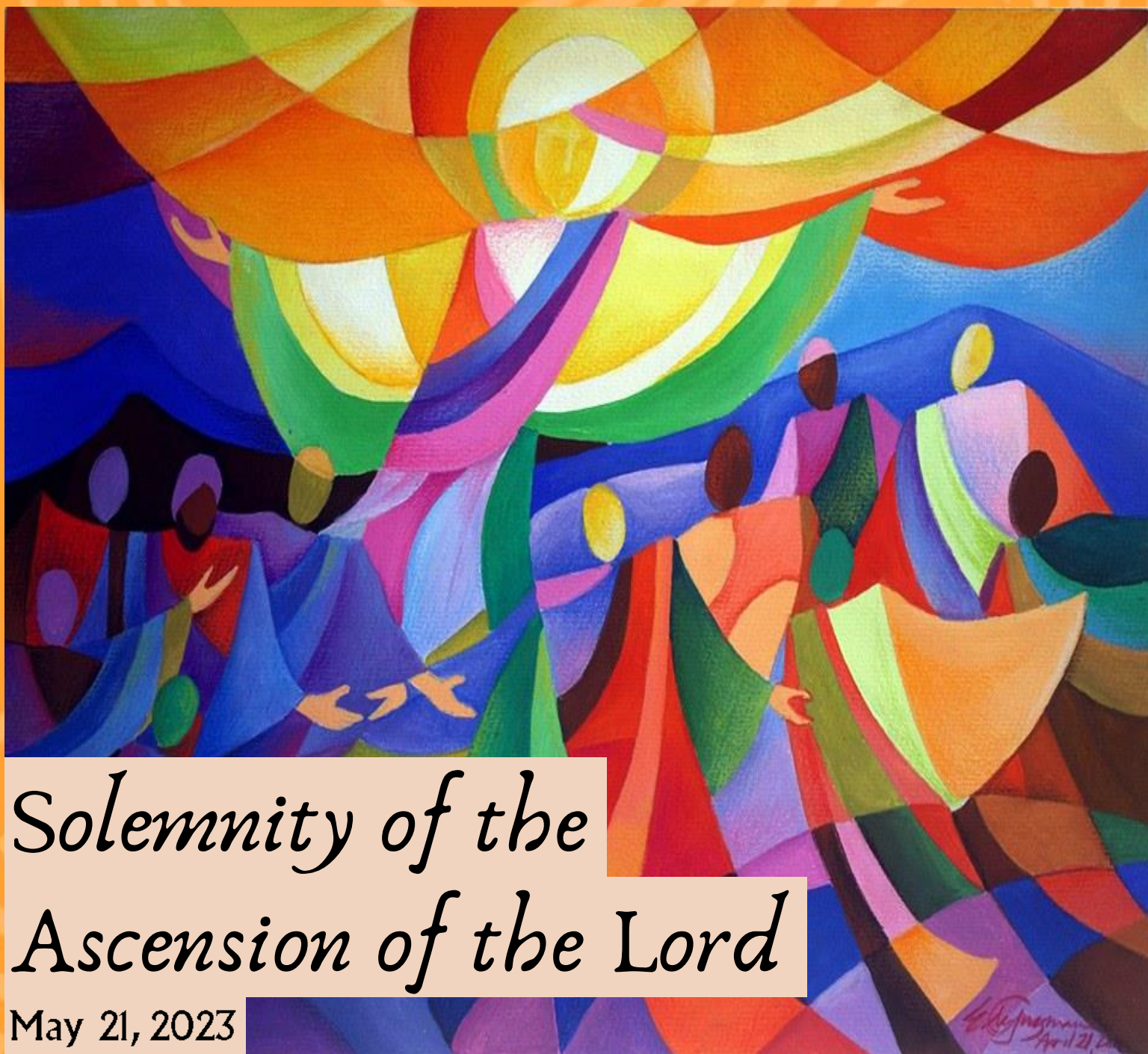


# NEWMAN CENTER

## Holy Spirit Parish



1941 East-West Road, Honolulu HI 96822-2321 | PH: (808) 988-6222 | FX: (808) 988-1752 | Email: [info@newmanhawaii.org](mailto:info@newmanhawaii.org)  
Website: [www.newmanhawaii.org](http://www.newmanhawaii.org) | Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NewmanHawaii](https://www.facebook.com/NewmanHawaii) | Instagram & Twitter: [@newmanhawaii](https://www.instagram.com/newmanhawaii)



