

A Grace Note from the Rector
May 9, 2024

Dear Ones,

Happy Feast of the Ascension, the fortieth day of Easter! This weekend, I will be visiting friends in Connecticut, and will have the opportunity to worship in my home parish, Christ Church, New Haven. I will not be checking email, so if there is an emergency, please reach out to Connie Turner.

Fr. Steve Giovangelo will be with you to observe the last Sunday of Eastertide, when the readings and music will focus on the Ascension.

Pentecost is just around the corner – on May 19th. Those of you who read languages other than English are invited to prepare and bring **Acts 2:4-13**. I will send more detailed instructions next week. And remember – **red is the color** of the day.

GATHERING GRACE

Gathering Grace served **117 meals** of delicious Shepherd's Pie on Sunday. We have been consistently busy and can always use more help. Come anytime from noon to four – stay as long as you like.

A BETTER WAY ~ MAY NEEDS

Deodorant, shampoo, body wash, journals, and ballpoint pens. A Better Way is a multi-service organization providing emergency shelter and services for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault and their children.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ~ ONGOING NEEDS

Personal Care Items: Bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, lg/med diapers, towels, washcloths, blankets. **Food Pantry:** Canned fruit, meats, and soup, crackers, cereal, pasta & sauce, mac & cheese.

YARN & YARNS

Join the needleworkers in the Parish Library from 10-Noon on Wednesday **May 22**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

David McMillan (May 13)

Keith McMillan (May 13)

Steve Holdzkom (May 14)

Bea Mertens (May 15)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Brooke-Renée & Andy Bonnell (May 12, 2009)

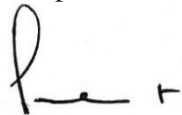
O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Last Sunday, I shared a text by the 11th century theologian Anselm of Canterbury that used the image of mother to talk about God. As **Mother's Day** is just around the corner, here is another medieval reference to the maternal image of God. The author is a 14th century anchoress (a woman who chooses to withdraw from the world to live a solitary life of prayer) whom we know as **Julian of Norwich**, whose feast day was yesterday.

This version of her words is found as *A Song of True Motherhood* (Canticle R in *Enriching our Worship 1*, p. 40).

God chose to be our mother in all things *
and so made the foundation of his work,
most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.
God, the perfect wisdom of all, *
arrayed himself in this humble place.
Christ came in our poor flesh *
To share a mother's care.
Our mothers bear us for pain and for death; *
our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.
Christ carried us within him in love and travail, *
until the full time of his passion.
And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy, *
still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.
All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God, *
for the love of Christ works in us;
Christ is the one whom we love.

Keep on feasting! Alleluia, Alleluia!



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