



SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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The Ascension of the Lord May 24th, 2009

*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.
— Mark 16:16*

In the last chapter of Mark's gospel, we hear the Risen Lord issuing to us a solemn challenge: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." This is not so much a call for proselytizing as it is a reminder that we should want to share the wonderful gift of faith with which we have been endowed. If we realize how important this wisdom of Jesus is for ourselves, we will never tire of offering it to others.

The mysterious signs that will accompany those who believe are surely to be interpreted symbolically. The ability to cast out demons, or to speak in new languages, or to be immune to poison, or to heal the sick represent the spiritual effects of a living and dynamic faith. The positive and hopeful witness of the believer will overcome the negative and destructive influence of those forces that represent the dark and chaotic powers that constantly attempt to destroy the harmony and goodness of God's creation.

Life Implications

When we recognize this symbolic interpretation of the effects of living faith in our lives, we discover that vibrant faith has the power to enable us to make the spiritual journey through life successfully. In biblical times, dangerous serpents often lay along the path of those traveling on foot. Drinking from unfamiliar wells could also lead to a fatal illness, such as a new strain of typhoid to which one had not become immune. On the spiritual journey of faith, these would represent the two most dangerous challenges to face us, namely, cynicism and despair. Our journey to God is especially threatened by a negative and destructive spirit, which contradicts the wisdom of unselfish love and makes fun of those who would live by such wisdom.

The reference to "healing hands" in the present text refers to the comforting and healing present of believers who offer the ill a witness of hope that transcends all our fears of sickness and mortality. Sometimes the laying on of hands can bring recovery, but this passage refers more likely to a spiritual presence that gives ultimate encouragement to those who are fearful about the uncertainty that their illness brings to their lives. When we offer to the ill a sense of God's presence and love, we also give them an assurance that no threat in this life can withstand the power of God's goodness.

The ability to deal successfully with all these problems in our fragile lives comes, therefore, from the power of a loving God who can never forget or abandon us. We are told that Jesus was "taken up into heaven," but we also hear that "the Lord worked with (the disciples) and confirmed the word (of the gospel) with accompanying signs." The clear implication is that the Risen Lord, now seated at the right hand of God, is prepared to help us now more than he ever did in the days of his earthly existence. For this reason we should sing constantly, even if it is at times "in the rain."

— Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B. , From JSPaluch, Co., Inc.

Celebrating the Year of St. Paul - 10 Interesting Facts About St. Paul

1. Paul was from the Roman city of Tarsus, located in what is today southern Turkey. (Acts 21:39)
2. Paul was not physically impressive, nor was he a very good speaker. (1 Cor. 2:1 and 2 Cor.10:10; 11:6)
 3. Paul had a sister and a nephew. (Acts 23:16)
4. Paul was educated in Jerusalem under the famous Jewish teacher Gamaliel. (Acts 22:3)
 5. Paul was a Pharisee (Acts 26:5) and a tentmaker. (Acts18:3)
 6. Paul was a Roman citizen from a wealthy family. (Acts 22:25-28)
7. Paul participated in the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. (Acts 7:58)
8. Paul was the most prominent apostle in the early Church because he was so effective at forming Christian communities.
9. Paul wrote the most books of the New Testament, but Luke, who only wrote two books, wrote more words than any other writer in the New Testament.
10. Paul's conversion is among the most well-known.

<p align="center">Staff</p> <p>Pastor: Church & School Msgr: Labib Kobti</p> <p>Parochial Vicar: Fr Andrew Johnson</p> <p>Priest Brazilian Community Fr. Sergio da Silva, (415) 454-8141</p> <p>Deacon: Khaled Abu Shaer</p> <p>Admin Assistant: Elvira Garcia</p> <p>Receptionist: Sr Teresa Malave, VDMF</p> <p>Campus Ministry: Verbum Dei Sisters Sr. Su Fern Khoo, VDMF (415) 573-9062</p> <p>RCIC: Kathy Sanford 650) 738-0646</p> <p>RCIA & Music: Suzanne Hockel (415) 826-6834</p> <p>STM School: Principal, Joe Elsbernd (415) 337-0100</p>	<p><u><i>This Week's Parish</i></u> <u><i>Events</i></u></p> <p><u>Tue., May 26th</u> Legion of Mary, Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm</p> <p>Communion & Liberation, <i>Scanlan Hall, 8:00 pm</i></p> <p><u>Thursday, May 28th</u> International Food Festival Committee Scanlan Hall, 7:00 pm</p> <p><u>Saturday, May 30th:</u> AACC Youth Group Scanlan Hall, 5:30 PM</p> <p>Bible Study Group, Alma Via, 7:00 PM</p> <p><i>Campus Ministry</i> <i>SFSU Campus Ministry wishes all students a happy vacation. If you are in the area, stay tuned for upcoming activities this summer!</i></p>	<p align="center">MASS SCHEDULE</p> <p>Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM</p> <p align="center">Sunday 8:00 AM Portuguese/Brazilian; 10:00 AM English 11:45 AM Arabic; 8:00 PM English</p> <p align="center">Weekdays: 8:30 AM (Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.); 5:30 PM (Tue., Thu.)</p> <p align="center">Holy Days: 8:30 AM & 8:00 PM</p> <p align="center">First Saturdays: 10:00 AM Burmese</p> <p align="center">First Fridays: 8:30 AM; 7:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Followed by Mass for healing at 8:00 PM</p> <p>Sacrament of Baptism (infants): Parents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.</p> <p>Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.</p> <p>Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.</p> <p>Communion to the homebound and the ill: Anyone who is ill and unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion may call the office to schedule a visit.</p> <p>Anointing of the Sick: Any time upon request. If a parishioner is seriously ill at home, please inform the parish office regarding a visit for anointing.</p> <p>Funeral arrangements: Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.</p>
<p>For Children and Youth: Under 6 years old, STM offers a “Crying Room” where parents can follow Mass, while children play away from the community. Over 6 years old, we have the “Children’s Liturgy”, RCIC and RCIA and FLA groups and Summer Camps</p> <p>For Adults: English Charismatic group, Sundays 6:00 PM : Young Adults Group (18-late 20’s) 2nd and 4th Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM; Arabic Youth Group, Fridays 6:30 PM; Brazilian Charismatic group, Mondays 7:00 PM; Burmese Youth Group, Sundays 2:00 PM; SFSU Campus ministry, Thursdays 7:00 PM (on Campus) <u><i>[Pls call the office for contact numbers.]</i></u></p> <p>For Families: Bible Study, Saturday at 7:00 PM; Couples For Christ: Saturday 5:00 PM; Legion of Mary, Communion & Liberation, Perpetual Novena to the Sto. Nino; Prince of Peace and Friday adoration</p> <p align="center"><i>Holy Land Museum & Shroud of Turin Exhibit</i></p>		