*Solemnity of the  
Ascension of the Lord*

May 21, 2023



# Aloha! Welcome!

We are the Catholic Center and Campus Ministry at the University of Hawai'i, and under the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, serving parishioners, staff, faculty, and students alike that stimulates critical thinking and dialogue about issues that challenge Christian living and commits to a living faith that practices and promotes justice.

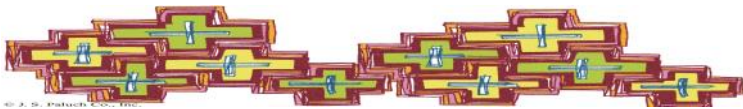
We are a spirit-filled and welcoming community that proclaims and celebrates the Good News through liturgy, the sacraments, faith sharing, outreach, and social action. As the Roman Catholic Community of the University of Hawai'i, we offer opportunities for life-long faith development to all who choose to join us. We invite the contribution of gifts in stewardship and evangelism, and challenge one another in the same manner that Jesus challenges us: to love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind and to love your neighbor as yourself.

Come journey with us!

## Pastoral Team

	<i>Phone Ext</i>
<b>Pastor   Director of Campus Ministry</b> Fr. Alfred Omar B. Guerrero pastor@newmanhawaii.org	214
<b>Administrative Assistant</b> Alofa Leasiolagi manager@newmanhawaii.org	219
<b>Campus Minister</b> Fay Pabo campusministry@newmanhawaii.org	211
<b>Communications &amp; Pastoral Assistant</b> Brandon Akiona pastoralassistant@newmanhawaii.org	211

We welcome your call and are here to serve you! Contact the Parish Office to speak with us or make an appointment. We look forward to hearing from you!



## Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00am to 5:00pm  
(except Diocesan Holidays)  
*Newman Center may remain open till evening programs conclude*

Saturday and Sunday:  
Open during Mass times and for activities as needed.

## From the Desk of the Pastor

"Go and teach all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, until the end of the world."

This weekend, we celebrate the transferred Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. After his resurrection, Jesus was with the disciples, speaking to them about the kingdom of God and they still didn't get it. When Jesus was about to ascend into heaven, the disciples asked him "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" They still thought that Jesus came into the world to restore a purely external, political, and military dominant kingdom of Israel. It was only through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon them that they would know their mission as disciples. Through this outpouring, Jesus wants them to break free of their limited view, their biases and tendency to misinterpret the meaning of his life and mission. He came into the world the world to show us how God really loves us, and his disciples are to witness to that truth. So, on the day of his ascension, Jesus gave the Apostles their final and foundational mandate, "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." The two men dressed in white were right to ask the disciples "Why are you standing there looking at the sky?" when Jesus ascended. Only after receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, did they understand. They went out to the ends of the earth to witness to Jesus. From our readings today and in fact this whole Easter Season, it is clear that we are not to sit back, relax, and be passive. Rather, we are sent from the celebration of the Eucharist to be bold witness to his resurrection. That Jesus is truly alive and continues to transform people every day. We do so by living out our love of God and love of neighbor. We may not be called to go out to the ends of the earth and preach. Instead, we can begin with our own families and communities. Sharing about our experiences of God's love, mercy, and compassion and making God's love visible by our lives. Christ calls each of us to make a sincere gift of our self and to be agents of God's mercy in the world. May we never be out there standing looking at the sky but working hard for the kingdom of God.

