

# THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

WHOEVER BELIEVES AND IS BAPTIZED WILL BE SAVED.

MAY 24, 2009

— Mark 16:16

## MISSION STATEMENT

Today we celebrate Christ's ascension into heaven. And his commissioning of the disciples to carry on his mission in the world. First we hear Luke's description of those events in the opening verses of the Acts of the Apostles. Next we hear words of encouragement and guidance from the Letter to the Ephesians. Finally we hear Mark's account of the Ascension, foretelling the mighty words and acts the Christian community would do in Jesus' name. Together these scriptures give us a vision of the mission of the church of Jesus Christ—a mission statement of sorts. Like mission statements in our parishes and corporations, this mission statement can help us set priorities and focus our activities. It can guide and support us as we strive to continue Christ's messianic mission on earth. Copyright, J.S. Paluch Co.

## REMINDER TO LITURGICAL MINISTERS...

Please send in your non-availability dates for June, July & August by tomorrow, May 25th. — csaiza@stmatthewlb.org. or 562.491.1217.



HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN  
AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD



O God,  
By whose mercy the  
faithful departed find rest,  
Look kindly on your departed veterans who  
gave their lives in the service of their country.  
Grant that through the passion, death, and res-  
urrection of your Son they may share in the joy  
of your heavenly kingdom and rejoice in you  
with your saints forever.

## COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME!

Did you know that we the faithful, are encouraged to take part in the liturgy through acclamations, responses and antiphons, as well as actions and gestures? Next Sunday is the Feast of Pentecost...**let us all participate as one body, one spirit by wearing the color red — the liturgical color of the day.**

On Friday, May 29, **Bishop Gordon D. Bennett**, a U.S.-born Jesuit, will come to our parish to confirm **70 young adults**. Let us ask God the Father, in the name of His Son Jesus, to send the Holy Spirit on all these people. May they be strengthened in faith and be generous in service to our community.

## COMUNIDAD UPDATES

### MEETING

The next Comunidad meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2nd at 7:00p.m. in the Fr. Gerald Meisel Parish Hall. Comunidad is pleased to have Fr. Jack Stoeger as our presenter. Fr. Jack will respond to the challenges faced by lesbian and gay Catholics with his *topic "Give Me One Reason To Stay Here."* All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

### AIDS WALK—LONG BEACH, JUNE 20TH.

Long Beach continues to have the highest rate of HIV/AIDS per capita in California, with the highest rate of new cases among Latina and African-American young women. Members of Comunidad will be collecting donations after all the Masses from May 30th through June 17th to support St. Matthew's AIDS WALK team. Please be as generous as possible to support services for persons in Long Beach living with HIV/AIDS. Also please consider joining the St. Matthew's Aids Walk team.

## JOIN US...

to pray the rosary every Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the Church for the special intentions of our country.

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

The readings for next Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, are listed below along with questions for your quiet reflection.

**FIRST READING:** Acts 2:1-11

**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

**GOSPEL:** John 20:19-23

*How is the Holy Spirit present in my life? How can I take some quiet time this week to listen to how the Holy Spirit is calling me to be the presence of Christ for others?*