

The Ascension of the Lord

May 21, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Nikita Kruschev once ridiculed Christianity by remarking humorously that his cosmonauts, on their journeys around the earth, had never reported seeing Jesus passing by. His remark may well cause some uneasiness in the most thoughtful modern Christians. What is left of our proclamation of the ascension of Christ if we refuse to take literally the archaic cosmological picture against which Jesus is described as moving from an earth down here to a heaven up there?

In fact, popular cosmological pictures, archaic or modern, have less to do with displaying scientific data about the universe than with bringing out assumptions about the nature of life within it.

The accounts of the ascension of Christ we hear from the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles - as well as in the proclamation of Christ's assumption of heavenly power in the Epistle to the Ephesisans - employ bits and pieces of a cosmological picture which views these matters in a very different way. This picture was already archaic when these accounts were written, and we should not assume that their authors necessarily unaware that the earth was round or that heaven and earth were not so simply up there and down here as they seem to suggest. Nonetheless, it was a picture which would have been familiar to any reader of Jewish apocalyptic writing, the Book of Daniel for instance, or the passage from the prophet Ezekiel.

In this picture, the universe is certainly awesome. But we are far from aliens in it. It is the work of God, God's glorious throne room. It is run according to God's mysterious purposes, which must finally control the destiny of all of us. If we are "alone and afraid" within it, that is, because his purposes are different from ours. We want to live for ourselves, to promote our own concerns even when they clash with those of God or of our neighbors. We want to run as much as we can of the universe on our own terms, however impossible that may be.

It is against the background provided by this picture that our readings see the suffering and death of Jesus at our hands, and his being raised again to

life with God. The picture is in the bckground, and actually only the useful bits and pieces of it remain. Jesus, dead and risen, is in the foreground for all to see. What the disciples have been witnessing these last weeks is the actual, visible event of God's reaching out to reconcile the whole creation, to save it from the confusion it has brought on itself, to bring it back together in the new life of Jesus Christ. There is no question any more about the mysterious purposes of the one who sits on the heavenly throne. They are clear now. If the death we tried to use to stop them will not work, no power can do so.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	May 23	11:00AM
Maria Victoria &		Pena Family
Nicholas Valsco	-	•
Wed.	May 24	11:00AM
Fortunato & Placida Esp	ina	Pena Family
Thur.	May 25	11:00AM
Rubyncita M. Smith †		Pena Family
Fri.	May 26	11:00AM
Robert Banaga Sr. †		Bernie & Imelda
Sat.	May 27	4:30PM
Bill Valli †		John Collins
Sun.	May 28	9:00AM
Pauline Cardoza †	Je	rry & Dee Carone
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		
† ††††††††††††††††††††	+++++++++++	****************************

Sunday Collection - May 14th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1354
Maintenance	\$705
St. Patrick Mission	\$260
Maintenance	\$28

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

St. Patrick Mission Celebration

As one of the oldest parishes in our Diocese we are proud to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of St. Patrick Mission on August 13th! With that being said, we need your help. The parish is starting to **put together a**



committee to help plan the festivities, so if you would like to be involved, or know someone that would be, please sign up in the vestibule. Also, we are starting to look for any pictures, memorabilia, etc. to help give a whole picture of our beloved little church, so please spread the word. All items would stay with their owners, we would just like to scan copies of images and even jot down old stories of activities, priests and anything from the past.

<u>Bankruptcy</u>

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland announced May 8, 2023, that it has filed for Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code to manage legal expenses and facilitate settlements with abuse survivors. While all the parishes in the Diocese are included in the filing, the celebration of sacraments and other aspects of regular parish life will be unaffected by the action taken. For information, visit www.oakdiocese.org. RCBO has also set up a toll-free information line for inquiries at 888-733-1425 (U.S/Canada) or 310-751-2631 (international). For access to certain court documents and other information about our Chapter 11 case, please visit: http://www.kccllc.net/RCBO.

Ríce Bowls

Last call for any remained Rice Bowl contributions out there. We will be sending Catholic Charities their check next week, so please turn anything you have in to the office or Sunday collection basket.

Holy Communion

Last week, during the Presbyteral Council, the current Covid practice of only offering The Precious Body was discussed. After discussion, our Diocese agreed that the practice of offering The Precious Blood should be "allowed, but not mandated." Each parish community has the right to decide whether it is ready to offer Communion Under Both Species (host and wine), and this will be at the pastor's discretion. At this time, Father Leo feels that we are not yet ready to begin this, but he would like to hear from you, our parishioners, and know how you feel. Please let the office or Father Leo know what your thoughts are on this.

Port Cost Town-Wide Yard Sale

SATURDAY, MAY 27TH from 9am-5pm, St. Patrick Mission will be participating in Port Costa's annual town wide yard sale. Come out and support our mission, and find some unique treasures!



Special Second This Weekend

The collection on May 20th and 21st is in support of the Catholic Communication Campaign. Please read the bulletin insert regarding this collection. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