Have a blessed week!

Fr. Alfred Omar  
(@alfred808)



## Liturgical Schedule

Daily Mass ( <i>Tuesday-Friday</i> )	12:10PM
Sunday Mass ( <i>Saturday Evening Anticipated</i> )	5:00PM 9:00AM 11:00AM ( <i>Student-led Mass</i> ) 5:00PM

## Sacramental Information

**Reconciliation** By Appointment

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule.

**Baptism** By Request

Please contact Fr. Alfred Omar at least one month before the date desired for the Baptism.

**Funerals** At Need

Funerals and the Rite of Christian Burial are made in conjunction with the Mortuary of your choosing. Please contact the Parish Office prior to finalizing a date with the mortuary.

**Holy Matrimony** By Request

Couples need to contact Fr. Alfred Omar at least eight months prior to your desired wedding date to begin the marriage preparation required by the Diocese of Honolulu.

**Holy Orders—Religious Life** By Call

Is God calling you to the Priesthood, Diaconate, or Religious Life? God doesn't call the qualified. He qualifies the called. Call us today to setup a discussion with our Pastor where you can continue discerning God's call.

**Holy Communion** Ongoing

Programs are available for those who have not yet received their First Eucharist. Please contact our Parish Office for more information.

**Confirmation** Ongoing

Programs are available for those who have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please contact our Parish Office for more information.

**Anointing of the Sick** By Request

If you or someone you know are in need of receiving the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, please call our parish office to schedule

**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults** Ongoing

If you or someone you know have not yet been baptized and are interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Faith, please call our parish office to learn more about the RCIA,



## The Word of the Lord Weekly

### Today's Readings

**Acts 1:1–11** Lord Jesus ascends into a cloud.

**Psalm 47** "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord."

**Ephesians 1:17–23** Christ is the head of the church; where he is we are called to follow.

**Matthew 28:16–20** Jesus commands us to go and baptize.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

### Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/ Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc 36ab  
Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10,  
11 Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab  
Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25



### LIVING THE LITURGY

Watch a movie or read about people who have witnessed to what they believed. Clear examples are Oscar Romero, Martin Luther King Jr., and Mother Teresa. There are also many others. You may want to find a book about saints or those being considered for sainthood at your local library. During the Jubilee Year on May 7, 2000, John Paul II led a prayer, "Ecumenical Commemoration of Witnesses to the Faith in the Twentieth Century." There is a list of witnesses whose lives were celebrated on the Vatican Web site. Discuss your thoughts on people of other faith traditions who follow Christ. What does their witness mean for us? What does it mean to make disciples of all nations?

### SHARING FAITH

What does it mean for you to be a witness for Christ? Who has been an example of a witness to you? This Sunday's Responsorial Psalm speaks about God as king. What does the image of God as king mean to you? How did Jesus exercise kingship? What world has God invited you to evangelize?

### SCRIPTURE

It is easy to imagine that the disciples were not quite ready for Jesus to depart from their midst. In today's First Reading they ask Jesus a question: "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). They still are uncertain. Only Luke's account of the Gospel treats Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension as two separate events with forty days between them. On the solemnity of the Ascension, we celebrate that Jesus leaves the disciples with a mission to do on behalf of God's reign. Jesus will be with them in this work, but in a new way. The Holy Spirit will help them fulfill the work of witnessing to the ends of the earth. The two men in white in the Acts passage who ask the disciples why they look to heaven might also point us where we are to look. Our work is directed toward heaven while fostering God's kingdom on earth. In the passage from the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus says the mission is to make disciples of all nations. Disciples must look to the world where Jesus lived and showed us how to live.



## Nourishing Our Faith

### Prayer On the Go

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/>  
<https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

### Daily Scripture and Reflections:

<https://www.dailyscripture.net/daily-meditation/>

### Weekly Essays on Ignatian Spirituality by

Fr. Randy Roche, SJ:

<https://mission.lmu.edu/cis/spiritualessays>

### Contemplative Prayer (via Zoom)

Monday Nights at 6:30 pm. 30 minutes of silence, followed by Scripture and Sharing. For more information, contact June Naughton (808) 524-2718.