Regular Activities

Parish Council	To Be Announced	Bible Study & Prayer	Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via
Liturgy Committee	As Announced	AACC Youth Group	Friday, 6:00 PM
Legion of Mary	Tuesday, 6:30 PM	Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino	Last Friday, 7 PM
Communion & Liberation	Tuesday, 7:30 PM	Prince of Peace	Friday, 8:30 PM
Charismatic groups for different ethnics	See schedule	FLA Youth Group	1st & 3rd Wed. at 6:30PM

Full Plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Menu items: 1 box of cereal, 1 can of fruit, 1 canned meat or tuna, 1 box of granola bars/healthy snack item. Pls., No glass items. Thanks.



***Memorial Day.** Please note that the office will be closed tomorrow, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. Office hours will resume at the usual time on Tuesday. Keep safe on this May holiday weekend!

***Bathrooms.** Please talk to Father Labib asap or call the office if you are or know of a building contractor. The project? Making our bathrooms handicapped accessible. We hope to get bids lower than what we have received so far.

***Golf Tournament.** The golf tournament this year will be on June 15th at the Round Hill Golf Club in San Ramon. Please call Bernard Poggi at (650) 576-4767 for more information. Please mark your calendars.

***The Ramallah Club.** The Ramallah Club of San Francisco is hosting this year's Annual Convention of the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine. It will be at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Burlingame, from June 24-28. Please call Samir Totah at (510) 233-1908 or email him at Samirtotah@sbcglobal.net for more info.



***Sun - n - Fun.** Summer Day Camp for grammar school children: STM Carroll Hall, June 22- July 3, 2009. Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 3:30pm. For more information: call Abbie Nepomuceno at 415-297-4509 or email: basnepo@comcast.net and/or check our webpage: <http://www.stmchurch.com>

***Food Festival.** September 27, 2009. Meetings are on Thursday nights at 7:30 PM, in Scanlan Hall. Volunteers are more than welcome. Please mark your calendars.

***Marian Conference:** The 17th San Francisco International Marian Conference will be on July 3-5 at the Crownce Plaza Hotel Conference Center of Foster City, 1221 Chess Dr., Foster City. & International Speakers, Marian, Eucharistic & Charismatic Devotions, Youth & Children's Programs, Healing Service. For info & registration, call 800-456-4197 or check www.sraphael.com.

MASS INTENTIONS

May 24 — May 30, 2009

05/24 Sun 10:00am People of STM
8:00pm Alexander Raye A Palit †
05/25 Mon 8:30am Dely Angeles †
05/26 Tue 5:30pm Fernando Tantuan †
05/27 Wed 8:30am Laura & Mario Biagini †
05/28 Thu 5:30pm Pepito Paraiso †
05/29 Fri 8:30 am Irene & Russell De Haven †
05/30 Sat 8:30 am Sara & Collin F. Noguera
5:00 pm James Samiere & Family
Please call the office to schedule your Mass.
Attending the Mass you offer is appreciated.

All the sick people in our parish, especially Christian Yousef, Lina Susbilla, Jane Boyle, Joseph Hoyt, Patricia Colburn, Barbara Cunningham, Carmel Desmond, Collin & Sara Fernando-Noguera, Catherine Moynihan, Mac Nuqui, Marie Paynor-Cia, John Schulz, Lourdes Tam, Filemon Trinidad, Alejandro Villavicencio, Ruby Jimenez, Gordon Lu, Rosauro Tan, Jean Lu, Bridget Suazon, Rhona Palencia, Annika de Leon and for all who are ill in our parish.

All the deceased in our parish.

Weekly Offering



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Weekend of May 17, 2009

\$4,065.00

Catholic Communication Campaign: \$898

*Thank you
for your generosity.
Have a safe
Memorial Day
Weekend!*



If you are new to the area and not yet registered at Saint Thomas More Parish, we invite you to fill this out, cut it out and return it to the parish office/rectory or drop in the collection basket.

I choose to become a member of St. Thomas More and commit myself to building a community that seeks to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God. I will commit myself to this mission by my active & consistent presence at worship financial giving even when I can't be present.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone (s) _____

Email: _____ I want to use the envelopes and commit myself to a weekly contribution.

Yes, please _____ No, thanks. _____ Subscribe to our mailing list by e-mailing us: stmchurch@aol.com