



Church of the Nativity

May 24, 2020

## The Ascension of the Lord

### MISSION STATEMENT

We are a praying, learning and caring community fulfilling the mission God gives us in baptism by our worship in faith, by our witness in hope and by our service in love.



Praying through  
the Sacraments,  
Learning through  
Religious Education,  
Caring through  
Pastoral Care.

Church & School  
Location  
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Office Mailing Address  
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1911  
[nativitycatholic.org](http://nativitycatholic.org)

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# Mass Intentions

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>SATURDAY</b>  | Evelyn Michels Hubbard, RIP |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | For all Parishioners        |
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | Benedict Nguyen, RIP        |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   | Jobey Broyles, Sp. Int.     |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | Peggy Seltzer, RIP          |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  | Kathleen Duffy, RIP         |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    | Warren A. Turner, RIP       |

**Reconciliation:**  
*Every Saturday from 10 am-12 pm  
 or by appointment*

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Monday:    | Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab;<br>Jn 16:29-33    |
| Tuesday:   | Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21;<br>Jn 17:1-11a          |
| Wednesday: | Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab;<br>Jn 17:11b-19       |
| Thursday:  | Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11;<br>Jn 17:20-26   |
| Friday:    | Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab;<br>Jn 21:15-19 |
| Saturday:  | Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7;<br>Jn 21:20-25        |

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Jesus tells the disciples that they will be witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:1-11).

**Psalms** — God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord (Psalm 47).

**Second Reading** — May the Father of glory give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Ephesians 1:17-23).

**Gospel** — Jesus instructs the Eleven to baptize and teach people of all nations (Matthew 28:16-20).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Sunday:    | The Ascension of the Lord;<br>World Communications Day                                    |
| Monday:    | St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII;<br>St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi;<br>Memorial Day |
| Tuesday:   | St. Philip Neri   |
| Wednesday: | St. Augustine of Canterbury;<br>Shavuot (Jewish observance) begins at sunset              |
| Thursday:  | Julian Calendar Ascension   |
| Friday:    | St. Paul VI   |

Please remember to continue to support your Parish and Parish School financially. Even though public celebration of the Eucharist will be suspended here at Church of the Nativity and throughout the Diocese for several weeks, our ministry is alive and parish life continues. The Parish and School offices will remain open, operating expenses accrue, employees need to be paid, those who are hungry need to be helped by way of our Food Pantry, and more!

Offertory Envelopes or checks can be mailed to the parish office at PO Box 8770, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067. To support your parish regularly and without the use of Offertory Envelopes (or to make one-time gifts on a weekly, monthly or annual basis), the Faith Direct Electronic Giving Program is available on our Parish website and apps on iPhone and Android.

click here on our  
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*“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”* MT 28, 18-20

My brothers and sisters in Christ, what an amazing day this was for the Apostles! What a blessing for all of us! Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. It is a time of transition for the Apostles and for all of us. Before the crucifixion and after the resurrection, Jesus was teaching and doing the will of the Father. And today, his ascension to heaven, returning to the Father, and commanding us to, “repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things” signals us to go, live and preach the Good News (Lk 24,47).

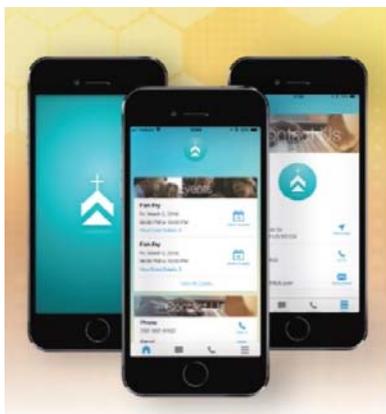
In the last 40 days Jesus appeared to His disciples in many and various ways as he does for us today in the life of the Church. The Ascension of Jesus provides us with 3 important truths. The **first truth is the ascension of Jesus to heaven in glory and returning to the Father is a triumphant victory over his suffering and death.** What this means for us is that if we are faithful to Jesus Christ, we too will come into the glory of the Father with him. Everything that happens to us here on earth can be a journey to glory for all who are faithful to Christ’s Commandment, “to love God above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves.” Jesus paved the way for all of us. Our sufferings and pains in this time of the pandemic do not have to be a spiritual dead end. They are the roads to glory in eternity with God. What the world sees as negatives can be our “glory road” to God. The Ascension showed Jesus’ suffering and death as His “glory road” to the Father.