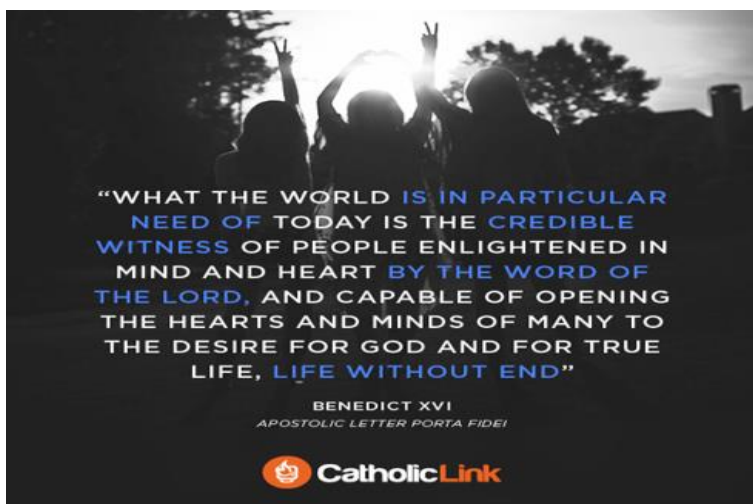
## Family Connection

Just as Jesus sent his disciples to make disciples, our family, the domestic Church, is called to bear witness to the life of discipleship. That act of witnessing can take many forms. First and foremost our family should call people to discipleship by the example of our love for one another. That example is only the beginning; our love must extend beyond the family, reaching out to others and to the world.

Together with your family, identify one or more ways in which your family lives the life of Christian discipleship. Thank God for the blessing of the opportunity to be able to show God's love. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 28:16-20. Discuss what Jesus sends his disciples to do. Work together to identify one or more ways in which your family would like to do a better job bearing witness to the life of discipleship. Choose one of those ways and work together to make it happen. Pray as a family for the grace to be witnesses to the world of the life of discipleship. Pray together the Lord's

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's Gospel Jesus charges his followers to "make disciples of all nations." What exactly is going on here? What is this Great Commission anyway? Good stewards know they are directed to share what they exercise stewardship over: their life of faith in Christ Jesus. They know Jesus didn't direct them to go to church and to keep quiet about it; or to go out into the neighborhood, workplace or marketplace and just be nice. Christ's Good News is meant to be shared. Many people in our communities don't know about Jesus Christ. Does that bother us? Do we care? Do we realize we are supposed to do something about it?



## Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure

### Tithes and Offerings:

05/13/2023-05/14/2023: \$2,322.00

Maintenance: \$1,025.00

Funeral Donation (Salazar): \$300.00

2nd Collection Diocesan Priests Retirement Fund: \$175.00

### Online:

05/05/2023-05/11/2023 \$2,160.00

May we continue to receive God's gifts gratefully, manage them responsibly, and share them joyfully. Mahalo for your generosity!

### Upcoming Second Collections:

Catholic Communication Campaign: 05/20 & 05/21  
Diocese of Honolulu Seminarian Fund: 06/17 & 06/18  
Holy Father (Peter's Pence) \$07/01 & 07/02

### Giving Made Easy

Giving online is safe and easy using our secured online platform, by visiting WeShare at:

[newmanhawaii.weshareonline.org](http://newmanhawaii.weshareonline.org)

Thank you, for your continued support of our parish as we strive to meet the needs of our faith community!



### STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Generous and Loving Creator, you have called us to  
Malama i ka Makana (Cherish the Gift).

As disciples of your Son, we ask that your Spirit open our minds and hearts to more deeply appreciate your countless blessings. Increase your transforming spirit within us, so as to nurture our call to stewardship as a way of life marked always by faith-filled prayer, service to others and generous giving.

