



# SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH

Packet for Live Stream Mass

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## SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Sunday May 16, 2021

[www.saintdominics.org](http://www.saintdominics.org)



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - MAY 16, 2021

# MUSIC PLANNER

SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH  
EAGLE ROCK, CALIFORNIA

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD  
LIVE STREAM MASS

May 12, 2021 AT 5:00 P.M., and May 13 at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.

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

Prelude:	<i>"Go Make Of All Disciples" [ELLACOMBE]</i>
Gathering Song:	"Hail The Day That Sees Him Rise" [LLANFAIR] "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High"-Founds [11:00]
Penitential Rite: sung	"Lord Have Mercy" - Janco (Mass Of Wisdom) spoken [11:00]
Gloria: sung	"Glory To God" - Guimont [MOASC] " Glory To God" - Bolduc [MOSA - [11:00]
Responsorial Psalm:	"Psalm 47: God Mounts His Throne" (R & A) "Psalm 47: God Mounts His Throne- Haugen [11]
Gospel Acclamation:	"Celtic Alleluia" - O'Carroll/Walker
Presentation Of The Gifts:	"The Eyes And Hands Of Christ" - Kendzia
Holy, Holy, Holy:	"Holy" - Chepponis (Jubilation Mass)
Memorial Acclamation:	"When We Eat This Bread" - (Jubilation Mass)
Great Amen:	"Great Amen" - (Jubilation Mass)
Lamb Of God:	"Lamb Of God" - Haugen (MOC) "Menuetto" - Beethoven [instrumental- 11:00]
Communion:	"Here I Am, Lord" - Schutte
Closing:	"Toccata In G" - Eliot (organ) "Love Has Come" - Maher (verse 2) [11:00]

# GO MAKE OF ALL DISCIPLES

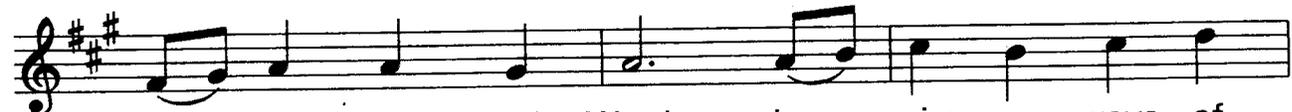
ELLACOMBE



1. "Go make of all dis - ci - ples:" We hear the
2. "Go make of all dis - ci - ples:" Bap - tiz - ing
3. "Go make of all dis - ci - ples:" We at your
4. "Go make of all dis - ci - ples:" We wel - come



1. call, O Lord, That comes from you, our Fa - ther, In
2. in the name Of Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it— From
3. feet would stay Un - til each life's vo - ca - tion Ac -
4. your com - mand; "Lo, I am with you al - ways:" We



1. your e - ter - nal Word. In - spire our ways of
2. age to age the same. We call each new dis -
3. cents your ho - ly way. We cul - ti - vate the
4. take your guid - ing hand. The task looms large be -



1. learn - ing Through earn - est, fer - vent prayer, And let our
2. ci - ple To fol - low you, O Lord, Re - deem - ing
3. na - ture God plants in ev - 'ry heart, Re - veal - ing
4. fore us— We fol - low with - out fear. In heav'n and



1. dai - ly liv - ing Re - veal you ev - 'ry - where.
2. soul and bod - y By wa - ter and the Word.
3. in our wit - ness The Mas - ter Teach - er's art.
4. earth your pow - er Shall bring God's king - dom here.

Text: 76 76 D; Matthew 12:19-20; Leon M. Adkins, 1896-1986, alt., © 1964, Abingdon Press.

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Music: *Gesangbuch der Herzogl, Württembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784, alt.;  
adapt. fr. *Würth's Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1863.

# HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE

LLANFAIR



1. Hail the day that sees him rise
  2. There for him high tri-umph waits:
  3. High - est heav'n its Lord re - ceives;
  4. See! he lifts his hands a - bove.
  5. Lord, though part - ed from our sight
  6. There with you we shall re - main,
- } Al - le - lu - ia!



