

# Ascension of the Lord – May 17, 2026



The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.

Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." - Matthew 28:16-20

## Up The Mountain With Christ

The purpose of the Gospels is to transmit the Truth from God that we are expected to contemplate, learn from and turn into action.

We are reminded in this Gospel reading that there are now only 11 of the original 12 disciples, those friends of Jesus who daily experienced evidence that he was the long sought out Messiah, the Christ. This gives us the opportunity to reflect on the very real possibility of failure in our mission to serve God. In the resulting state of humility, We are reminded of our weakness and the importance of staying close to Christ by frequenting the sacraments and attending holy mass and adoration.

The disciple Judas sinned and betrayed Jesus, but his hideous pride kept him from seeking help and forgiveness from Jesus. He preferred to kill himself rather than submit to the love of Christ. In his pride Judas tested his Savior and God. He wanted to be in control and expected God to adhere to his human expectations. Just as Satan succumbed to pride in wanting to be God; Judas, even though his senses were a constant confirmation of Jesus' claim to be God did not trust God's actions and wished to force his hand. He desired Jesus to perform feats of destruction and force to free the Jewish people from Roman tyranny.

However, rather than solve the problem of tyranny which starts in the human heart and mind, Judas wanted to replace Romans with his chosen *elites*, placing disciples in positions of power and authority. He desired wealth, public acclamation and political power. Remember that Judas was suspected of stealing the money meant for the poor and the church. In other words, Judas proposed to solve the problems of tyranny and oppression by replacing one set of flawed sinners with another. Our God however wanted to tackle the problem at its root in each human heart. Christ wished to free us from the most pernicious tyranny of all. The tyranny of sin and its enslavement, the most difficult oppression to face and to conquer.

Next this Gospel addresses how we might receive help to avoid these pitfalls and earthly temptations. It states that Jesus *ordered* the disciples, using the full force of his authority as our God, to the *mountain*. Jesus chose a heavenly perspective and difficult journey up a mountain. When we become mired in the world and its trials and troubles it is important to come to Christ and to the mountaintop for inspiration and instruction. Jesus as our God has directed that many significant events happen on a mountain. In the Bible, mountains are a traditional place of encounter with God: Moses on Mt Sinai, the mountain of

the Transfiguration, the Sermon on the Mount. The mountain offers a valuable perspective. A sort of bird's eye view that transcends earthly muck and mire and the Catholic Church helps us to get there. Travels to a mountain top express with vivid clarity what we are to expect when we follow Christ. Hardship, sacrifice and toil rewarded by an astounding and an incomparable beauty of heavenly perspective. The toil and hardship involve sacrificial love and the rooting out of sin and the growth of virtue achieved through great human effort only possible through the support of God. The mountain could represent the Catholic Church that Christ began for our spiritual growth, maintenance and strengthening, the Rock of Peter. A place that enables us to order life's events and gain God's help and wisdom.

The Gospel reading reminds us of our main mission in life...to bring souls to Christ, *to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*. The church is the mountain that allows us to put all of life's events into perspective and to receive help from our Creator. In mountain trials we are to expect hardship in this heroic mission/journey but also rewards in the splendid views as we approach the heavenly. In the lofty views at the summit harshness is softened, lines of battle clearly delineated and progress in holiness, not visible on the ground in the midst of the spiritual fight between good and evil is made apparent in the expansive view of Christ and his church.

Finally, we are reminded by our Redeemer of the importance of trust in his love and authority through the beautiful promise of his help all through time. Our senses, science and reason are not enough. We must also worship in the spirit and in truth. We must trust and accept Christ's loving authority. We cannot know everything God knows and even the knowledge of angels leaves us far in the dust. We are asked to trust in God's love from whom we receive our worth and dignity, to trust in his church and in his teachings. Trust is required, for sensual proof, science and human reason will only take us part way to the goal of transcendence and is achieved through our proximity to Christ from whom we learn how to love. He assures us, his children, brothers and sisters, with his promise to be *with you always until the end of the age*. -A Halliday..

## Readings For Ascension Sunday

Reading 1: Acts 1:1-11

Reading II: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

## Readings For Pentecost Sunday

Reading 1: Acts 2:1-11

Reading II:1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

Sequence: Veni Sancte Spiritus

Gospel: John 20:19-23

## FINANCE

**First Collection: \$3,924**

**- Second collection this week is for Catholic Communications**



**AMA 2026 Goal: \$21,000**

**Gifts: \$ 17,610**

**Balance: \$2,340**

## Eureka Holy Mass Schedule

### Saturday, May 16

3:15 pm Confessions St. Joseph Church  
4:00 pm Mass for the People St. Joseph Church

### Sunday, May 17 The Ascension of the Lord

7:30 am +Max Saul St. Joseph Church  
9:00 am No Intention Sacred Heart Church  
10:30am +Paul Windham St. Bernard Church  
12:15 pm(Sp) Diana Amparan & Maximo Espitia  
Sacred Heart Church

