

Sixth Sunday of Easter

..... *A Word from Victoria*

- 16 Feast of the Ascension**
 Mass: 8:30, coffee hour following
 Mass: 10:30
 Whole Community Gathering: 11:30 - Victoria Hall
 AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement
- 17 Monday**
 Communion Service: 9am
 Finance Council: 7pm - Benincasa
- 18 Tuesday**
 Mass: 9am - Church
 Eucharistic Adoration: 9:30am-7pm - Church
- 19 Wednesday**
 Funeral Mass: 9am - Church
 Facilities Committee: 7pm - Benincasa
- 20 Thursday**
 School Mass: 9am - Church
 Choir: 7pm - Church
- 21 Friday**
 Mass: 9am - Church
 School Talent Show: 1pm-3pm - Victoria Hall
- 22 Saturday**
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3pm
 Mass: 5pm
 AA Meeting: 7pm - Benincasa Basement
- 23 Pentecost**
 Mass: 8:30, coffee hour following
 Mass: 10:30, coffee hour following
 AA Meeting: 6pm - Church Basement

There are any number of jokes about workers standing around watching others do the work. I have heard such jokes about road crews, about how many people does it take to change a light bulb, etc.

Today's first reading for the Feast of the Ascension suggests that same concern about the early disciples. The passage ends with Jesus being taken up into heaven and the disciples looking up. The angels ask them: Why do you stand looking up toward heaven." The question echoes the jokes and has the tone of gentle reprimand—why are you standing there doing nothing when there is work to be done.

As so often in the past, the disciples seem to have misunderstood the work of Jesus and, by extension, their own. Their last words to Jesus in today's passage from the Acts of the Apostles are to ask if this is the time when Jesus will restore the kingdom to Israel. The gospels make clear that the work of the disciples is the work of Jesus. Luke writes his gospel and the Act of the Apostles as companion pieces. What happens to Jesus in the gospel becomes the experience of the disciples in the Acts of the Apostles. Jesus' work was to proclaim good news in word and deed, not to restore Israel to its position of power. The work of the disciples is to bring good news through their preaching and their healings.

We are disciples. Jesus' work becomes the work of the disciples becomes our work. Jesus offers two gifts to his disciples and to us to carry out his mission. Matthew tells us that Jesus will be with us always to the end of the age. Though he was leaving his disciples and is no longer with us in the flesh, Jesus will never leave us. We can always count on his presence and care and support. That is promise to live by. Indeed, it is the only way we can live.

Luke tells the disciples and us in his gospel and in the Acts of the Apostles that they and now we will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon us. We receive the Holy Spirit just as Mary did: "the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." She brought forth God's very own word among us, the Son of God. We are sent to bring God's word and presence to all people.

Each of us is invited, encouraged, even at times pushed, to do this work using our particular gifts. What we must not do is stand around doing nothing, somehow expecting that the work will be done by others or even that Jesus can accomplish it without us.

We celebrate Pentecost next week. Again the power of the Holy Spirit will come upon us. This week, let us wait and watch and pray that we may receive the gift of the Spirit for the life of discipleship we are already living.

Readings for May 23rd
Pentecost'

Acts 2:1-11
 Romans 8:8-17
 John 14:15-16,23b-16

PRAYERS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Bob Barone | James McNamara |
| Luis Batayola | Mary Roberts |
| Kay De Ambrosio | Effie Rohner |
| Evan Dubicki | Sylvia Sheehan |
| Martha Harris | Julia Simon |
| Frank Martin | Chris Young |

PRAYERS

Victoria

Announcements

Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick Needed

There are parishioners who are not able to make it to church at this time, but would like to receive communion. Are you available for this ministry? Contact Victoria as soon as possible with questions and/or interest.

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Food Closet is in need of food. Please help to re-stock our food closet. Please bring healthy, non-perishable food items such as tuna fish, peanut butter, pasta and sauce, canned vegetables and fruit, cereal, soups and chili. Place in the box in the west vestibule or bring up at the time of the collection.

Blessing of Marriages

At all the masses on the Feast of the Holy Trinity, May 29-30, there will be a blessing of all marriages.

Ministries Fair and Pancake Breakfast

Mark your calendars for our Ministries Fair and Pancake Breakfast (Sunday)/hors d'oeuvres (Saturday) after all the masses on the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ on June 5-6. This will be an opportunity for us to celebrate as community—we are the Body of Christ, the Church, in our world—and for us to see what ministries we provide and in which we feel called to participate.

Soccer Sign-up

Any child in our parish is eligible to play on our CYO sports teams. Registration forms for K-8 soccer are available on the tables at the doors of the church. They are due by June 4.

Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 19 at 7pm in the Benincasa Center. If you are interested in helping to oversee our buildings and grounds or in helping with repairs or gardening as needed, please attend the meeting. We are currently addressing roofing, painting, gutter repairs on our buildings; landscaping and irrigation projects; replacement lighting through Seattle City Light; and more.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Beginning Memorial Day weekend, May 29-30, the time for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturdays will shift to 3:30-4:30pm.

Parish Stewardship

May 8, 2010

Regular Collection: \$7736.33

Annual Catholic Appeal
Pledged Amount: \$41,482.00

Altar Society

No Meeting in May. ***Don't forget potluck in Betty's backyard June 8th @ 12 noon***. Please bring salad or dessert, KFC & Beverage provided by Betty

Mailing Party

Please join us for the Annual Catholic Appeal follow-up mailing on Tuesday, May 18 at 9:30am.

St. Matthew Golf Tournament

Come enjoy a round of golf at the Lake Ballinger Golf Course, Sat. June 5 at 8:00 am. Afterwards, enjoy a great lunch catered by the Outback Steak House at St. Matthew Community Center. Prizes and Raffles will be awarded during the luncheon ceremony. All for a very small fee of \$45.00. Please contact Janeth Talty at 206 769-6816. Please make payment to St. Matthew School 1230 NE 127th St. Seattle, WA 98125. Note on check; golf tournament.- deadline for registration is May 20th.

Retreat for Returning Catholics

Maybe you've been away from the Church for awhile. Maybe you're not sure if you want to return, but you are willing to at least take a second look. Come on a retreat for Returning Catholics on the week-end of May 28 - 30 with Paulist priest Fr. Michael Everndon from Oregon. It will be a faith sharing retreat with group presentations and communal prayer. There will also be time for you to rest, reflect and encounter God. For more information or to register, call the Palisades Retreat Center at 1-800-330-7622 or visit www.seattlearch.org/palisades.

Foster Parents Needed

Catholic Community Services is looking for families who are willing to provide a temporary, or perhaps permanent, home for the many infants and young children coming into the foster care system. Single adults and married couples are encouraged to contact Janelle Weaver at Catholic Community Services at 206-328-5914 or JanelleW@ccsww.org.