1. To his throne be - yond the skies;
  2. Lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates;
  3. Yet he loves the earth he leaves;
  4. See! he shows the wounds of love.
  5. Far be - yond the star - ry height,
  6. Share the glo - ry of your reign,
- } Al - le - lu - ia!



1. Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners giv'n,
  2. He has con- quered death and sin;
  3. Though re - turn - ing to his throne,
  4. Hark! his gra - cious lips be - stow,
  5. Lift our hearts that we may rise
  6. There your face un - cloud - ed view,
- } Al - le - lu - ia!



1. En - ters now the high - est heav'n!
  2. Take the King of glo - ry in.
  3. Still he calls the world his own.
  4. Bless - ings on his church be - low.
  5. One with you be - yond the skies:
  6. Find our heav'n of heav'ns in you.
- } Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: 77 77 with alleluias; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, and Thomas Cotterill, 1779-1823, alt.  
 Music: Robert Williams, 1781-1821.

# **LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH**

**Rick Founds**

**Lord, I lift Your name on high, Lord, I love to sing Your praises. I'm so glad You're in my life, I'm so glad You came to save us.**

**You came from heaven to earth to show the way. From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave, From the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift Your name on high.**

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# THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 13 or May 16

The solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is transferred to the following Sunday, May 16, in many archdioceses and dioceses of the United States. In those churches, Thursday, May 13, is observed as an Easter Weekday or the Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima.

## Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (58)

Response: (Organ/SATB) [or: Alleluia.]

Optional Descant

God mounts his throne; a blare of trum - pets for the Lord.

Am Dm Am Dm/A Am Bb A

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trum - pets for the Lord.

Verses: (Cantor or SATB)

Dm Am

1. All you peoples, clap your hands,  
For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome,

2. God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;  
Sing praise to God, sing praise;

3. For king of all the earth is God;  
God reigns over the nations,

G Am

1. Shout to God with cries of gladness.  
Is the great king over all the earth.

2. The LORD, amid trum - pet blasts.  
Sing praise to our king, sing praise.

3. Sing hymns of praise.  
God sits upon his ho - ly throne.

[11:00 AM]

# Ascension of the Lord / ABC

Marty Haugen

Psalm 47

♩ = 78-80

*Descant*



God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:

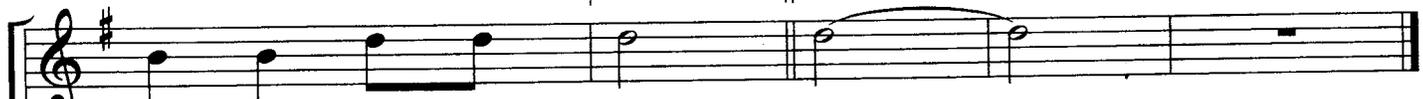
*Melody*



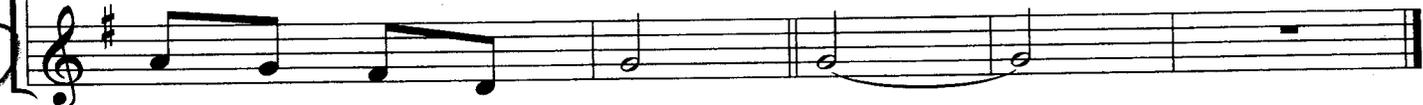
God mounts his throne to shouts of — joy: a blare of

*To Verses*

*Final Ending*



trum - pets for the Lord. Lord. \_\_\_\_\_



trum - pets for the Lord. Lord. \_\_\_\_\_

The English translation of the Psalm Response from the *Lectionary for Mass*  
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# THE EYES AND HANDS OF CHRIST

Tom Kendzia

Refrain

Where two or three are gath-ered in my name,  
 love will be found, life will a-bound.  
 By name we are called, from wa-ter we are sent:  
 to be-come the eyes and hands of Christ.