The second truth is to **show us where our real destiny is.** We are created from the earth but not destined to remain on earth. Heaven is our true home. Nothing on earth will ever finally satisfy us. There is no food, no job, no marriage, no honor, no position, no home or neighborhood that gives complete and final satisfaction. That complete fulfillment comes only in God. Here on earth our soul and heart are restless, as St. Augustine famously said, until they rest in God. We have a God-shaped hole in our soul that only God can fill. Where Jesus has gone, one day, we hope to follow.

The third truth is that **His departure showed the disciples that his public appearances were over until His return in glory.** There would still private revelations to various individuals chosen by God. The normal way that the Church will know Him would be in the sacraments and the Eucharists in Mass. We discern His presence not through seeing but through believing. Through the Mass and sacraments, Jesus can now be present to us in many places simultaneously.

The Ascension is an important feast because it transitions us from those extraordinary forty days after Easter filled with the appearances and wonder of the Risen Christ passing on so many of His powers to the Apostles, to the life of the Church where the Risen Christ now works in and through His Church. The Ascension is the bridge between the time of Jesus’ touching people through His earthly and Risen Body and the time of Jesus’ touching people through His Mystical Body, the Church. The Ascension guarantees us that it is the same Christ throughout. The point of the Ascension for us is that to meet the Risen Christ today, we do not have to go to Jerusalem, Bethany, the upper-room, or the Mount of Olives. **We only need to come to church.** Let us continue our journey together as one family in Christ asking him for the grace and strength to remain faithful to God’s commandments to spread the Gospel by, loving God above all things, with all our heart, mind and soul, and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Fr. Minh Do



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*You can probably pull the graphics right off the website*

<https://nativitycatholic.weconnect.com/what-is-dynamic-parish->

**Please visit the Dynamic Parish Page on our website for lots more information and activities**

<https://nativitycatholic.weconnect.com/>



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Men of Galilee,  
why are you standing there  
staring at the sky?  
This Jesus  
who has been taken up  
from you into heaven  
will return in the same way  
as you have seen him going into heaven.

ACTS 1:11

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MAY  
24  
2020



Ascension  
OF THE  
LORD

When we hear an excerpt from a particular Gospel, it is easy to get the details and stories from all the Gospels all mixed up and combined into one. Theologian Gerhard Lohfink called this “making Gospel soup!” To understand today’s Gospel passage, we must realize that this is material particular to Matthew and in his telling it takes place right after the Resurrection. There has been no “doubting Thomas” or any of the other stories that we’ve heard since Easter.

How often have you made a plan at an event, saying, “If we get split up, just go back to the car and wait” or “Stay at the fountain in the mall—I’ll find you!” Earlier in Matthew, Jesus told the women at the tomb to tell the disciples, “If something happens, head back to Galilee” (28:10). This was the game plan and was both a geographic reference and a spiritual one. “Go back to what you know, what you remember.” They were confused and hurting, but did as Jesus said, returning to Galilee, specifically to the mountain where they had a powerful experience with him before. That would make it understandable that the disciples showed up but were a bit leery or doubting.

## YOU’VE GOT THIS

Put yourself in the disciples’ shoes. This is May, the season of graduations, new jobs, new cars, marriages, and so many other transitions as young people strike out on their own. Jesus reminded the disciples, “I have the power, and I’ve been teaching you for three years. Now you have the power. Go. Make Disciples. Baptize in the name of the Trinity. Teach them what I taught you.” Surely the disciples were frightened, and Jesus must have felt both fear and pride. This was the moment that happens in every lifetime. It was time for these disciples, these students, his “children” to become the masters. And how did he reassure them? As parents and teachers and mentors have been doing for centuries. He smiled and reminded them, “Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Or as we might say, “You’ve got this.”

Today’s Readings: Acts 1:1–11 Ps 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9; Eph 1:17–23; Mt 28:16–20

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**LORD'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE**

