



Holy Spirit

OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sixth Sunday of Easter

05 May 2024

www.HolySpiritOCC.org

727.754.9758

Welcome!

Are you seeking...

To belong to a community of faith
to provide you with something deeper?

A place to be oneself, warts and all?

A place to taste diversity?

A place to weep?

A place to sing?

A place to weep while singing?

A place to feel the depth of life? A place to know God?

We now welcome you home. Christ's peace be with you!

AS THE FATHER I HAVE ABIDE
HAS LOVED MY
LOVED ME SO ♥ YOU LOVE
JOHN 15:9

Celebrating Life and Love...

Please, be sure to stop in the parish center
to sign and send your love in our Greeting Cards!

Happy Birthday to: Mary M. 05/15, Lorraine W. 05/22, and
George R. 05/27.

Happy Anniversary to: Ken & Tony 05/10, and Bp. Steven
(priesthood) 05/27.

We are one church for all!

Or better: for all those who want to. Are you too?

When We Gather Next...

Sunday, 12 May 2024, 10:30am

Seventh Sunday of Easter



Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26

Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20

1 John 4:11-16

John 17:11b-19

Presider: **Mthr. Sharon**

Homilist: **Mthr. Sharon**

Greeters: **Debbie & Brian R.**

Welcome: **Bp. Steven**

Acolyte: **Karen E.**

Intercessions: **Michael H.**

Lectors: (1) **Michael H.** (2) **Sr. Linda** Altar Bread Baker: **Fr. Daniel**

Ministers of the Cup: **Fr. Jacques, Joanne D. & David B.**

Coffee Social Hosts: **Parishioner Last Names M-R**

Thank YOU for your faithful and loving service at the altar of the Lord in community. You bless us!

Lord, Hear Our Prayer!

“Always pray in the Spirit, with all your prayers and petitions.

Pray constantly and attentively for all God’s holy people.” (Ephesians 6:18)

✠Ralph C., R.I.P. 04/12/2024, father of Carter ✠Dennis

Underwood, R.I.P. 02/19/2024, Bp. Gordon’s spouse of 47 years.

•Bro. Tom, cardiac health •For peace in Palestine, Ukraine and throughout our world •For our parish community, our growth and faith •Toni S., friend of Mthr. Sharon, liver cancer •Jack, chemotherapy •Ken S., healing •For all who struggle with mental health in our community and families •For those deeply impacted by severe weather •For vocations to ministry and consecrated life from among us. ✠All victims of war. ✠For our deceased clergy and parishioners. ✠For the victims of gun violence.

The Road Ahead Together...

TWELVE STEP MEETINGS at Holy Spirit:

- Sex/Love Anonymous, Thursdays, 12pm, conference room.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, Thursdays, 7pm, social hall.

MUSIC MINISTRY PRACTICE

- Thursday evenings, 7-8:30pm, chapel

ASCENSION of the LORD Holy Day

- This Thursday, May 9th, 7pm

We gather to celebrate the Eucharist for the 40th day after Easter, the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven. Come, share our joy!

BLESSING of MOTHERS

- Next Sunday, May 12th, Mothers' Day, 10:30am

We pray for, remember and give thanks for our mothers. Please, bring a framed photo of your mother or one who has been as mother you to place before the altar.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- Wednesday, May 15th, 7-9pm, conference room

DIOCESAN HOUSE MEET at HSOCC

- Saturday, May 18th, House of Laity, 1pm-4pm

PARISH FEAST DAY and POTLUCK

- Pentecost Sunday, May 19th

Wear your "red" and let us give thanks and celebrate together. Bring your favorite celebration dish to pass. Bring your friends and family along to share our fellowship and joy.

INTERMENT OF CREMAINS of the Snyder Family

- Saturday, May 25, 11am, Garden of Remembrance

Pastoral Perpendiculars

to perpendicular, verb. *"to weigh carefully in the mind."*

Good morning, dearest Community and Friends!

"...as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight." (Acts 1:9) This Thursday evening, we gather to celebrate **the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord**. The Ascension scene is not unlike that of a family gathering around the bedside of a dying loved one to say a final farewell. If our loved one is the least bit alert, we wait for some final message or gesture that we can carry in our memory to last us a lifetime. In those last hours or days, we often struggle with mixed feelings—we want him or her to be free and at peace, yet we cling to the life and love we have known in our earthly relationship. At that moment, our hearts often carry a mixture of sorrow and hope.

The disciples must have had similar feelings as they stood there, saying farewell to Jesus. His message was a hopeful one, assuring them that they would not be abandoned. He promised that the power of the Spirit would be with them so they could carry on his work. It was a loving message—he believed they were capable and ready to continue what he had begun. So with us. The love we have known in the life of someone who dies can be carried on in our life. It is this love that makes our difficult farewells endurable and our grief consolable.