Verses 1, 2

1. One we be-come, no long-er strang-ers. No long-er  
 2. One in the Spir-it, one in the Lord. One in the  
 1. emp-ty or frail. Filled with the Spir-it, ev-'ry  
 2. break-ing of the bread. Life-giv-ing wit-ness of our  
 1. hun-ger sat-is-fied. Christ is the cen-ter of our lives.  
 2. dy-ing and new life. Held by the prom-ise in our hands.

Verse 3

3. Not what we are, but what we be-come. Not what we  
 3. say, but what we do. Liv-ing the chal-lenge as  
 3. bear-ers of light. We are the eyes and hands of Christ.

# JUBILATION MASS - J. Chepponis

## Holy, Holy, Holy

*Assembly f*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, - Ho - ly Lord God of  
hosts. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na, ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na in the high est.

*ff*  
*rit.*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the 'Holy, Holy, Holy' section. It consists of seven staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with the tempo and dynamic marking 'Assembly f'. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff has a time signature change to 2/4 and then back to 4/4. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff includes the instruction 'Bless - ed'. The fifth staff has a dynamic marking of 'ff'. The sixth staff has a 'rit.' marking. The seventh staff concludes the phrase with 'est.'.

## When We Eat This Bread

*Assembly f*

The mys - ter - y of faith. When we eat this Bread and  
drink - this Cup, we pro - claim your Death, O Lord, un -  
til you come a - gain, un - til you come a - gain.

*rit.*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the 'When We Eat This Bread' section. It consists of three staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with the tempo and dynamic marking 'Assembly f'. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff concludes the phrase with 'gain.' and includes a 'rit.' marking.

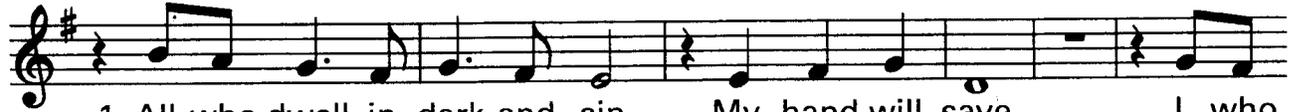
# HERE I AM, LORD

Dan Schutte

## Verses



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.  
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



1. All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save. I, who  
2. I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will  
3. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin-est



1. made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
2. break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.  
3. bread I will pro - vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



1. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
2. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
3. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

## Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.



I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.

Text: Based on Isaiah 6. Text and music © 1981, OCP. All rights reserved.

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD  
ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
MAY 16, 2021**

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

Presider:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And with your spirit.**

**Penitential Act**

**All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

**V.** Lord, have mercy.

**V.** Christ, have mercy.

**V.** Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

**Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## Collect

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,  
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,  
for the Ascension of Christ your Son  
is our exaltation,  
and, where the Head has gone before in glory,  
the Body is called to follow in hope.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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### First Reading

### ACTS 1:1-11

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In the first book, Theophilus,  
I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught  
until the day he was taken up,  
after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit  
to the apostles whom he had chosen.  
He presented himself alive to them  
by many proofs after he had suffered,  
appearing to them during forty days  
and speaking about the kingdom of God.  
While meeting with them,  
he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem,  
but to wait for “the promise of the Father  
about which you have heard me speak;  
for John baptized with water,  
but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him,  
“Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”  
He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons  
that the Father has established by his own authority.  
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,  
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,  
throughout Judea and Samaria,  
and to the ends of the earth.”

When he had said this, as they were looking on,  
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.  
While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going,  
suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them.  
They said, “Men of Galilee,

why are you standing there looking at the sky?  
This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven  
will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm: Sung.**

**Second Reading**

**EPHESIANS 1:17-23**

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Brothers and sisters:

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,  
give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation  
resulting in knowledge of him.

