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The Ascension of the Lord

May 17, 2026

He was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.

-- Acts 1:9



Daily Mass

Week of May 18th – 22nd

- Monday: 8:00 Special Intentions
- Tuesday: 8:00 Lorraine Heinemann+
- Wednesday: 8:00 Florence L. Strong+
- Thursday: 8:00 Della Roberts+
- Friday: 8:00 Louise Bielfelt+



Please remember the sick in our Parish, especially Linda Peng, Georgia Pontoniere, Dan McDonald, Lisa Wemple, Sarah Wren, Marian Flandick, James Breen, Janet Laurent, Anil Siu, Peggy Delson-Rini, Frank Rini and Cecilia Uyeda.

Weekly Collections	
Plate May 10 th	\$12,358.00

Please Note:

Remember to make **all checks payable to Corpus Christi Church**. And, indicate in the Memo line what the check is for. Thank you for your cooperation!

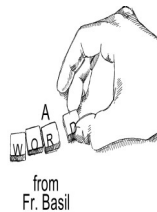
Catholic Charities Annual Appeal!

This weekend, May 16th and 17th, our second collection will be for Catholic Charities of the East Bay Annual Appeal. Your gift allows Catholic Charities to provide housing, counseling, job training, English classes, school programs and assistance to refugees and immigrants in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Consider making a monthly pledge. It will sustain the programs of Catholic Charities so that they can offer hope all year long. Please make checks payable to **Corpus Christi Church**.

Wisdom!

A wise old owl lived in an oak.
The more he saw the less he spoke.
The less he spoke the more he heard.
Why can't we all be like that wise old bird?

-- English nursery rhyme



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Ave atque Vale. Hail and farewell. In this way the ancient Romans saluted a much loved and esteemed person upon retirement. So this is my personal farewell to our longtime Office Manager, Gail Van Deusen.

When I first came to Corpus Christi, more than thirty years ago, Gail was already an established figure in our parish life. Through many experiences of her expertise and generosity I gradually became aware of her many contributions to the lives and needs of us all.

Ever the first person to be greeted at the rectory door, her good humor and kindness became legendary. Beyond that she opened the church on every workday; in the rectory she performed household tasks of her own free will besides the many operations needed in the office: preparing the weekly bulletin, keeping records of baptisms, weddings and funerals.

I am probably omitting many more actions and deeds which Gail happily offered to any and all whom she met and helped. For me personally she was a constant source of good cheer and assistance as I aged and needed help.

So, Gailie, good health and happiness as you abandon the commute from Rossmoor and set sail on many more trips abroad. God bless and keep you and we of Corpus Christi will keep you in our hearts and memories.

Much love, Fr. Basil

Today's Readings!

First Reading -- Jesus tells the disciples that they will be witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:1-11).

Psalm -- God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord (Psalm 47).

Second Reading -- May the Father of glory give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Ephesians 1:17-23).

Gospel -- Jesus instructs the Eleven to baptize and teach people of all nations (Matthew 28:16-20).



Camino Night at Corpus Christi!

Have you ever felt the call to step away and walk with God? The GenX-ish group is hosting an introduction to the Camino de Santiago, an ancient pilgrimage that continues to transform lives today. Hear stories, learn how to plan and explore whether this journey might be for you. The date is Thursday, May 28th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Gibson Center. Refreshments of beer, wine and light bites will be served. All are welcome!

**Feast of Faith
Preparation of the Gifts!**

The altar is prepared, the gifts are received. Several brief rites follow with accompanying prayers, some prayed silently by the priest and deacon and others said aloud. We call this part of the Mass the "preparation." What kind of preparation is happening? First, the presider holds up the paten or bowl containing the hosts, and says words that Jesus must have said many times, since they derive from ancient Jewish meal prayers: "Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation!" We have brought forward our gifts, our offering to God, and now we acknowledge that they are not really ours -- the gifts that we give are God's gift to us. It is "through your goodness" that we have gifts to offer. It is significant that we offer not wheat and grapes, but bread and wine; "fruit of the earth and work of human hands." Bread and wine are both God's work, and ours. These preparatory rites also prepare us for what we are about to do in the Eucharist, a mystery in which divine and human meet; a holy collaboration in which our action is caught up into God's divine plan.

"Pushed" Out On Mission!

There is a delightful character in the original *Dr. Doolittle Tales* called the "Pushmi-Pullyu." It is a beast with two identical halves, with a head at each end. No matter which direction the beast walks, one end is the "push me" and the other is the "pull you." Today's feast is a bit like that in the life of the Church. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, it is the Ascension of Christ that calls for the Holy Spirit, which consequently sends or "pushes" the church out on its mission. This is the message that we hear from the angels today as they tell the friends of Jesus not to look up into the clouds, but to get busy. It is the message of Jesus himself in Matthew's Gospel, as he sends them out to baptize. He also tells them, "I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). And it is this message, confident in faith that Jesus has ascended to shouts of joy, that "pulls" us along to our final destiny. The life of the faithful disciple, sent into the world on mission, will one day know the same risen, ascended glory.

**Readings For The Week
May 18th -- 23rd**

- Monday: First Reading Acts 19:1-8;
Psalm 68;
Gospel John 16:29-33
- Tuesday: First Reading Acts 20:17-27;
Psalm 68;
Gospel John 17:1-11a
- Wednesday: First Reading Acts 20:28-38;
Psalm 68;
Gospel John 17:11b-19
- Thursday: First Reading Acts 22:30-6-11;
Psalm 16;
Gospel John 17:20-26
- Friday: First Reading Acts 25:13b-21;
Psalm 103;
Gospel John 21:15-19
- Saturday: First Reading Acts 28:16-20, 30-31;
Psalm 11;
Gospel John 21:20-25

Treasures of Our Tradition!

There was a curious custom years ago that perhaps developed in an age when Easter was seen less as a baptismal season than as a kind of tour through the deeds of the Risen Christ. The paschal candle, sign of Christ's presence, was removed from public view on Ascension Thursday, banished to the baptistery.

Ascension day does speak of the hidden aspects of Christ's life among us, but it does not have much to do with God's absence. Christ has not shed his human life like an inconvenient shell, but rather has taken humanity into heaven. The theologian Karl Rahner said that it is a festival of "the nearness of God." In vanishing from our sight, Christ has become utterly available to all at every time and every place and is "closer to us than he ever was."

Today is the feast of believing that beyond our final breath is a presence that waits for us, a banquet prepared, a tender homecoming embrace. Rahner said that today is a festival of the future of the world, a day for anticipating the world's true destiny, and therefore hardly a day to be going around hiding candles!

Saints & Special Observances!

- Monday, May 18th: St. John I, Pope & Martyr
- Wednesday, May 20th: St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
- Thursday, May 21st: St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest & Companions, Martyrs
- Friday, May 22nd: St. Rita of Cascia, Religious