With the kokua of St. Marianne and St. Damien, teach us to be good stewards so we may return a hundred-fold the makana entrusted to us.

We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen





MAY 2023

# FOCUS DIGITAL

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

## Visiting the Island



### Women's Ministry

The women's ministry at UH has gone well this semester! We have been able to continue working in commissioned discipleship with Nicolette, and she is doing the same with Gigi. This entails regular meet ups to check in on who we are investing in and how we are working towards bringing each of them to a deeper relationship with Christ. It also means taking regular time to work through different tools that help us to evangelize effectively on the campus. We have also been able to continue a small group for formation with Montse and Marianne as well as a regular women's Bible study on Salvation History. The women are taking active steps in their faith to know and share Jesus Christ!



Saturday brunch!



Preparing for Lent



Tabling on campus



# Living as Disciples



## Men's Ministry

Currently we have one Bible study happening on campus and which is being led by Allen. He and I meet weekly as he continues to form himself as a disciple of Jesus. Recently, Brandon and Donald have begun discipleship and have expressed a desire to live with Jesus at the center of their lives! After visiting campus, we began meeting weekly to talk more intentionally about formation and how they can cultivate lives of deep prayer and communion with our Lord.

## Student Testimony:

"My experience with the Newman Center and especially through FOCUS over the past year, has blessed me with a community that has encouraged me to grow in my own relationship with God. Through the women's bible study and weekly discipleship meetings with Katt and Montse, these friendships reinforced the importance of having a support system while walking in faith, as we encouraged each other and lifted each other up through the joys and struggles of college. As I began to more fully understand prayer as the cornerstone of being in relationship with God, I also began investing in a commitment to my prayer life and the sacraments. When I attended SEEK this past January, I learned that this deep intimacy God desires with us is something we are called to share, through the authentic relationships we form, and by being deliberate about inviting others to also seek out a relationship with God. Although I still struggled with doubts and fears, God has continued to bless me with opportunities to say yes to leadership and to participate in the "Little Way of Evangelization," sharing my faith with those in my place of work, my classmates, and in my own family. It has been humbling to see the ways God has worked in my life and in the work of my peers in the Newman Center community. There are many unknowns that face me as I begin a new chapter in my life, but the Newman Center will always remain an important part of my life. I am confident that the growing efforts and partnership with FOCUS ministries will continue to touch the lives of the college students at the University of Hawaii campus, in the same way they have allowed God to touch mine." -- Marianne Garcia





## Around the Parish



### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY CONFIRMED!

Sealed with the Holy Spirit, give them the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, right judgement and courage, knowledge and reverence, and wonder and awe in your presence!

*Noah Shimokawa  
Lauren Mari O'Donnell  
Miles Daniel Kroeker*

A special Mahalo to their catechists, parents, and sponsors for continuing to support them in their faith.

Please pray for our newly confirmed as they continue their journey of faith. May they use the gifts given to them to love and serve their sisters and brothers in Christ.

## Four-Petals Peace Service and Affirmations

This **hybrid** (both in-person & live video) observance will be the 36th of a series of quarterly Peace Services, rotating between the sponsoring organizations. It is a multi-faith service for peace, of mindfulness and an expression that particularly resonates among our four faiths, blossoming from our common humanity.

For more information, contact Church of the Crossroads at 949-2220.

**Time:** The service begins at 6:30pm, please arrive early to sit and settle down.

**Date:** May 25, 2023 (Thursday)

**Online via Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82645134319?pwd=LytRaG4UOUY3Sm15djhTnVBUEWwQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 826 4513 4319  
**Passcode:** 590889

**Sponsors:** Church of the Crossroads  
Hongwanji Shin Buddhists (Hawaii Betsuin)  
Newman Center Holy Spirit Parish  
Quaker Center

**We affirm that all people should have the opportunity to enjoy lives of harmony and peace.**

**We affirm that while we may follow different faith traditions, our traditions and beliefs all include a strong desire for peace.**

**We affirm that each faith tradition will offer its expression of contemplative reflection providing an experience of peaceful attentiveness with the common goal of peace and aloha.**



## Pray

Prayer to receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

*Philip Kosloski - published on 05/31/20*

Ask God to pour into your soul the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially for those preparing for confirmation.

