



## God Cares for Us Personally



Not long before he died, the physicist Stephen Hawking said he believed in some kind of creative force in the universe. It was not a belief in God as we know Him, but an acknowledgement that creation could possibly be more than a random accident. Hawking's comments were welcomed by many believers. While I'm impressed he had the humility to recognize that science hasn't quantified everything, I believe he was hedging his bets more than confessing a faith.

Nevertheless, Hawking's statement challenges religion to deepen its notion of God's nature. As recently as the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Nicolaus Copernicus toppled the assumption that our earth was the center of the universe. People in medieval times

believed the sun, stars and planets were as near as what we know today as the upper reaches of earth's atmosphere. If they imagined anything beyond, it was just formless chaos. Before modern times, the universe over which God presided was thought to be a much smaller place.

In a surprisingly short period of time, we've now come to understand the universe as limitless. We now know that our earth is a tiny planet circling a minor star on the outskirts of massive galaxy containing billions of other stars. What's more, our galaxy is only one among billions of galaxies. In short, we're pretty insignificant.

This insignificance is what kept Stephen Hawking and many other caring scientists from accepting traditional religious concepts of God. Why would God care for *us*? By analogy, it would be like me taking a particular interest in one electron buzzing around the nucleus of a single atom in my body. If I could even imagine such an entity, it is so insignificant I wouldn't even care to notice. Yet it is our belief that God is so imminent that He not only takes notice of us personally, but even these minute particles of matter and energy and indeed, the entire universe.

For many people, their crisis of faith isn't in the belief that there is a God, but that He takes personal interest in us — insignificant as we are. It's a major leap of faith from the notion of an uncaused cause or prime mover into the arms of a Jesus who calls that notion *Abba* ('Daddy')! But when we do, our universe becomes a warm, caring place, rather than a cold series of causes and effects.

On this feast of Ascension, we celebrate a God who can at once hold an entire universe in its being and at the same time care that we might feel lonely or depressed. We celebrate a God who, while attending to quantum mechanics, also entered human history and changed its course. The *Alleluia!* we exclaim reverberates far beyond the church rafters or the Dominican Garden. It is an embrace of a God who is both intimate and all-encompassing.

*"Together we share our  
Faith in Jesus Christ.*

*"We live the Gospel,  
and we care for others."*

### MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:30 pm—Vigil Mass  
Sunday 9:00 am—Livestream Mass  
Sunday 11:00 am—Dominican Garden

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Phone: 510-526-4811 (closed from 12:00-1:00 pm)

### WEBSITE

[marymagdalen.org](http://marymagdalen.org)



### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 pm  
(and by appointment)

## Parish & School Staff

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# The Kids' Bulletin

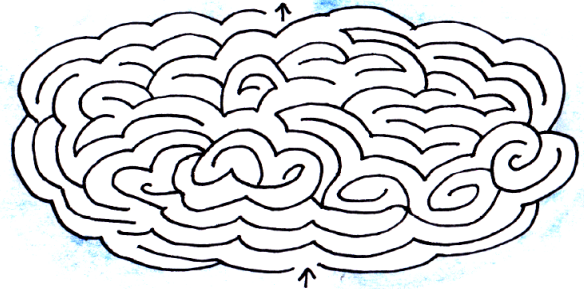
Forty days after  
 Jesus rose from the  
 dead he went up a  
 hill with His  
 followers and  
 disappeared through  
 the clouds and went  
 up into Heaven.



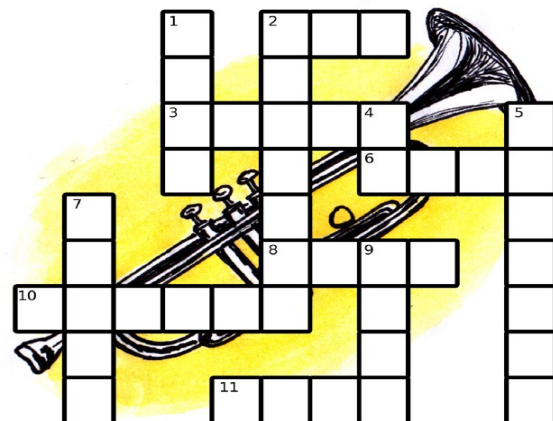
Jesus had promised  
 to send a Comforter  
 to them after  
 He left them.

