



# Partners in Faith & Action

May 2016

## MAY CELEBRATIONS

Please join, as a family, with the NDV faith community in one or more of our School or Sunday celebrations of the Mass.

--May 8<sup>th</sup>, Family Mass at 9:00 a.m., a reception will follow in the Church Hall.

--May 13<sup>th</sup>, the first grade will lead our May Crowning Mass at 8:45 a.m. Full uniform.

## EASTER SEASON

Remember, we are in the Easter Season until Pentecost, which is May 15<sup>th</sup>. The *Little White Book* has information about the Easter Season, traditions, customs, historical facts and saints on the left-hand page. Because the weekday Gospels include the Bread of Life discourse and the Last Supper discourse, many left-hand pages contain information about Communion.

The right-hand page looks at the Gospel passages for the weekday Masses, and some reflections.

## ASCENSION

We celebrate Jesus' ascension into Heaven 40 days after Easter. This year the Ascension of Our Lord, a holy day of obligation, falls on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. In the San Francisco Archdiocese, it is celebrated on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The ascension is Jesus' return to the Father. As he leaves, he tells his followers to spread his message to all nations. Find more about Jesus' ascension and activities to do with children:  
[http://www.sermons4kids.com/up\\_up\\_and\\_away.htm](http://www.sermons4kids.com/up_up_and_away.htm)  
<http://www.catholicicing.com/?s=ascension>



Pentecost is May 15<sup>th</sup>, fifty days after Jesus' resurrection.

Check out the following websites for more information about Pentecost and activities.  
<http://www.dltk-bible.com/cv/pentecost.htm>  
<http://www.catholicicing.com/easy-pentecost-craft-for-kids/>

## THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT

A reflection from *The Little White Book*

“Let me think about Jesus.

Nobody knew who he was for almost 30 years of his life. Then he came down to Judea and listened to John the Baptist. One day he stepped into the river and the Spirit came upon him like a dove. From then on, everything was different. He stepped out of that river and became the preacher, healer, wonder-worker known all around.

Let me think about Mary.

She was a teenage peasant girl in a hick town. One day the Spirit came upon her and her whole life changed.

And what about the disciples?

They were frightened, paralyzed by fear. They were huddled in the Upper Room behind locked doors. Then Jesus appeared to them and breathed the Spirit upon them, and well, I know the rest of the story.

Whenever the Spirit comes upon people in the Gospels, they suddenly come alive in a new way.

And the same is true for me.”

## MAY, THE MONTH OF MARY

We honor Mary, the Mother of God, during the month of May. She is our example of faith because she lived her life by faith. Mary is the model for the Marists' way of life.

“Mary of Nazareth, the first disciple of the Lord and Mother of the Church, is the heart of our identity as Marists. This remarkable woman of faith has called us to this way of life. We

believe that we have been called by a 'gracious choice' into the family of Mary. It is her work that we do and so we commit ourselves to think, judge, feel and act as she did." (from the Statement of Identity, US Province of the Marists Assembly and Chapter of June 2013)

On Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, we will honor Mary at our 8:45 a.m. School Mass in the Church. Each student is asked to bring one flower to make a class bouquet to be brought up at the beginning of Mass when the first grade will crown Mary.

#### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The sixty-fourth National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman.

The theme for 2016 is **Wake Up America**, emphasizing the need for individuals, corporately and individually, to return to the God of our Fathers in reverence for His Holy Name. To further highlight the theme, Isaiah 58:1a has been chosen as the Scripture for this year: *"Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet."*



#### MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. As we remember

Mary during this month, we should also remember and honor our mothers. The following sites have thoughts about Mother's Day:

<http://loyolapress.com/if-god-were-in-charge-of-the-mothers-day-celebration-what-would-it-be-like.htm>

<http://loyolapress.com/mothers-day-inspiration.htm> -- poems

<https://www.care.com/a/27-mothers-day-gift-ideas-kids-can-make-1304300746> contains several ideas for gifts that children can make for their mothers. Another idea is a coupon book for household chores that Mother can redeem whenever she wishes.

#### OTHER MAY FEAST DAYS

May 22 – Feast of the Most Holy Trinity which honors the fact that there are three Persons –

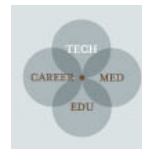
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – in one God.

May 29 – The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi* in Latin) which celebrates Jesus' presence with his people in the Holy Eucharist.

May 31 – The Visitation – When Mary learned that her cousin Elizabeth was also expecting a child, she walked many miles to visit her.

#### MISSION CARNIVAL

Mission Carnival will be Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the school yard. Monies raised at the carnival will be sent to Marist and CSJ missions. Watch for more information in the Wednesday envelope.



The CSJ MISSION is Taller San Jose. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange opened Taller San Jose in 1995 in response to

the prevalence of crime and gang violence in Santa Ana. Taller San Jose (St. Joseph's Workshop) is a highly focused, goal-oriented program that targets young adults, ages 18-28, who are caught in a cycle of crime and poverty and need marketable job skills in order to become productive self-reliant adults. It focuses on young people who have dropped out of high school, have been incarcerated or are on probation, and have a background of gang involvement. More information can be found on its website at [www.tallersanjose.org](http://www.tallersanjose.org).

One of the MARIST MISSION projects we support is in the Diocese of Rarotonga in Fiji. They have rebuilt and refurbished St. Joseph's School which had been built of surplus World War II building materials that contained a lot of asbestos. Our monies helped with the rebuilding and presently funds are used for equipment, textbooks and supplies.



Song practice at St. Joseph's in Rarotonga