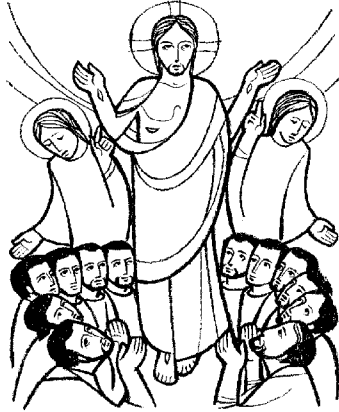


ASCENSION OF THE LORD / FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - May 4th, 2008

Pastor: Fr. Patrick Furtado Associate Pastor: Fr. Leo Monroe Deacon: Michael Soentgerath



**THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH
LITURGICAL SCHEDULE**

Saturday, May 3rd	Ascension of the Lord
5:00 p.m. mass:	†Fred Dauk / Family †Dominic Murzello / Family
Sunday, May 4th	Ascension of the Lord / First Holy Communion
9:00 a.m. mass:	†Edward Zdanowicz / Eleanor and family
11:00 a.m. mass:	For all parishioners, living and deceased
Monday, May 5th	Ferial
9:00 a.m. mass:	†Celestine Bungabong / Gloria †Carole / Friends of Suffering Souls
10:30 a.m. mass:	Southwood Care Centre: For all residents
Tuesday, May 6th	Ferial / Blessed Françoise de Laval
9:00 a.m. mass:	†James Robert O'Dell / Jim and Jenny †James Robert O'Dell and †Lee Dorscher / Dorscher Family
10:30 a.m. mass:	Francis Klein Centre: For all residents
Wednesday, May 7th	Ferial
7:00 a.m. mass:	†Stella Bigelow / St. Cecilia's Adult Choir
9:00 a.m. mass:	†Anna Rudovics / deLeeuw Family Lynn and Brandt Summers / Boyd Curley
6:30 p.m.:	Prayers for the Sick
Thursday, May 8th	Ferial / Blessed Catherine of St. Augustine
7:00 a.m. mass:	†Kay Smith / Collette McGowan
9:00 a.m. mass:	Jim and Jenny O'Dell / Madalina Hunter
Friday, May 9th	Ferial
7:00 a.m. mass:	†Ans Duiker / Brammer Family
9:00 a.m. mass:	†Frank Hughes / St. Cecilia's Adult and Requiem Choirs
Saturday, May 10th	Feast of Mary, Queen of Apostles
9:00 p.m. mass:	†Deceased Wehrle and Braun Families / Alex and Anneliese Lynn and Brandt Summers / Boyd Curley
Saturday, May 10th	Pentecost
5:00 p.m. mass:	†Mary Murzello / Family †Marcel Savoie / Charlotte and Family
Sunday, May 11th	Pentecost / Mother's Day
9:00 a.m. mass:	For all parishioners, living and deceased
11:00 a.m. mass:	†Pearl Ferby and all mothers, living and deceased / Ross



Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday, thirty young people of our Parish Community will celebrate their First Holy Communion, the Sacrament of Christ's real Presence. It is a very special occasion, where our children are invited, for the first time, to fully partake in the Lord's Banquet! As a Parish Community, we rejoice that the Risen Lord will grace our children with his awesome gift of himself in this Sacrament of his Love.

Today, we also celebrate the Feast of the *Ascension of Our Lord*. At the end of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' promise that he will remain with us until the end of time. Does this not seem like a contradiction? On the one hand, he is leaving us and going to the Father, and on the other hand, he reassures us that he will not leave us orphaned, that he will remain with us forever.

Jesus does remain faithful to his promise. When he ascended, he promised to send to us his Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God that will give us the courage to witness to him to the ends of the earth. By means of his Holy Spirit, he will remain with us forever. Another way in which he remains with us is in the Gift of the Eucharist – Holy Communion. In this *Gift of His Presence*, he allows us to stay in constant relationship and contact with Him. We can "taste and see" his goodness and kindness. Our souls are fed with the *Bread of Life* and our thirst is quenched with the *Cup of Salvation*! Our deepest hungers, yearnings and longings are met in this sacramental sign of his Love and Grace. The Good Shepherd is faithful to his promise and will not leave the sheep alone.

If, after today's Mass, we walk back into our everyday lives nourished and strengthened with the firm resolution to become what we have received, the *Body of Christ* for others, then we are being faithful to our Lord's command to love one another and to be a true presence of him to the world. Thus, his words, "I will remain with you always, until the end of time," become real and tangible for all.

On behalf of Fr. Patrick, Fr. Leo and myself, we would like to congratulate our First Holy Communion children on this special occasion! May the Good Lord richly bless you and your parents who faithfully prepared you for this Sacrament.

Finally, sincere thanks and appreciation to Judith McRae and Abigail Mohammed who generously facilitated the Sunday catechesis and the concluding retreat for our children. God bless you for your time and talent!

Deacon Michael Soentgerath