May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened,  
that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call,  
what are the riches of glory  
in his inheritance among the holy ones,  
and what is the surpassing greatness of his power  
for us who believe,  
in accord with the exercise of his great might,  
which he worked in Christ,  
raising him from the dead  
and seating him at his right hand in the heavens,  
far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion,  
and every name that is named  
not only in this age but also in the one to come.

And he put all things beneath his feet  
and gave him as head over all things to the church,  
which is his body,  
the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**-OR-**

**Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13**

Brothers and sisters,  
I, a prisoner for the Lord,  
urge you to live in a manner worthy of the calling  
you have received,  
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,  
bearing with one another through love,  
striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit  
through the bond of peace:

one body and one Spirit,  
as you were also called to the one hope of your calling;  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;  
one God and Father of all,  
who is over all and through all and in all.

But grace was given to each of us  
according to the measure of Christ's gift.

And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets,  
others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers,  
to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry,  
for building up the body of Christ,  
until we all attain to the unity of faith  
and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature to manhood,  
to the extent of the full stature of Christ.

**The Alleluia is sung.**

**Gospel**

**MARK 16:15-20**

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Jesus said to his disciples:  
"Go into the whole world  
and proclaim the gospel to every creature.  
Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved;  
whoever does not believe will be condemned.  
These signs will accompany those who believe:  
in my name they will drive out demons,  
they will speak new languages.  
They will pick up serpents with their hands,  
and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them.  
They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

So 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.

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Homily**

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
Through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

[at the words that follow, up to and including “and became man,” all bow.]

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection  
of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

## Prayers of the Faithful

### Priest:

Jesus, our glorious high priest, now sits at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. Therefore, we confidently raise our minds and hearts in prayer.

### Lector:

1. That Catholics and all Christians might surrender to the Lordship of Jesus in our lives and carry out our mission of being witnesses of God's love and goodness in our troubled world...

**We pray to the Lord...Lord, hear our prayer.**

2. That the world's leaders and the people they serve would work together to overcome the pandemic, especially in those places that lack the resources on their own...

**We pray to the Lord...Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For an end to the violence in Colombia, the Middle East and other areas of the world...

**We pray to the Lord...Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For the ongoing spiritual awakening of St. Dominic Parish: that signs of healing, reconciliation, compassion, generosity and sacrifice might accompany our faith...

**We pray to the Lord...Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For \_\_\_\_\_, whom we remember in a special way at this Mass...

5:00 P.M. Vigil Mass: Paulina Ordonez, for the eternal repose of her soul

7: 30 AM Mass: Juan & Antonina Gonzaga, for the eternal repose of their souls

9:00 AM Mass: For the people of St. Dominic's Parish

11:00 AM Mass: Josefina Carreon, Thanksgiving

1:00 PM Mass Marco Antonio Guardado, for his healing

5:00 PM Mass: Amelia Matias & family, Thanksgiving

**We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.**

6. For all the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts (PAUSE)...

**We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.**

7. We bow our heads and remember in silence our own personal intentions and the intentions of those who have asked for our prayers...

**We pray to the Lord...Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Priest:**

Father, on this day you exalted your beloved Son to your right hand. May our prayers also rise up before your throne and our requests be granted. We ask these things through your Son Jesus Christ, the risen and ascended Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

**THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Presider:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the

bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

**People: Blessed be God for ever.**

Presider:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

**People: Blessed be God for ever.**

Presider:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**People:**

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord,  
to honor the wondrous Ascension of your Son:  
grant, we pray,  
that through this most holy exchange  
we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms.  
Through Christ our Lord.. **Amen**

### **THE COMMUNION RITE**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil...**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not

on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

### **The Sign of Peace**

Presider: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: And with your spirit.**

Presider: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

### **The Lamb of God is sung.**

Presider:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**People:**

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

### **Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus,  
I believe that you are present  
in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment  
receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there  
and unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries,  
grant, we pray,  
that Christian hope may draw us onward

to where our nature is united with you.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Concluding Rites**

#### **Announcements**

Many of our old-time parishioners will remember Juvencio Segura who was very involved at St. Dominic's for many years. He recently passed away, and his services will be as follows:

- The Vigil service will take place a week from this Monday, May 24, at 7 p.m.
- The funeral will be a week from this Tuesday, May 25, at 11 a.m.

