

MAY 23, 2021

Saint John *the* Baptist CATHOLIC CHURCH

502 NORTH MONROE
CLINTON, ILLINOIS 61727

Pastor

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Parish Staff

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Parish Secretary.....Debbie Askins
Bulletin Secretary Kathie Summers
Parish TrusteesFrancis Jackson
Becky Wisher
PPC PresidentBill Spencer



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced new masking guidelines that carry welcome words: *Fully vaccinated Americans, for the most part, no longer need to wear masks indoors.* Some business owners may follow CDC guidelines, but others may be more reluctant to lift their own rules on masking.

The above is good news, however, the Diocese of Peoria has **not** issued specific changes in the guidelines we have been following for over a year. Until we are notified officially by the Diocese we will continue to follow the protocols that have been established. This means that every other pew will continue to be roped off. No holy water as you enter church. No sign of peace at mass. Hand sanitizer to be used as each person enters church. No Communion from the Cup for the congregation. **Wearing of masks encouraged.** **Wearing of masks by Eucharistic Ministers required.** Bulletins will continue to be available on the tables at the church doors and each person is asked to pick up their own copy of the church bulletin.



And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it 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 one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-2

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Monday, May 24th

**8:00 am For the People of
St. John the Baptist and Sacred Heart
Parishes and Their Benefactors**

Tuesday, May 25th

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Wednesday, May 26th

8:00 am ++ John and Mary Roszkowski

Thursday, May 27th

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC

Saturday, May 29th, The Most Holy Trinity

4:00 pm + Grace Hurley

Sunday, May 30th, The Most Holy Trinity

8:30 am + Adam Schlesinger

10:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart FC



Carol "Jean" Fehrenbach
July 21, 1944 - May 13, 2021

Jean Fehrenbach was a long time member of St. John's Church. She and her husband, Gene, made the difficult decision to move closer to family members in July of 2014. May she rest in God's loving peace.

Collection Counters this week are
Mike Rakers and Donna Hall.
Thank you for serving in this way.



**Saturday, May 15th 4:00pm
and
Sunday, May 16th 8:30am**

Sunday Envelopes	\$2,070.00
Loose	\$404.50
Total Collection	\$2,474.50

Ascension Collection	\$729.00
Outreach Donations	\$200.00

Catholic Men's Group Meeting

The CMG will be meeting on Wednesday, May 26th at 6:30pm in the Parish Office. All men of the parish are encouraged to attend. We will be discussing future plans for the group and future events. We need your ideas!



Coming to a corner near you (*Monroe and Macon*) a new Parish Sign. This sign will give us the opportunity to advertise more efficiently the many activities of the Parish as well as being a visual means to proclaim to our neighbors our faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you to very generous benefactors who are making this project possible.



Memorial Day Mass

Memorial Day is Monday, May 31st. We will gather at Saint Joseph Cemetery (1 mile south of Clinton Hwy on Greenleaf Rd) at 9:00am for our annual Memorial Day Mass. Please join us for this special Mass to honor those who gave their lives in defense of our nation. This Mass is special because we are surrounded by members of Sacred Heart faith community who have preceded us to the Father. We pray for a dry and sunny day. Please bring your own chair to make set up simple. All are welcome.

Birthright Annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Reminder—Baby Bottles are due next week. Please return your bottles, with donation or empty, next weekend. Thank you to those who have already made a donation. We are so grateful for your generous response.

Prayers for Those in Nursing Homes

Millie Frese, Sue Thompson

Prayers for the Sick

Kay Bailey, Connie Brown, Evan Calvert, Susan Cooper, Phyllis Fehr, Cornelia Harpenau, Roy Harrold, Bev Hartsock, Mary Hirsch, Patty Lecomte, Steve Lighthall, Mike Mannix, Tina Mannix, Jon Menter, Joni Mollet, Melissa Nagy, Bill Sargent, Sharon Stephenson, Angie Walden, Cale Wayne, Rita Williams, Brett Willits, Florence Workman, Charles M. Yeagle, Veronica Zeitler.