One of the beliefs of the Catholic Church is that the coming of the Holy Spirit also brought with it seven gifts. The Catechism of the Church explains, "The moral life of Christians is sustained by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are permanent dispositions which make man docile in following the promptings of the Holy Spirit" (CCC 1830).

These gifts are imparted to the soul at baptism, but then sealed and strengthened through the sacrament of confirmation.

Whether we are preparing for the sacrament of confirmation, or want to renew in ourselves these gifts, here is a prayer from the Golden Manual that asks God for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

O almighty and eternal God,  
you have adopted me as your child in the holy sacrament of Baptism;  
granted to me the remission of my sins at the tribunal of penance; and has fed me with the bread of angels; perfect in me, I beseech you, all these benefits. Grant unto me the spirit of Wisdom, that I may despise the perishable things of this world, and love the things that are eternal; the spirit of Understanding, to enlighten me and to give me the knowledge of religion; the spirit of Counsel, that I may diligently seek the surest ways of pleasing God and obtaining heaven; the spirit of Fortitude, that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation; the spirit of Knowledge, that I may be enlightened in the ways of God; the spirit of Piety, that I may find the service of God both sweet and amiable; the spirit of Fear, that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God, and may dread in any way to displease him. Seal me, in your mercy, with the seal of a disciple of Jesus Christ, unto everlasting life; and grant that, carrying the cross upon my forehead, I may carry it also in my heart, and confessing you boldly before men, may merit to be one day reckoned in the number of your elect. Amen.

Resource: <https://aleteia.org/2020/05/31/prayer-to-receive-the-seven-gifts-of-the-holy-spirit/>

## Grow

This feast is a reminder that we are called to greater things

*Brother Silas Henderson, SDS - published on 05/12/18*

The Ascension of Jesus ultimately prepared the hearts of the Apostles to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.—Mark 6:19-20  
Prior to the Second Vatican Council, the Feast of the Ascension (celebrated on Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter) was seen as the end of the Easter Season. On that day, the Paschal Candle—the great symbol of Risen Christ present and illuminating the Church—was extinguished and put away and the days before Pentecost became a time when the Church focused its attention on Pentecost without much thought about what had come before. In 1969, when Blessed Pope Paul VI approved the reformed Church calendar, the Easter Season was again presented as the great Fifty Days (as opposed to the forty days between Easter and the Ascension) and the themes of Baptism, discipleship, and what it means for us to be Church became the touchpoints of the Easter Season.



## Grow

Of course, this feast celebrates the truth that the Risen Christ took his place in glory, “far above all heavens, that he might fill all things” (Ephesians 4:10). But, when we reflect on Saint Mark’s account of the Ascension proclaimed this Sunday, we also see how the great Easter themes are also part of this celebration.

In his Gospel, Mark tells us that after Jesus was taken from their sight, the Apostles went out, preaching and performing signs and wonders. This is an important detail, because when the Apostles went out, they weren’t concerned about their own ideas and agendas. Rather, they were continuing Jesus’ mission of proclaiming the Reign of God. They were going out to bring the love, the healing and liberating power of Jesus to individuals that Jesus never met and to communities where Jesus never traveled. Their mission—which was ultimately the mission of Jesus—was, as Saint Paul tells us, to “equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12).