### Monday, May 18

12:15 pm +Paul Case St. Bernard Church

### Tuesday, May 19

7:30 am Int. Ashlyn Ford St. Joseph Church

### Wednesday, May 20

12:15 pm Int. John Jr. St. Bernard Church  
6:00 pm Adoration Sacred Heart Church  
7:00pm No Intention Sacred Heart Church

### Thursday, May 21

7:30 am +John Gierek Sr. St. Joseph Church  
11:30 am No Intention St. Joseph Hospital Chapel

### Friday, May 22

12:15 pm +Paul Case St. Bernard Church  
1-2 pm Confessions & Adoration St. Bernard Church

### Saturday, May 23

3:15 pm Confessions St. Joseph Church  
4:00 pm +Paul Case St. Joseph Church

### Pentecost Sunday, May 24

7:30 am +Erling Dellabalma St. Joseph Church  
9:00 am No Intention Sacred Heart Church  
10:30am +Dennis & Gina Costa St. Bernard Church  
12:15 pm(Sp) Mass for the People Sacred Heart Church

**Please Pray For:** Rosemary Murphy, Eliana Ome y, Pat Rider, Duane David, Thanh Strelow, Sally-Ann Thomas, Chaz Desoteau, Nagee Ellis, Theresa Martin, Jackeline Williams, Diane Kerr, Karla Kincade, Tammie Startare, Lynn Agajanian, Gary Agajanian, Linda Brown, Eliot Cabreon, Michael Arnold, Hatsue Riecke

### **Please Pray For Our Beloved Departed:**

+Diane Shaddix +Colleen Cruz +Joe Thompson  
+Dennis y +Gina Costa +Stella Reyes +Mary Walsh  
+Rolly Luzame +Brenda Zwiefelhofer + Louise Y. Russo, +Bernadette Chapman +Saturnina Tetrault, +Marie Giampaolo, +Tony Sstrom, +Marilyn Zibilich, +Diacono Frank Weber +Felipe de Jesus Silva Rodriguez +My-Hieu Venema +Avira Agata Concepta Gomes +Colby Arnett +Lorraine Cooney, +Chris Scott, +Sharon Ome y, +Jim Cruz, +Deacon Jim Hercher, +Susan Bonomini

### **St. Bernard's Phone Prayer Line**

For those who are interested in joining the prayer chain or anyone with a prayer request, please call Alan / Illeen at (707) 442-6844. "Prayer is an act of love, words are not needed. Even if sickness distracts from thoughts, all that is needed is the will to love." ~ St. Teresa of Avila

## - Upcoming Events -

**What is God's Dream for YOU?** Join the Daughters of Charity SEARCH & SERVE RETREAT- a religious vocation discernment retreat in the Bay Area, **May 20-25, 2026!** SEARCH your heart for answers. EXPLORE your future. SERVE those living in Poverty side-by-side with Sisters. Stay with the Sisters. Housing, Meals and Daily Transportation to our Ministry Services is provided. For Single Catholic Women ages 18-40. Daughters-Of-Charity.com/retreats/

### **Picnic For Eureka Churches on Sunday, June 7th**

There will be a picnic for all Eureka churches at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. The Knights of Columbus will provide barbequed hamburgers and hot dogs. Thank you Knights! This will be a family potluck with individuals having last names beginning with A-M asked to bring a side dish and N-Z desserts. Please come and enjoy fellowship and good food with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

**An Invitation: Humboldt Redwood Cursillo** has been providing ecumenical weekend retreats for more than forty years in Humboldt County. Originally a movement formed and endorsed by the Catholic Church in Spain, Cursillo is now a world-wide mission that invites Christians to become more educated and committed to their faith in Christ and more intentional witnesses to living the Gospel. Locally, Cursillo will be held this year on **June 11-14** at St Bernard High School. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Deacon Craig Brown (834-1407) or Ann Lynch (443-6741).

### **Bilingual Women's Retreat – Diocese of SR**

All women ages 18 and older are warmly invited to the Diocese of Santa Rosa Women's Retreat on **Saturday, July 18, 2026**, at Cathedral of St. Eugene. This year's theme, "Where Do You Find Your Worth as a Daughter of God?", invites women to rediscover their true dignity as beloved daughters of God. The retreat will include prayer, Holy Mass, the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and opportunities for fellowship and reflection through Scripture and art led by the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa. For more information and registration, visit [www.srcatholicwomen.org](http://www.srcatholicwomen.org) or QR

**Catholic News Agency** recently reported that next year, the Department of Health and Human Services would be favoring natural family planning in its funding. It has been seen by HHS that "body literacy" from charting cycles helps identify normal health patterns plus underlying unhealthy conditions. These health issues can then be treated and improve reproductive health. Kate Quinones' article (April 7) was a breath of fresh air and Michael New, at Catholic University, was quoted in the article as saying that these changes in a government agency will give natural family planning more visibility and credibility. With this, the pendulum appears to be swinging back a bit toward life and virtue, versus anti-life and impurity. St Theresa of Avila said, "Truth suffers but never dies."

