

**Pastor's Corner**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord this Sunday, let us meditate on this mystery with the help of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: the Ascension is the entry of the humanity of the Risen Lord into divine glory where the Risen Lord is seated at the right hand of the Father.

First, the Ascension of the Lord is the entry of his humanity into divine glory:

*“So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God” (Mk 16,19). Christ’s body was glorified at the moment of his Resurrection, as proved by the new and supernatural properties it subsequently and permanently enjoys (cf. Lk 24,31; Jn 20,19,26). But during the forty days when he eats and drinks familiarly with his disciples and teaches them about the kingdom, his glory remains veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity (cf. Acts 1,3; 10,41; Mk 16,12). Jesus’ final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God’s right hand” (cf. Acts 1,9; 2,33; Lk 9,34-35; Ex 13,22; Ps 110,1) (CCC # 659).*

Second, this Ascension into heaven by the Lord is very important, as this is the only way for us to have access to the Father’s house, the only way we can go home, to our true home, heaven:

*“Only the one who ‘came from the Father’ can return to the Father: Christ Jesus (cf. Jn 16,28). Left to its own natural powers humanity does not have access to the ‘Father’s house’, to God’s life and happiness (Jn 14,2). Only Christ can open to man such access that we, his members, might have confidence that we too shall go where he, our Head and our Source, has preceded us” (cf. Roman Missal, Preface of the Ascension) (CCC # 661).*

Finally, the Ascension signifies the inauguration of the Messiah’s Kingdom that gave the apostles and all of us the responsibility to be witnesses for this Kingdom to the end of time:

*“Being seated at the Father’s right hand signifies the inauguration of the Messiah’s kingdom, the fulfillment of the prophet Daniel’s vision concerning the Son of Man: ‘To him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples,*

*nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed’ (Dan 7,14). After this event the apostles became witnesses of the “kingdom [that] will have no end” (Nicene Creed) (CCC # 664).*

Let us celebrate with total joy the Ascension of the Lord and commit ourselves to work harder every day for the Kingdom of God, with the hope that one day, we may all fully share in the glory of our Risen Lord forever in heaven. Amen! Halleluiaah!

May God bless you all!

Your servant/brother in Christ,

Fr. Martin

**St. Mary's by the Sea**  
**Mother's Day Basket Raffle**  
*On display in the Family Room*  
 \*Tickets (On Sale after each Mass): \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00  
***This weekend will be your LAST CHANCE to win this beautiful basket valued at \$500.00***  
 All proceeds benefit Little Flowers Club  
*\*The winning ticket will be drawn this week. The winner will be contacted and can pick up their basket from the office or on Mother's Day Sunday.*

**Rose Sale**

Save your money for Mother’s Day roses next Sunday, **May 11<sup>th</sup>**. The roses will be on sale after all the Masses at a cost of **\$2.00 each**. The proceeds will go to benefit the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Life Center in Santa Ana and the Stanton Life Center in their outreach to women in crises pregnancies.

**St. Vincent de Paul**  
**Donations 4/27.....\$177.00**

**Altar Guild**  
**Donations 4/27.....\$65.00**  
 The Altar Guild will have their monthly meeting on **May 5<sup>th</sup>**, at **noon** in the Family Room.

**Ministry Showcase - "The Legion of Mary"**

The Legion of Mary is the largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church.

- Members meet once per week.
- They do two hours of work each week in pairs.

The Legion of Mary is open to all Catholics. We are blessed at St. Mary's by the Sea to have **2 Praesidia** that meet on **Wednesday's at 10 a.m.** and **Friday's at 7 p.m.**

If anyone is interested and would like further information on joining one of our two groups, please call the Church office at (714) 536-6913.

**Baby Blankets**

Many thanks to those who worked so hard making baby blankets for the Pro-Life cause on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. After a yummy light breakfast, Joanna Diaz, Shane Gill, Sean, Amy, John, Peter, James, Mary, Elizabeth and Ann Lieblang, Edde Chalk and Charli Aragon went to work putting together more beautiful baby blankets for moms in need with new babies. **We hope you will join us in June for another session. Watch the bulletin for the date!**

**St. Michael's Prep School Entrance Test**

St. Michael's Prep School, ranked as one of the 50 top schools in the United States, is hosting a High School Entrance Test on **May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** St. Michael's serves young men of moral commitment and academic potential in a Catholic, five-day boarding setting. Pre-registration required. For more information go to **www.stmichaelsprep.org** or telephone Mrs. Christian at (949) 858-0222, x-237.

**Mission Statement**

*Jesus comes "to serve, not to be served"*  
(Mt. 20, 28)

*St. Mary's by the Sea is a Catholic/Christian community of faith, hope, and love, journeying together in the spirit of hospitality, stewardship, respect, unity and charity, welcoming and serving all brothers and sisters in Christ, under the mantle of Our Lady.*

**Baptisms**

Congratulations to the parents of the following children who were baptized at St. Mary's by the Sea during the month of April:

- **John Gao Vogt – April 6, 2008**
- **Isabel Nicole Morris – April 20, 2008**
- **Jesse Cabrera – April 27, 2008**

**Jest Kidding**

A couple accused each other of being deaf. One day as the husband came into the end of their 30 foot living room, he saw his wife standing with her back to him reading the newspaper. Thought he: "This is my chance to check her out!" So he said, "Darling, can you hear me?" - - no response. He went halfway across the room and repeated the question, but still no response. So he went right up behind her and again he said, "Darling, can you hear me?" At which point, his wife turned to him with an annoyed look on her face and said, "For the third time, yes!!"

**PSA Update - "Thank You"**

**92 pledges received .....\$34,256**

**Thank You**  
**April 27, 2008**

Specials .....	\$279.00
Building Fund .....	\$152.00
Catholic Home Missions .....	\$1,030.00
Regular Collection.....	\$4,034.00

**RESPECT LIFE**

Any woman who is pregnant and in need of assistance can turn to the Pro-Life Movement.

Birth Choice - Irvine  
(800) 631-6254

Horizon Pregnancy Center - H.B.  
(714) 442-9699

Los Angeles Pregnancy Services  
(213) 382-5643

Hội Cứu Mạng Thai Nhi  
Viet ProLife (Santa Ana)  
Nancy Nhung Phan  
1-714-721-8557