This feast is an invitation for us to reflect on how we are—or are not—continuing this work today, in our communities, parishes, and families. And yet, we also know how easy it is for us to become weighed down by our day-to-day responsibilities and the legion of distractions and diversions that fill our lives. But the Solemnity of the Ascension reminds us that we are called to greater things: nothing less than sharing with others our own experience of the Risen Christ. This is what the Apostles were about and this is what are called to, as well.

The Ascension of Jesus ultimately prepared the hearts of the Apostles to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. It was grace present in those gifts that inspired their preaching and teaching and that gave life to the Church, even in times of persecution and division. As Pope St. John Paul II has reflected, “the Holy Spirit makes them witnesses and prophets. It fills them with a serene courage which impels them to pass on to others their experience of Jesus and the hope which motivates them” (Redemptoris Missio, 24). This same Spirit is offered to us in Baptism and Confirmation, missioning us to also be Christ’s witnesses and prophets.

As we celebrate this great feast and continue to look toward Pentecost, the fulfillment of these Fifty Days, take time to reflect on the mission that has been entrusted to the Church and to each of us—to bring the compassion, love, and mercy of Jesus to everyone who needs to hear the Good News: “What the Lord preached that one time, or what was wrought in Him for the saving of the human race, must be spread abroad and published to the ends of the earth ... so that what He accomplished at that one time for the salvation of all, may in the course of time come to achieve its effect in all” (Second Vatican Council, Ad Gentes, 3).

How is God inviting you to share your faith with others? When have you received the gift of someone else’s faith and hope? How did that gift change you? As we look towards Pentecost and the end of the Easter Season, how does this feast invite you to reflect on your own commitment to live as a disciple of Jesus.

Words of Wisdom: “‘Go,’ Jesus tells us, even today. In Baptism he conferred upon each of us the power to proclaim. Thus, going out into the world with the Lord is part of the Christian identity. It is not only for priests, nuns or the consecrated. It is for all Christians. It is our identity; going into the World with the Lord is our identity. Christians are not stationary, but on a journey: with the Lord towards others.” —Pope Francis in Exsultate et Gaudete, 135

## Reflect

Picture it: The year was 1987 and I was about to embark on an exciting adventure – Kindergarten! From the day we received a letter of acceptance and enrollment from St. Theresa School up until the night before my big day, I was hyped and ecstatic for my first day of school, ever! It was a beautiful fall day in Hawai’i, perfect weather, and all. I was told that I was grinning from ear to ear the entire morning getting ready and on our way to school. My dad opened the door for us, and I walked out of the car together with my mother. With confidence, I told her “Bye! I’ll see you later!” She smiled and waved saying, “Have a good first day, anak (my child). I’ll be back to pick you up.” My mother slowly turned and walked towards the car, and they drove off. I stood at the door for a moment and suddenly felt my eyes swelling with tears. And then I lost it, I started to cry, screaming for my mother and father. At that instant, I realized that I was on my own for the first time. I didn’t have my parents there to help me. What was I going to do?

Sometimes, we get like that – we feel alone, abandoned, neglected, unwanted, and the list goes on. In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells us otherwise. He says this to His disciples, “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...” We are called to be witnesses of Christ, and to share that same zeal of the Good News to the whole world! Let us live out our call to discipleship and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and empower us to share the great message of Christ to all! The task of following Jesus is not easy, and we may come across moments of doubt and despair. Always remember that God is with us, until the end of the age.

“The Lord opening the way to Heaven, give us a foretaste of divine life already on this earth.” – Pope Benedict XVI

Congratulations to Lauren O'Donnell and Noah Shimokawa on receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion, and to Miles Kroecker on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. We continue to pray for them in their journey of faith and call to discipleship. May they embody the love of Christ to all they encounter in their daily lives.

Mahalo to all our parishioners and benefactors for your continued love and support in sustaining the mission and vision of campus ministry here at the Newman Center. We are truly blessed and grateful for your generosity.

St. John Henry Newman, pray for us!

Blessings to you and your 'ohana!

- **Fay C. Pabo** (@fa\_jo\_pabo0)