Both services will be here at St. Dominic's. Please keep Juvencio and the family in your prayers.

#### **Final Blessing and Dismissal**

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with your spirit.**

Presider: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Presider: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

#### **A Message from Fr. Roberto**

##### **The Virus of Racism**

*What follows is part of a homily given by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco this past Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. He speaks about how racism and the recent racial violence in the United States is a virus against which we must inoculate ourselves by living lives of generosity, selflessness, trust and trustworthiness, humility, courage, conviction, forgiveness and mercy.*

\*\*\*\*\*

“[The] alarming rise in racial violence, even here in San Francisco, justifies the words of Pope Francis on this topic from last month. In a tweet on March 21—the day the United Nations observes as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination—the Holy Father compared racism to a ‘virus’ that does not go away, but changes and adapts. He said: ‘Racism is a virus that quickly mutates and, instead of disappearing, goes into hiding, and lurks in waiting. Instances of racism continue to shame us, for they show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think.’ We are not as accomplished as we thought when it comes to welcome, inclusion and living in peace



[http://web.gencat.cat/web/.content/Imatge/noticies/2020/20200623\\_diversitats.png](http://web.gencat.cat/web/.content/Imatge/noticies/2020/20200623_diversitats.png)

among a diverse population. What, then, are we to do?

“We are finally getting some very welcome relief from the virus that causes Covid-19. The plan for the rollout of the vaccines is working; people are being inoculated. But inoculation doesn’t kill the virus; rather, it prevents one from being harmed if exposed to the virus. And we still have more to learn about these vaccines, and we are learning more all the time: their effectiveness against variants, how long the inoculation will last and whether or not a booster shot will be needed later, whether one who has been inoculated can still spread the virus to others or not.

“The virus of racism is a lot like that: it never goes away, but there are ways to inoculate oneself against it, even if one has to remain vigilant always to protect oneself from being infected. But what is our inoculation against racism? We need look no further than the Acts of the Apostles to get a good start in answering that question. In the first reading for Divine Mercy Sunday, Acts 4:32-35, through its description of the life of the first Christian community, we hear: ‘The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.... There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale...and they were distributed to each according to need.’

“We see here the qualities that make such a peaceful and harmonious common life possible: Each one looked out first and foremost for the good of the other, not what they were going to get out of it. Everyone shared generously, indeed, everything they had in order to contribute to the common good of the community. And the apostles were entrusted with the distribution of these goods, because they were worthy of the trust of the community members—as were the members themselves, in sharing generously of all they had. Everyone put the good of the other first, and that requires a lot of humility.

“Compare this to the apostles before they were visited by the risen Christ. What controlled their attitude and behavior? Fear and doubt. The Gospel passage we heard proclaimed in our prayer service, John 20:19-31, is the one from which St. Thomas comes to be dubbed ‘the doubting Thomas.’ But it is clear from the various Gospel accounts of the post-resurrection appearances of our Lord that all of the disciples doubted at first. It was that encounter with the living, risen Christ that transformed them into messengers of...what? Notice the mission that our Lord sends them on: ‘Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them.’ It is a mission of forgiveness, a mission of mercy. Fear and doubt are transformed into courage and conviction, to spread God’s mercy throughout the world. Fear and doubt result in violence; courage and conviction on behalf of mercy result in the qualities necessary for a diverse community to live in unity and peace.

“To put it briefly, then, the inoculation against racism can be summed up in one word: virtue. These virtues are very clearly delineated in the readings from the Word of God that are prescribed for this Sunday that the Catholic Church names ‘Divine Mercy Sunday’: generosity, selflessness, trust and trustworthiness, humility, courage, conviction, forgiveness and, of course, mercy itself.”