Christian community, the Church. In just a few short lines of Scripture, we hear Jesus' final words to his disciples and witness his ascension to the Father. Jesus promises the disciples,

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you," and proclaims, "You will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Thus launches the subsequent twenty-eight chapters in which we hear the dramatic details about the experiences of the disciples, the powerful role of the Holy Spirit in the formation of the Christian community, and the spread of the Word of God.

It is often said that the most remarkable miracle of all those attributed to Jesus is the wildfire-like spread of the Gospel and the supersonic growth of the number of new Christians baptized. The Acts of the Apostles relates this miraculous emergence of the Church against all odds.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 22 Eternally Bound

Jesus prepares his disciples for times when they will be scattered and feel alone. He assures them again that though they may be separated, they will never be abandoned. Their bonds, permanently forged in the Holy Spirit, will bring them peace in the midst of challenges. So it is for us today. We are bound together with an invisible thread in the community of faith. *Today's readings: Acts 19:1–8; Psalm 68:2–3ab, 4–5acd, 6–7ab; John 16:29–33.*

Tuesday, May 23 Remain Close

Jesus affirms God's desire to be close to us in his heartfelt prayer on behalf of his disciples the night before he died. From today through Thursday, we hear this prayer in its entirety in the Gospel readings. Jesus ardently prays that we remember his teachings, stay close to one another, and remain close to God the Father. Sometimes we struggle to believe that God wants this loving relationship with us. Read John 17 in one sitting with this in mind. It is a powerful antidote to doubt. *Today's readings: Acts 20:17–27; Psalm 68:10–11, 20–21; John 17:1–11a.*

Wednesday, May 24 Farewell

Take note of the parallel scenes between today's reading from Acts and the Gospel reading from John 17. Paul speaks to the community at Ephesus as he departs on his journey to death. Jesus speaks his prayer-filled goodbyes to his disciples on the eve of his arrest. Both Paul and Jesus insist that their strength in resisting the Evil One is rooted in the Holy Spirit. So it is with us to this day. The Holy Spirit serves as our armor and source of unity for the life of the world. *Today's readings: Acts 20:28–38; Psalm 68:29–30, 33–35a, 35bc–36ab; John 17:11b–19.*

Thursday, May 25 Show Me the Path of Life

At the heart of today's readings, we pray Psalm 16:11, "You will show me the path of life." This prayer reflects St. Paul's experience throughout his ministry. At every turn he receives the Lord's guidance to show him where to go, what to say, and how to invite new believers to faith. This verse is also at the heart of Jesus' ardent prayer to the Father on behalf of his beloved disciples. Make it the heart of your daily prayer as well. *Today's readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6–11; Psalm 16:1–2a and 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; John 17:20–26.*

Friday, May 26 Feed My Lambs

The last resurrection appearance in John's Gospel offers a perfect opportunity for the prayer practice called *Ignatian contemplation*. In your imagination, place yourself on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias with the disciples in their final conversation with Jesus. Notice the details: the sunrise, waves lapping on the shore, salty scent of the sea and caught fish, smoke of the charcoal fire, the disciples crowding close to hear Jesus speak. Jesus has powerful words for us to hear today: I love you. Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Follow me. *Today's readings: Acts 25:13b–21; Psalm 103:1–2, 11–12, 19–20ab; John 21:15–19.*

Saturday, May 27 Stay Focused

John's Gospel ends with Jesus' command to Peter to focus on following him. When Peter looks sideways to ask about a fellow disciple, Jesus replies, "What concern is it of yours?" (John 21:22). God's concern is not rooted in comparing disciple to disciple. It is part of the human condition to get distracted by what others are doing and to measure ourselves against our perceptions of others. Jesus' final words strongly counteract that temptation—stay focused! *Today's readings: Acts 28:16–20, 30–31; Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7; John 21:20–25.*

