May 23, 2021

CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

2119 Stillwater Ave E St. Paul, MN 55119 651-738-0677 church@blessedsacramentsp.org

Mass Times: Saturday Anticipatory: 4 pm Sunday: 8:30 am & 11 :00 am Daily, T-F 8:30am

Pentecost – A new beginning

Walking through the fifty days of Easter joy, today Pentecost marks the end and the goal of the Easter season. For the last nine days, we have been enthusiastically preparing for this Feast by praying the novena. Now, here we are to celebrate the great feast of Pentecost. For Christians, Pentecost is a memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues, an event that took place fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus. The feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Church by the apostolic preaching of St. Peter, which resulted in the conversion of 3,000 to the Christian faith. Pentecost is, thus, the official birthday of the Church. Let us wish our mother Church, happy birthday!

Today's Scripture readings remind us that Pentecost is an event of both the past and the present. The main theme of today's readings is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is something to be shared with others. In other words, the readings remind us that the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit move its recipients to action and inspires us to share them with others. Our joy is doubled on this solemnity of Pentecost as three of our young people receive the sacrament of Confirmation and become fully pledged members of the Catholic church. They have been in serious preparation for this great event for the entire last year under the leadership of Connie Hill, our Director of Faith Formation. I take this opportunity to compliment our young people who are being confirmed and thank their parents, sponsors and Connie in a special way. We hope and pray that these young people would continue to learn and grow deeper in their love for Jesus and His Church.

As the Feast of Pentecost marks the inauguration of the Church, we too, begin a new season with much more enthusiasm and commitment to our own vocation in life. The Lord hasn't abandoned us. Jesus, who promised to His disciples, the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, still sends out His Spirit to us. The Church that was inaugurated on the day of Pentecost is in our hands today. We are the Church and it needs to go forward and grow. Let us join our hands and hearts and work together. St. Paul through his letter to the Romans reminds us again that 'those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For we didn't receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but a spirit of adoption, through whom we cry , "**Abba Father**."

It is indeed a season of grace and blessings for our parish community. As we are preparing to celebrate the Patronal Feast of our awesome parish, **Solemnity of the Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ,** the whole community gathers to rejoice in the Spirit and share that joy and blessings with the other members of this community and our sisters and brothers around us. I earnestly encourage you all to prepare prayerfully for this celebration and participate in the liturgies actively, especially for the Eucharistic Procession. Surely, it will be a moment of great blessings and grace to every member of this family and those who live in this neighborhood. The call to become intentional disciples of Christ is still out there. Let us keep the doors of our church and our hearts open for everyone who wishes to enter and experience the presence of God. Along with the psalmist, let us continue to pray; '**Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth**.'

Fr. Benny Mekkatt, CFIC.

MAY is for MARY

In addition to all the many feasts and titles given to our Blessed Mother Mary, the entire month of May is given to her praise. In many cultures around world, the young and old alike adorn indoor and outdoor statues or images of Mary with flowers throughout the month of May. It doesn't have to be an expensive bouquet, a single flower will do. This tradition of bringing flowers to our Lady is to show our love and thanksgiving for Her many intercessions to bring us closer to her Son. There is also a special event known as "the crowning of Mary" that takes place anytime during May in the church as well as in the home.

This year you will find vases located at the foot of Our Lady of Fatima in the sanctuary for your flowers.

Please bring a flower or two along with your intentions and in thanksgiving to honor our Heavenly Mother and our earthly mothers. Cita Regan

You are invited to attend the

Poland & Prague Pilgrimage including the Passion Play of Oberammergau

11 day Pilgrimage: May 25-June 4, 2022

Hosted by Fr. Benny and Fr. Antony

Visiting: Warsaw, Czestochowa, Auschwitz, Krakow, Prague and Munich

For more information grab a flier from the desk in the Gathering Space.

From the Business Administrator

Save the Date!

