

From the Pastor's Desk



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus. Thursday was Ascension Thursday, which is the fortieth day after Jesus' Resurrection. We learn in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles about the elevation of Christ into heaven by His own power while in the presence of His disciples. Before he ascends to heaven, Jesus commissions his disciples to go out and make more disciples. He tells them the primary way of evangelization is living by example. However, before they go out on their missions, he tells them to wait for the Holy Spirit, telling them the Holy Spirit will guide, strengthen and protect them. After the Holy Spirit is upon them the disciples will go on to give witness in Jerusalem and then beyond, into regions of Judea and Samaria and to all corners of the world. The Commissioning of the disciples by Jesus will continue until Jesus returns.

Today's Gospel, like last week's, is a part of the Last Supper discourse, a long "after dinner discussion" located in the Gospel of John between the Last Supper and the Passion of Christ. There is brief mention of the Ascension in the Gospel, "So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God" (Jn 16:19). Also in the Gospel Jesus prays for unity of the church and protection for his disciples as they go out to proclaimed the Good News, this is known as the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus.

It is understandable why the disciples would be concerned about their mission. Today when we travel, we go through security at the airport; even before we leave for the airport we set our car alarms and our house alarms. While we travel, we worry about theft, we even worry about using unsecured Wi-Fi networks. The original disciples were simple people, most of them fishermen, and they were being sent out all over the world, spreading a message that was not easily received. The Gospel gives all kinds of examples of literal and figurative dangers and challenges to their mission. Jesus assures us that the disciples will be protected and overcome all these challenges. We, like the original disciples, know this will be a sign proving that Jesus is Savior.

Like the disciples we have to be active followers of Christ. This means we should be active parishioners, spreading the Gospel, sharing the good news of God's love and mercy and contributing to the building up of the Church. If we live lives that are in accordance with the Gospel, we do not need to be afraid. Jesus will protect us in our mission.

I ask you to pray and open your mind to supporting the Annual Catholic Appeal this year. Please, join with me and those who have already pledged. May God bless you and our Mother Mary pray for us to have a successful campaign this year.

Your Servant in Christ,
Fr Khanh D. Nguyen, Pastor

THE WINE & CHEESE SOCIAL returns June 2 after the 5 pm Mass.

❖ DAILY MASS TIMES & READINGS ❖

Monday, May 14, St. Matthias, Acts 1:15-17, 20-26;

Gosp John 15:9-17 - Mass at 8:45 am

Tuesday, May 15, Acts 20:17-27; Gosp John 17:1-11a - no morning Mass

Wednesday, May 16, St. Brendan, Acts 20:28-38; Gosp John 17:11b-19 – Mass at 8:45 am

Thursday, May 17, Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Gosp John 17:20-26 – Mass at 8:45 am

Friday, May 18, Acts 25:13b-21; Gosp John 21:15-19 – Mass at 8:45 am

Saturday, May 19, Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Gosp John 21:20-25 - Mass at 8:45 am

Pentecost Sunday, May 20, Acts 2:1-11; Gosp John 20:19-23

THANK YOU to the Knights of Columbus for their generous contribution to the Chalice and Ciborium Restoration Fund. Before and after pictures are on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

HELP NEEDED The Altar Society will be decorating the church for Pentecost on Saturday, May 19, at 10 am. Please join us for an hour or more to bring the spirit to light at St. Matthew. Info, call Laura at 206-271-4348.

THE 27TH ANNUAL RAINBOW HERITAGE FESTIVAL is on Saturday, May 19 from 12:30 - 4:30 pm. Share your cultural heritage by donating a pan of food. Contact Rachel de Castro at rcdecastro@mac.com or 206-551-4558. Pans will be available at Coffee Hour starting April 29. Volunteers also needed! Please contact Elaine Abarientos at eabarientos@hotmail.com or 206-355-3392 for more information

INVITATION An evening of information and Q&A on socially responsible investing with Sister Judy Byron, OP, Director of NW Coalition for Responsible Investment on Monday, May 14, 7 – 8:30 pm, at Our Lady of the Lake, Jubilee Hall, 8900-35th Ave NE.

LECTORS NEEDED These valuable volunteers proclaim the Word of the Lord at Mass. They are asked to serve once a month at the Mass of their choice. More volunteers are needed at all Masses, especially the 5 pm Mass. Training will be provided. Please prayerfully consider this appeal-your parish needs you. Contact Frank Dos Remedios at boofar@comcast.net or 206-363-1938.

CAN YOU HELP? A long-time parishioner needs a 2-bedroom, ground level apartment or condo to rent; has 2 indoor-outdoor cats that need a small enclosed space. Call 206-364-7670 if you have a contact number. Thank you for your help.