We pray: Compassionate One, comfort those who are grieving. Give them a sense of hope like that given to the disciples. Let them know that their loved one can live on through our lives.

Please, if you have had any changes to your address, phone number or email address within the last year, we encourage you to share those changes that we may update and reflect accurately

the changes in your contact information. Please email them this week's deadline to Bp. Steven at bp.steven.roszczewski@gmail.com . The new **Parish Directory** will then be able to be emailed to you before Pentecost for you to stay in touch with your parish family.

Our **Sharing Sunday** today is focused upon our compassionate prayer and care for the women, men, children and pets who are victims of domestic violence and are assisted by CASA Pinellas (casapinellas.org). The most needed items are: Baby diapers, baby formula, baby powder, baby wipes, diaper rash cream, and pacifiers. Thank you for your generous gifts under our altar. May God send his angels to watch over and protect all those in harm's way, especially within the sanctuary of their homes.

As mentioned earlier, our holy day celebration of the **liturgy of the Ascension** will be this Thursday evening at 7pm. Come, share our joy.

Next Sunday, May 12th, is our nation's celebration of **Mothers' Day**. Please, bring a framed photo of your mother or of the one who has been as a mother to you to place before our altar as we pray for, remember and give thanks for these women in our lives of family and community.

Thank you for your warm, compassionate and lavish response for those most in need.

With my love and prayer for you, in Christ.

bp. Steven

A Prayer for Vocations

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:36-38)

God Who dwells within human desires,
You have generated the religious calling
as a particular witness to goodness and grace.

Move the hearts and minds
of women and men today
to respond to this calling.

Draw them to a life
of contemplation, service and witness,
for the praise of Your Name,
and the good of all the churches.
You are our God for ever and ever.
Amen.



New Spring Offerings... **at the Institute of Old Catholic Studies**

Be sure to check out the latest offerings at the OCC Institute of Old Catholic Studies!

-Beginning THIS week, Tuesdays, May 7th through May 21st at 7:30pm a new scripture study series will be offered entitled "Scripture and Social Justice" looking at the prophets.

-On Tuesdays, June 4th through 18th a new book study exploring social justice by our OCC Deacon, Karen Fossan. FMI, be sure to visit and register at: **www.the-iocs.com**. Don't delay as classes begin soon on May 7th and enjoy growing faith and friendship with other Old Catholics.

U.S. Church Foundations Shaking

Gallup poll results released March 25 showed that church attendance has generally been on the decline since 2009, when 42% of respondents said they had attended a service in the past week. After 2009, attendance rates have mostly been in the 30s, with only two exceptions: 40% attendance in 2012 and 29% attendance in 2021.

Post-pandemic church attendance rates declined more sharply among Catholics than it did among Protestants. The 2016-2019 average among Catholics was 37%, compared with a 2020-2023 average of only 30%. Protestants in the same time frame fell from 44% to 40%.

Church attendance was at its height in the mid- to late-1950s. The highest points were 49% in 1955 and 49% again in 1958.

The number of U.S. nuns and sisters has plummeted to fewer than 42,000 in 2022 representing a 76% decline since 1972. The average age of U.S. nuns is 80 with less than 1% under the age of 40.

This Morning's Sacred Liturgy

Today's Intention: *Rest of +Jim Seymour and +Jimmy Treston.*

Welcome and Announcements	Steve M.
Gathering Song: Come to the Water	GC2 502
Kyrie Litany	<i>Fr. Daniel</i>
Gloria: Mass of Creation	GC2 138
Opening Prayer	<i>Fr. Daniel</i>
Reading I: <i>Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48</i>	<i>Paula T.</i>
Psalm Response: Psalm 98: All the Ends of the Earth	GC2 55
Reading II: <i>1 John 4:11-16</i>	<i>Mary M.</i>
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Give the Glory	GC2 733
Holy Gospel: <i>John 15:9-17</i>	<i>Fr. Daniel</i>
Homily	<i>Fr. Daniel</i>
Profession of Faith: Nicene Creed (<i>cf. inside back cover hymnal</i>)	
Intercessions: ☩ God Who is Love, hear us!	<i>Steve M.</i>
Kiss of Peace	
Preparation of the Gifts: I Have Loved You	GC2 504
Eucharistic Prayer: Mass of Creation	GC2 147, 148A; 149
Lord's Prayer: Our Father	GC2 15
Lamb of God Litany: Mass of Creation	GC2 152
Invitation to Holy Communion	<i>Fr. Daniel</i>
	<i>Cup Ministers: Fr. Jacques, Mthr. Sharon & David B.</i>
Communion Procession: We Have Been Told	GC2 694
Song of Praise: We Come to Your Feast	GC2 814
Prayer after Communion	<i>Fr. Daniel</i>
Solemn Blessing and Easter Sending	
Sending Song: Your Wonderful Love	GC2 649
Coffee Social:	<i>Parishioner Last Names A-D</i>