



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

GOD MOUNTS HIS THRONE AMID SHOUTS OF JOY;
THE LORD, AMID TRUMPET BLASTS.

—Psalm 47:6

May 12, 2013

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS	<p><i>All loving God, we give thanks and praise for mothers young and old. We pray for young mothers who give life and count toes and tend to our every need. May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy. We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us. May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways. We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty or conflict. May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away. We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion. We remember mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen</i></p>
WAITING FOR THE SPIRIT	<p>In today's Gospel from Luke, Jesus recalls his (and the apostles') mission. He directs them to return to the city and wait for the promise of the Father. He blesses them and is "taken up" into heaven. This "taking up" suggests being carried up like an acceptable sacrifice ascending to the throne of God. The apostles, nourished on scriptures that spoke of acceptable sacrifices, understand this. They go to Jerusalem to wait and pray. The first reading reiterates and further develops this experience. Here too, Jesus directs his apostles to return to Jerusalem and wait. But something new is disclosed: they are to await the powerful baptism of the Holy Spirit. We know that in a few short days the powerful Spirit will come to the apostles. We can be grateful that they stayed and waited, whatever their trepidation. From their example, we learn what it takes to wait and be open to the coming of the Holy Spirit.</p>
REMINDER	<p>All liturgical ministers are asked to send their non-availability dates for June, July and August to csaiza@smatthewlb.org or call 562.491.1217 before Monday, May 20th.</p>
CONFIRMATION CONGRATS!	<p>This Friday evening at 7:00p.m. we shall welcome Bishop Joseph Sartoris when he arrives to seal the gift of the Holy Spirit upon 41 young adults who have been preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation over the past two years. Our young students have been learning how to carry out our Church's mission of love and service by taking part in various parish ministries. They have collected food and clothing for poor families in Mexico; visited with residents in convalescent homes, volunteered at a children's hospital and donated food to Catholic Charities food pantry. Thanks to eight very special teachers and our dedicated directors, Omar Ochoa and Sister Sharon Francis, our Confirmandi have a great start in heeding God's call to mission. Congratulations to one and all!</p>
RCIA	<p>Are you interested in being baptized into the Catholic faith or completing the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation? If so, please call Sister Sharon Francis at 562.439.0931 x 5. Sister will go through the discernment process with you and answer any questions you might have before beginning your faith journey.</p>
SUPPORT OUR LONG BEACH AIDS WALK TEAM	<p>Did you know that the annual AIDS Walk Long Beach has raised \$2.1 million dollars since 1989 benefiting over 37 agencies? AIDS Walk Long Beach has helped fund HIV testing, medical services, medication, HIV prevention education programs, homeless HIV outreach, and emergency services. Today, and again on May 26/27, Comunidad members will be accepting donations in support of the St. Matthew Long Beach AIDS Walk team who will join the Walk on June 2nd to help provide services for people in Long Beach who are living with HIV/AIDS.</p>
REFLECTIONS	<p>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER First Reading: Acts 7:55-60 Second Reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20 Gospel: John 17:20-26</p> <p><i>"They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak..."</i> Let us praise and thank God for our Sacrament of Confirmation and reflect how we, too, might speak of God's grace in our lives. We can share with others our gratitude for what God has done in our lives.</p>