

May 13, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .

Mother's Day: Today, the second Sunday of the month of May, is mother's day. We always want to give thanks to God for all mothers and for their witness to the Lord's love for us all. We thank God for the way they imitate Jesus' love with the many ways that they give up their own life so that we may have better lives. Moms, thanks so much for all the love that you show us and for passing on the faith to us. To all mothers who have taught us first how to pray, we continue to pray for you and to love others as you also have taught us.



Let us pray for all mothers, who have given us life and love that they may be shown reverence, respect and love. Let us pray for mothers who have lost a child through death that their faith may give them hope and their family and friends support and console them. Let us pray for mothers who have had an abortion that they may be restored to life and renewed to life. Let us pray for single parent mothers that they receive the strength, support and resources they need. Let us pray for refugee and immigrant mothers who have left their families to come to this country and who live in fear of being deported and separated from their new families that they have started here. Let us pray for mothers who have died that they may rest forever in the peace of Christ. In this month of May which is Mary's month, may the mother of our Lord intercede for us and ask her Son for the blessings of a full life and health in mind, body and spirit for all mothers.

Holy Mary, Mother of God and our mother, pray for us and intercede for us now and always. Thanks for showing us how to say "yes" to the will of God and for giving birth to the presence of God in our lives. Show us how to always welcome and receive your Son's life and love now and forever. Amen.

The Feast of the Ascension: Today, Sunday, we are celebrating the Feast of the Ascension. The Ascension is certainly a part of the Easter Event and worthy of our reflection and celebration. There was a grade school teacher who was struggling to teach the meaning of this Feast to her class. She decided to take them out onto the playground and she had them stand in a circle around a water puddle. She asked them if the water in the puddle would remain there forever. The kids all responded, "No." Then she asked them where the water goes when it leaves the puddle. One child answered that it goes back into the sky and forms a cloud. Then the teacher asked if the water would stay in the cloud forever. Again all the children responded, "No." Another child had the next correct answer when she said that it comes back down as rain and forms a lot of puddles all over. The teacher explained that this is what Jesus' ascension into heaven was all about. Jesus would ascend into heaven and the Holy Spirit would come down and cover the whole earth. This way, the love of God and the mission of Jesus Christ would be able to extend to the ends of the earth and all people would know the redeeming, saving, love of God. This way, all people could be disciples of Jesus Christ and continue the work of building the kingdom of God on earth that Jesus hands on to us until the time that he will return in glory. The ascent of Jesus into heaven prepares the way for the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles at Pentecost.

Feast of Pentecost is next week: On this wonderful feast that officially brings the Easter season to a close, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, the birth of the Church and the sending forth of the apostles to proclaim the gospel to all the nations. Can you witness to the presence of the resurrected Christ in your life? How have you experienced the Holy Spirit, the power of God's love in your life and how can you use your gifts to support and renew the community of faith, the church? Come, Holy Spirit, Come. Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit that we might be recreated and renew the face of the earth.