Can you find your  
 way through the  
 cloud maze?

thekidsbulletin.com



## Psalm 47 Cross-Word



Unscramble the words in CAPITAL letters.  
 Then you can fit them into the puzzle.  
 (A means across and D means down.)

LAL (2A) you peoples, clap your hands,  
 shout to God with cries of gladness,  
 For the Lord, the SOMT (8A) HHGI (1D),  
 the EMOSAEW (2D),  
 is the TREAG (3A) king  
 VROE (6A) all the HTREA (7D).

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;  
 the Lord, amid UMPRET (5D) blasts.  
 GISN (9D) praise OT (4D) God, sing praise;  
 Sing SIEARP (10A) to our INKG (11A), sing praise.

# May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 ~ Feast of the Ascension, Year B

Collection for the Week Ending May 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2021			
Sunday	Actual	Budget	Difference
05/09/2021	\$8,106.00	\$8,471.00	-\$365.00
Year-to-Date	\$158,446.81	\$171,478.00	-\$13,031.19
<i>Your stewardship is a gift to you and the parish.</i>			

## Scripture Readings for the Week

- 16<sup>th</sup> *FEAST OF THE ASCENSION*  
Acts 1:1-11 / Ephesians 1:17-23 / Mark 16:15-20
- 17<sup>th</sup> *Easter Weekday*  
Acts 19:1-8 / John 16:29-33
- 18<sup>th</sup> *Easter Weekday [St. John I, Pope and Martyr]*  
Acts 20:17-27 / John 17:1-11
- 19<sup>th</sup> *Easter Weekday*  
Acts 20:28-38 / John 17:12-19
- 20<sup>th</sup> *Easter Weekday [St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest]*  
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 / John 17:20-26
- 21<sup>st</sup> *Easter Weekday [St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs]*  
Acts 25:13-21 / John 21:15-19
- 22<sup>nd</sup> *Easter Weekday [St. Rita of Cascia, Religious]*  
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 / John 21:20-25

## Peace & Justice Notes

*Welcome the stranger.* Earlier this month, the Biden Administration increased the number of refugees that the United States will accept to 62,500 for fiscal year 2021 (although actual admissions will fall short of that cap), and set a goal of 125,000 admissions for the following year. Pressure on President Biden caused him to increase refugee admissions, demonstrating that asylum seekers need continued advocacy. In 2020, 79 million people had to flee their homes and a total of 26 million are now global refugees.

From 2010 to 2019, the following nations received the most refugees: *Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Liberia, and Uganda.* Let's welcome the stranger here, too!

*"Meet one another doing good." - Pope Francis.*

Please consider making a donation or sponsoring a child, youth or elder through **Unbound**. Sponsorships offer a hand up—not a handout—to a family working to lift themselves out of poverty. Several of our parishioners have sponsored children through this program. You may select a child, youth, or elder to sponsor at this link: [tinyurl.com/unboundpike](https://tinyurl.com/unboundpike).



## Mass Intentions

Saturday	5:30	Intentions of Julian Curtis
Sunday	9:00	For the People of the Parish
	11:00	Dolores Opet RIP
Monday	8:30	Dolores Opet RIP
	5:30	Taka Aso RIP
Tuesday	8:30	Thelma O'Brien RIP
	5:30	Rami Geller RIP
Wednesday	8:30	Marcos Otilia Guillen RIP
	5:30	Roberta Quan RIP
Thursday	8:30	Richard Day RIP
	5:30	Taka Aso RIP
Friday	8:30	Camille Howard RIP
	5:30	Intentions of Florence Wahl
Saturday	8:30	Intentions of Kevin Johnson

The Madeleine CROP Walk was very successful! All classes, K-8, participated, and Principal Nagel helped to energize the walkers with a cowbell! Last chance to donate: [tinyurl.com/smmcrop](https://tinyurl.com/smmcrop).

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