**Weekday Mass: Monday – Saturday 8 am**  
**Saturday Vigil: 5 pm; Sunday: 7:30 am, 9 am, 10:30 am**  
**RCIA and Youth Minister:** Mike James,  
[mjames@nativitycatholic.org](mailto:mjames@nativitycatholic.org), 858-756-1911, ext. 5  
**Family Faith Formation Coordinator:** Amanda Telles  
[faithformation@nativitymail.org](mailto:faithformation@nativitymail.org)  
**Music Director:** Paul Batchelor,  
[pbatchelor@nativitycatholic.org](mailto:pbatchelor@nativitycatholic.org), 858-756-1911, ext. 102  
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[www.thenativityschool.org](http://www.thenativityschool.org), 858-756-6763  
**Bookkeeper:** Jackie Marin,  
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**Administrative Assistant:** Lourdes Barton  
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**Office Hours: M-F 8:30 am - 12:00 pm & 12:30pm to 3:00 pm**  
**Pastoral Council:** Carl Bobkoski, Jane Boler,  
 Mimi Johnson, Craig Ryall  
**Finance Council: Jeff Brandon, Chair**  
 Michael Conway, Jim La Grossa, Byrnes Lambert, Joe Wilkinson,  
 Catherine Mowbray-Lorenz, Earl Parker, Carolyn Wilkinson  
**Safe Environment Coordinator:** John Marin  
 Call the Parish Office - 858-756-1911

**PASTORAL CARE**

**Nativity Samaritans:** [stephaniekourie@cox.net](mailto:stephaniekourie@cox.net)  
**Childcare:** Attended care is provided in the play room off the Commons during 9 am and 10:30 am Sunday Masses.  
**Holy Communion for the sick:** For the homebound upon request, **858-756-1911**  
**Hospitality Ministry:** Lory Fisher - [loryfisher@gmail.com](mailto:loryfisher@gmail.com) or  
 Melissa Edwards - [medwards1177@gmail.com](mailto:medwards1177@gmail.com)  
**Small Christian Communities - Faith Sharing Groups**  
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**Ushers:** Corbitt Kerr at [ckerr@davlyninvestments.com](mailto:ckerr@davlyninvestments.com)  
**Life Ministry Coordinator:** L. Victoria Pashaian, **760-807-0595**  
[LVictoriaPashaian@nativitycatholic.org](mailto:LVictoriaPashaian@nativitycatholic.org)  
**Tribunal Advocate:** Jane Boler at [bolerj14@gmail.com](mailto:bolerj14@gmail.com)

**SACRAMENTS**

**Baptism:** Celebrated on the 4th Sunday, after 10:30 am Mass  
 Please contact the Parish Office 858-756-1911 or  
[lbarton@nativitycatholic.org](mailto:lbarton@nativitycatholic.org).  
**Marriage:** Saturdays, 11:00 am or 2:00 pm  
 Contact the parish office at 858-756-1911.  
**Anointing of the Sick:** Encouraged for anyone critically ill,  
 for the elderly, or prior to major surgery  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday, 3:30- 4:15 pm  
**Eucharist:**  
**Weekday Mass:** Monday - Saturday at 8 am in the Main Church  
**Eucharistic Adoration:** Every Friday after 8 am Mass  
**Perpetual Help Novena:** Tuesdays, after 8 am Mass  
**Rosary:** Weekdays, after 8 am Mass in the Church

***FAMILY FAITH FORMATION***

**Family Faith Formation Coordinator: Amanda Telles**  
[faithformation@nativitymail.org](mailto:faithformation@nativitymail.org)

***ALL ACTIVITIES CANCELLED  
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**Contact: Mike James, 858-756-1911, ext. 5**  
**Youth Group: Sundays,  
5pm to 6:15pm**

All Youth Ministry classes have moved online. Check the parish website each Sunday night at <https://nativitycatholic.weconnect.com/youth-ministry> for links to the latest videos on “Reconciliation” and “Revelation” plus videos on the weekly scripture readings via our YouTube channel.

***High School Confirmation***

The Confirmation Immediate Preparation classes are now finished. All paperwork due can be emailed to [mjames@nativitycatholic.org](mailto:mjames@nativitycatholic.org). Final Interviews continue over the phone throughout the next few weeks.

Check the parish website at <https://nativitycatholic.weconnect.com/youth-ministry> for links to videos on Confirmation Immediate Preparation Class #5 (the rehearsal) and How to Approach the Bishop. That website page will always have the most current information on Confirmation moving forward.

As announced, our Confirmation Mass will be rescheduled when the public health emergency is over.

If you would like to volunteer as a reader or gift bearer email [mjames@nativitycatholic.org](mailto:mjames@nativitycatholic.org) with your contact information.

***RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION***

**Contact: Mike James, 858-756-1911, ext. 5**

Our R.C.I.A. classes have moved online. Check the parish website at <https://nativitycatholic.weconnect.com/rcia> for links to the latest videos on “Holy Orders”, “The Vocation of the Laity”, and “Social Justice” plus videos on the weekly scripture readings via our YouTube channel.