Ascension of the Lord — May 16, 2021

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

When anyone works for a definite end, there is genuine rejoicing when the goal is reached: the student at his or her graduation, the scientist at his or her new invention, the soldier on the day of victory, the laborer at the completion of a definite task, parents in the successful accomplishments of their children. Success crowns the long and arduous toil. People are glad and make merry.

This weekend's feast celebrates the exaltation of Christ at the Fathers side, sharing his dignity, power and glory, he the King and heir of the universe. The entire Christian world has followed him from his taking human flesh of the Virgin Mother by the power of the Holy Spirit until he was crucified for our sake on Golgotha. They have gazed on him as a tiny babe, listened to his preaching on the hillside, suffered with him in his passion, rejoiced with him, the Risen Christ, and now are exultant that he is enthroned at the Father's side, in glory that he had with the Father before the world began.

The Ascension is a feast of great rejoicing. Everyone who loves the Savior will rejoice with him, for his life of toil and sacrifice now receives a magnificent and divine reward. The limitations which he had imposed upon himself during his earthly life had come to an end, shines in the fullness of the Godhead. From the meek and humble Savior riding into Jerusalem on a beast of burden, he is the mighty Lord of the universe, in whom everything holds together and all things continue in existence.

As Head of the Body, the Church, he has gone on ahead to prepare a place for us in the mansions of the Father, that where he is we also may be. Our hope is bolstered up at the thought of what awaits those who remain faithful to him during this earthly pilgrimage, and endeavor to carry out the one command he so earnestly impressed on his followers: to love one another as he has loved them. In the great priestly prayer Jesus envisioned the glory of his faithful followers: "Father, all those you gave me I would have in my company where I am, to see this glory of mine which is your gift to me (John 17:24).

Little does our heart realize what great things await us. Let us lift up our hearts. St. Paul assures us, "We are the very heirs of God, heirs together with Christ, if only we suffer with him so as to be glorified with him. Every endeavor to live our Christian commitment within the bounds of or own individual calling, be it ever so insignificant in the eyes of humankind, will receive ample reward from the King of kings and Lord of lords. For God will never be outdone in generosity.

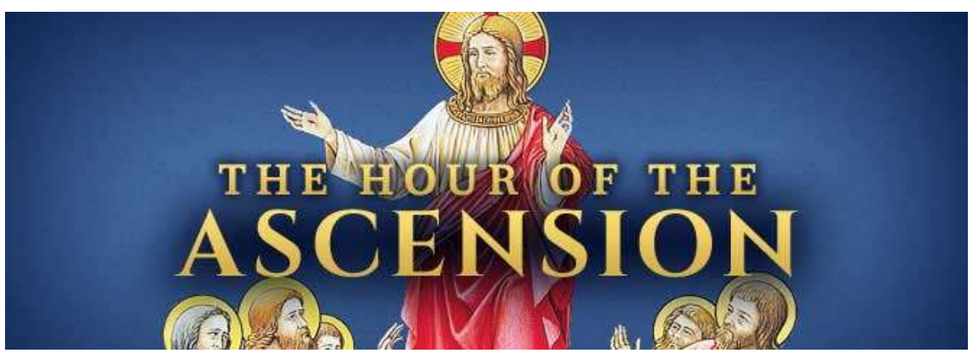
Faith alone opens up to us these grand vistas of the glory to come. But faith needs to be treasured, to be fostered to be increased day by day, lest we lose the savor of Christian endeavor, and our hope gradually dims.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Sunday Collection - May 9

St. Rose, Crockett	$2066
St. Patrick Mission, Port Costa	$130

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!



Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues. May 18 11:00AM
Michael Burke † Olivia Austria Edwardes

Wed. May 19 11:00AM
Living Memorial

Thur. May 20 11:00AM
Rafael Qunamay † Bob & Lydia

Fri. May 21 11:00AM
Rolly Carino (healing) Ed

Sat. May 22 4:30PM
Romulo & Erlinda Ilagan† Bob & Lydia

Sun. May 23 9:00AM
Special Intentions

Port Costa 11:00AM
People of the Parish

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