

May 23rd - Pentecost Sunday



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, May 22

9:00am *St. John Parishioners*

Sunday, May 23

8:00am *St. John Parish*
10:00am † *Daniel Shea Jr.*
12:00pm

Monday, May 24

9:00am *Grayson & Kayla Redublado (baby)*

Tuesday, May 25

9:00am

Wednesday, May 26

9:00am † *Benito Pedro*

Thursday, May 27

9:00am † *Winnie M. Fernandez*

Friday, May 28

9:00am

Saturday, May 29

9:00am † *Bernard Tyson*

SECOND COLLECTION

Today's second collection is for **Catholic Communications**

The annual national appeal supports efforts in the United States and around the world to use the media, internet, and print publications to help people connect with Christ and His Church, both local and Universal.

Half of the funds collected in our archdiocese will be used to support local communications efforts. The other half will be forwarded to support national projects in the United States and in developing countries around the world.

Come, Holy Spirit



From the Desk of the Pastor

Pentecost celebrates the fiftieth day of Easter – a time of fullness and grace.

After our Lenten journey of grace, we celebrated the Easter Triduum and for fifty days revelled in the mystery of Christ's saving death and resurrection. Today, we celebrate God's enduring presence through the promised Advocate, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gathers us together to give God thanks and praise for the marvels of salvation.

On that first Pentecost vigil, Jesus' followers gathered in the upper room, while people of all nations waited outside. The disciples murmured a prayer of hope, "Lord, send us your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth." The Acts of the Apostles, records, that "a strong driving wind ... filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:2-4). The Gospel shows the disciples as weak human beings, huddled in their room, and afraid. Into this pitiful mass of earthlings Jesus breathes divine life, saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22).

God's creative Spirit came to bring about something new, to re-create the world beginning in the upper room, with fire and wind, breath and water filling the frightened apostles (human lumps of clay) with the Holy Spirit of God.

Just like Adam and Eve, they become living beings, re-created in the divine image of God himself. In First Corinthians we learn that through water the same divine life has been instilled in us: "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body ... and we were all given to drink of one Spirit" 1 Cor 12:13).

The story of the Pentecost is the story of the Fire of the Holy Spirit, burning in human hearts, which melts and moulds people together in peace and harmony, to dispel the fears, suspicion, misunderstanding, confusion and doubt and anxiety. With the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost, the new born Church took its first breath and came to life.

Through the prayer of the Church, the Holy Spirit comes to us even as we are gathered in prayer today in our church.

The Spirit of God brings Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Holiness and Awe and Wonder of God.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunday masses are celebrated at 8am & 10am in English and 12noon en espanol

The church is open for personal prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays from 8:00am to 1:00pm. The Parish thanks the Knights of Columbus, Council 615 and our liturgical ministers who generously offer their time, talent and treasure in faithful stewardship every weekend, keeping watch in the church and taking care of the church

Come, Holy Spirit! Today we celebrate Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the first disciples and on all who are baptized. We also commemorate the birth of the Church. Before Pentecost, the disciples remained hidden and uncertain; at Pentecost, those who were gathered were filled with the Spirit and proclaimed the wonders of the Good News of Christ to all. The Spirit guides us to the truth of Christ's love and mercy and strengthens us to live as disciples. Without the Holy Spirit, we would perish; with the Spirit, we have life to the full. Relying on the Spirit, we are given the grace to turn away from the many temptations that we face each day and prefer instead what is good and holy. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

The season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. The account in today's Gospel, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world.

In the context of the feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' act of breathing the Holy Spirit upon the apostles mirrors God's act of breathing life into Adam. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for "spirit" can also be translated as "breath." This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiveness of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.