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The driving wind and the split **flames of fire**—these are two classic signs of the presence of God from the Old Testament. But after the Incarnation their meaning has been transformed. In John 3:8, Christ Himself had made an intriguing analogy between the Holy Spirit and the wind: “The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”



Why did the Third Person of the Trinity appear as **tongues of fire** upon the heads of the Apostles? What is it about this material element, or rather, its manifestation as light and heat, which makes it so spiritual that indeed, although invisible itself, all material things must be seen by means of it and, although unfelt itself, makes all things warm that are touched by it. Fire, by its nature, is material, but it is the closest of all material things to immaterial realities.

The word “fire” in holy scripture is used analogously and really, spiritually and physically. When Jesus said, “I am come to cast fire on the earth; and what will I, but that it be kindled? (Luke 12:49), He was, of course, speaking analogously of spiritual fire. As was His Precursor, John the Baptist, when he told the penitents who had come to his baptism: “I indeed baptize you in the water unto penance, but he that shall come after me, is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; he shall baptize you in the Holy Ghost and fire” (Matt. 3:11).

The Holy Ghost, Author of Grace, used tongues of fire as a symbol of His transforming presence when He filled the hearts of the Twelve Apostles with the fire of the virtue and power of His seven Gifts. The seven Gifts are not habits in the soul, as are the three theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity, but they are given, infused, to *prompt* the receiver to holy action. They are like a spark; hence they ignite, like a spark, like a flame, like tongues of fire. “I am come to cast fire on the earth.”



Pope Francis decided in 2018 that a new Memorial of **Mary, Mother of the Church** should be universally celebrated. The new memorial has a moveable date, since it is part of the Easter cycle, and is fixed to the Monday after Pentecost. Pope St. Paul VI officially bestowed upon Mary the title of “Mother of the Church” at the closing of the third of the Second Vatican Council in

1964. Traced back to fourth-century origins with St. Ambrose, the title “Mother of the Church” evokes Mary’s spiritual motherhood, which is tied up with the nature of the Church.

Since Mary is the mother of Christ, we who are the members of his body – the Church – are her sons and daughters. The new annual celebration of a memorial recalling her motherhood of the Church is occasion to meditate on this significant reality of the Church’s identity and the implications that flow from it.



Pentecost Sunday, considered one of the greatest feasts in the Christian liturgical calendar, comes fifty days after Easter Sunday and ten days after the Ascension of our Lord.

The Day of Pentecost marked a turning point in the early Christian church. Pentecost, a Jewish feast, was celebrated fifty days after Passover, and pilgrims had come to Jerusalem from all over the world to celebrate the event. We all know the familiar story of what occurred on that Sunday. The Apostles and the Blessed Mother were gathered in the Upper Room, the same room where they had seen Christ after His resurrection and the same room where they celebrated the Last Supper.

Both the Jews and the Christians now celebrate Pentecost. Along with the Feast of the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles, Pentecost was one of the major feasts of the Jews. During these three great Jewish festivals, every male Jew living within twenty miles of Jerusalem was legally bound to go to Jerusalem to participate in the feast. The word Pentecost is Greek for *pentecostes* which means “fiftieth.” The feast received this name because it was celebrated fifty days after the Feast of the Passover. Another name for the Jewish Pentecost is *Shebuot* or “The Feast of Weeks” (the “week” of seven Sabbaths between Passover and Pentecost). It was originally a day of thanksgiving for the completion of the harvest. During Passover, the first *omer* (a Hebrew measure of about a bushel), of barley was offered to God. At Pentecost, two loaves of bread were offered in gratitude for the harvest. Later, the Jews added to the Feast of Pentecost the element of Yahweh’s Covenant with Noah, which took place fifty days after the great deluge. Still later, they made this feast an occasion to thank God for His Sinaitic Covenant with Moses, which occurred fifty days after the beginning of the Exodus from Egypt.

Christ had promised His Apostles that He would send His Holy Spirit, and on Pentecost they were granted this gift. The Apostles went out and began to preach the Gospel in all the languages that the Jews who were gathered there spoke and many were converted and baptized that day. **From an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the Church was born.** This is also true from a spiritual perspective since the Spirit brings the Church into existence and enlivens it.

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Catholic Men's Group

Join us in building Church through fund-raising activities and fun outings. Membership is open to all men of our area 18 years and older. See inside bulletin for meeting times and dates.



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