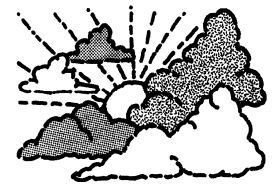


THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 4, 2008

HE WAS LIFTED UP,
AND A CLOUD TOOK HIM FROM THEIR SIGHT.

— Acts 1:9



SHARE THE HOPE

The readings for today's celebration of the Ascension of the Lord once again remind us that as Christians we are people of hope. In the second reading Saint Paul eloquently exhorts the Ephesians to enlighten their hearts so that they will know the hope and glory that come from being people who place their trust in the Lord Jesus. In the story of the Ascension, recounted in the first reading, the Lord Jesus assures the disciples that the Holy Spirit's power will come upon them. Finally, in the Gospel, the Lord lets the disciples know that their mission is to spread the hope of the gospel to all the nations. This wonderful feast keeps our eyes focused on the hope in which we were grounded on the day of our baptism.

Philip J. Sandstrom, STD © 2001OCP

BIRD OF PARADISE FLOWERS ARE NEEDED THIS WEEK

If you have Bird of Paradise plants growing in your garden, **please bring some flowers and leaves to the parish office Monday-Friday of this week.** We will use them to decorate our church in the brilliant flame colors that Pentecost calls for. We are also asking everyone to wear red in order to unite the congregation in symbolic color. Thank you for your help.

ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY ROSE SALE NEXT WEEKEND

Our Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be selling roses after all the Masses next weekend...perfect timing...Mother's Day weekend! The proceeds will be used to continue the Society's work of assisting the poor among us. The special women in your life will appreciate the gift of flowers and at the same time helping the less fortunate.

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO ST. MATTHEW'S?

Fr. Bill Stoeger, S.J., brother of Fr. Jack. Father Bill is a renowned astrophysicist at the Vatican Observatory, and will be speaking on Monday, June 2nd at 7:00p.m. His topic, **GOD AND THE UNIVERSE**, will explore the relationship of religion and science and will remind us that God is found not only in scripture but also in nature. We find, experience and come into communion with God through nature and through our acceptance of its beauties, joys, nourishment, sufferings, dyings and rebirths. You are encouraged to invite others to this very informative talk.



WHO IS THE PRIEST?

- ♦ He is the one through whom new members are initiated into the fullness of the life of the church.
- ♦ He is the one who brings comfort to the widow, who visits the sick and who counsels the youth with their problems.
- ♦ He is the catalyst in the community who works together with his people to build up the family of God.
- ♦ He is the one who blesses the bonds of marriage for those who are called to begin a new Christian family.
- ♦ He is the one who brings God's compassion and forgiveness of sins to the people.
- ♦ He is the one who invites the community of believers to live as one Eucharistic people, proclaiming and living out the Word of God.

He is the companion of Jesus who cares for the people of God through the preaching of the Word, the celebration of the Sacraments, and the selfless service of the people.

Throughout the past six months, our parish community has had the pleasure and honor of hearing Deacon Angel Castro proclaim the Word of God through scripture and homily at our Sunday liturgies. On the 31st of this month, Deacon Castro will receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Let us support him with our prayers and encouragement during his final days of formation.

COMUNIDAD MEETING

Tuesday, May 6 ~ 7:00 p.m. ~ Parish Hall

Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo with Comunidad gay and lesbian ministry. We will have a pot-luck dinner with your side dishes and desserts. Everyone is welcomed.

...REFLECTIONS...

The readings for Pentecost Sunday are listed below along with two questions to prompt you to relate the Word of God to your life.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-11

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

GOSPEL: John 20:19-23

1) **Jesus' friends were gifts to him from God, our friends are gifts from God too. Do you pray for your friends? How? When? How do you help your friends? How do your friends help you?**

2) **The second reading reminds us that we are blessed when we speak out in Christ's name. Are you willing to speak out for justice when it is not fashionable.**