Sacred Story - Week 32

Choose the time and place for your 15-minute prayer time.

- We continue our lessons on Spiritual Discernment. We take "reading time."
- Review the commitment to develop a rhythm of prayer that will carry us for the rest of our life.
- Spend no more/no less than 15 minutes for Sacred Story prayer on the meditations one through five.

Week 32

- Week 32 shows how the discernment lessons help us to see the characteristics of spiritual influence linked to our life story.
- We learn the meaning of the *Divine inspiration of spiritual consolation* and the *counter-inspiration of spiritual desolation*.
- We pray to "see" the connection between our affective/feeling daily life experience and our spiritual life.
- Looking at the next eight weeks or so when the *Forty Weeks* journey process concludes, we begin to apply spiritual discernment to all we experience.
- Now that we have built the foundation, it will be possible to distinguish the insight Divine inspiration from the expression of the enemy of our human nature.
- We are invited to "attentiveness" not "anxiety" as the lessons begin to knit together with the data of the spiritual realities that impact us 24/7.
- We can actively watch in our prayer time for the topics that tugged at our hearts during the reading.

Affirmation

"Christ, who has walked before me, knows everything I suffer. Christ, who walks before me, will always lead me home to safety."

Information

- Next Sacred Story Gathering is June 4 at 7:00pm in the Parish Office Library. If you wish to be on the Sacred Story weekly e-mail list contact marycross@aol.com and msloane@comcast.net

NORTH SEATTLE CATHOLIC YOUTH PENTECOST PICNIC is on May 20 at 5 pm. All North Seattle Catholic Youth students & their families are welcome to celebrate the end of our school year programs and transition into summer programs with a picnic at St. Catherine Parish on Pentecost Sunday. Pulled pork sandwiches provided. Each family is invited to bring a side dish or dessert. Please RSVP at www.nseattlecatholicyouth.org/pentecost-picnic

CARING FOR SOMEONE WITH MEMORY LOSS?

Alzheimer's Association caregiver support groups provide a consistent and caring place for people to learn, share and gain emotional support. A free information and support group for unpaid care partners, family members and friends is held the 2nd Friday of each month, 10:30-noon at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1315 N 160th-Shoreline. Information: 206-783-4189.

St. Matthew School News

Karen Herlihy, Principal, 206-362-2785 ext. 102,

kherlihy@stmattschool.org

Andy Hews, Administrative Assistant, 206-362-2785, ext. 101, ahews@stmattschool.org

"Excellence – Diversity – Community"

Now Enrolling for 2018 - 2019 St. Matthew School is now enrolling for Pre-K, Kindergarten, elementary school and middle school for the 2018-2019 school year. St. Matthew School provides academic excellence and diversity in a community of faith. Come see what we have to offer! Tours available weekly; contact Stacy Pretti at spretti@stmattschool.org or 206-362-2785, ext. 103.

Rosary Services May 14 - 18 Please join students and staff to pray the Rosary each morning outside the school at 8:30 am each weekday morning during the week of May 14 and ending with May Crowning on May 18.

NEEDED: MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUP LEADERS FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR North Seattle Catholic Youth are seeking Catholic adult role models who want to journey with teens as they respond to their call to Discipleship. Small groups will meet weekly to talk about everyday life as young Catholics seeking holiness. Small Group leaders will be partnered with another adult and assigned 8-10 students to journey with for the 2018-2019 school year. Visit www.nseattlecatholicyouth.org/volunteer or contact Kate Brown, Youth Ministry Director at kate@nseattlecatholicyouth.org or 206-488-5970

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES ♦ "Contemplative Prayer" on Thursdays, May 17, 24 & 31, from 7 -8:15 pm and Saturday, May 19, 9 am-12 noon. ♦ "Peace Days for Women" Wednesday, May 16, 9:30 am – 2 pm. ♦ "Reflection Day for Men-Soul Brothers"-Saturday, May 19, 9am-1pm. Bring sack lunch. All events at the Peace & Spirituality Center, 1663 Killarney Way, Bellevue. Contact 425-635-3603 or peace@csjp-olp.org to register or for information.

APRIL 2018 COLLECTION

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Difference</u>
5/6/18 collection (incl. online giving)	\$ 11,305	\$ 10,050	\$ 1,498
Year-to-date	\$ 471,783	\$ 445,877	\$ 25,906

 **Mary,**
queen of peace.

Jesus is the perfect steward---watching carefully over all who have been entrusted to Him by the Father and then sending them all out into the world in service. May I similarly protect and wisely use the gifts entrusted to me!