If the weather cooperates, we will be doing the concrete work outside of the entrance to church on **June 1 – 3**. Eberhard Construction Company will be performing the work for us. We are replacing much of the concrete outside of the main entrance, and we will be replacing the sidewalk leading out to the large parking lot. All handicapped parking space signs and support poles will also be replaced. As a reminder, City law requires you to have a handicapped tag inside of your car to legally park in one of these designated parking spaces. Watch for special directions on using the exterior entrance along Stillwater Ave. while this project is underway. We will be temporarily closing the Adoration Chapel during this project since it will be very difficult to access the building while the old concrete is removed and the new concrete cures. We apologize ahead of time for this small inconvenience, but it allows us to help keep our facilities in the highest standards for safety. ***We welcome any contribution you wish to earmark for this grounds' project.*** Expect blessings.

When will COVID restrictions loosen up here?

We are closely monitoring the lifting of any restrictions concerning the protection of our parishioners during this pandemic and are awaiting instruction from the archdiocese. Rest assured we are anxious to open up even more than what we are currently practicing. While we have been able to resume offering the holy sacrifice of the Mass for almost a year now, our attendance is increasing but is still not equal to our pre-pandemic numbers. We look forward to seeing you all in church again.

Anyone notice the new votive candle globes?

We have re-introduced some red candle globes in our votive candle stands to go along with the blue and clear globes we've had for quite some time. Lighting a candle for a loved one is a wonderful way to express your intentions of prayer. The votive candle area is on the northwest corner of the church next to the confessional room. The suggested donation is only $3 per candle to defray expenses.

Social Concerns for the month of May

Our Social Concerns focus for the month of May is the Options for Women East Center. The Options for Women Center provides services and resources to women who are unexpectedly pregnant at no-cost.

Typically we do our annual Baby Shower, asking for baby items, clothing and collect for a diaper drive. Due to COVID restrictions we are asking for monetary donations this year. Please make a donation any time during the month of May and just mark it "Options" and put it in any weekend collection basket.

STAFF DIRECTORY

PARISH ADMINISTRATION **651-738-0677**

Rev. Benny Mekkatt, Pastor ..... ext. 11

John Florin, Business Administrator ..... ext. 10

Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ..... ext. 12

Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636

PASTORAL MINISTRY **651-738-0677**

Carol McKenna, ...ext. 15

FAITH FORMATION & SAFE ENVIRONMENT 651-738-0677

Connie Hill, Director..... ext. 14

MUSIC

Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865

PRAYER LINE

Please call Carol McKenna.....612-594-1290

CHURCH EMAIL: Church@blessedsacramentsp.org

PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.

RECONCILIATION– Saturday 3:00-3:45pm or by appointment on other days

MATRIMONY- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK - Please call the parish office if you or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Also, if you are homebound and wish to receive the Eucharist or a friendly visit, please call the parish office.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

PRAY

- Blessed Sacrament Adoration, M-W-F 1-11pm & TH 6am-noon
- The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.

MASS READINGS

Sunday, May 23
Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23
8:30am Parish Mass
11am ✝ Gal Casquejo

Monday, May 24
The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday, May 25
Weekday/St Bede the Venerable, Preist & Doctor of the Church, St Gregory VII, Pope, St Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, Virgin
Sir 35:1-12/Mk 10:28-31
✝ Edmund & Margaret Gergen

Wednesday, May 26
Saint Phillip Neri, Priest
Sir 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17/Mk 10:32-45
✝ Michaela Joy Saunders

Thursday, May 27
Weekday/ Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
Sir 42:15-25/Mk 10:46-52
✝ Michael P. Casello, Sr.

Friday, May 28
Weekday
Sir 44:1, 9-13/Mk 11:11-26
✝ Heni & Loretta Miller

Saturday, May 29
Weekday /Saint Paul VI, Pope; BVM
Sir 51:12cd-20/Mk 11:27-33(Morning Readings)
4pm ✝ Steve Hoffman

Sunday, May 30
The Most Holy Trinity
Dt 4:32-34, 39-40/Rom 8:14-17/Mt 28:16-20
8:30am ✝ Mary Jo Anastasi
11am Parish Mass

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK
May 23 –May 31

Wed, May 26:	9:15 am CGS
	11:00am Victoria Jack Funeral
Sat, May 29:	Race Baptism
Mon, May 31:	Memorial Day
	Parish Offices Closed

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure
May 14/15, 2021

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	$ 2,270.00
Options for Women:	$ 699.00
Other:	$ 360.00
Additional Operating:	$ 100.00
Total :	**$ 3,429.00**

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP -
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

You Don't Have What It Takes — but You Will

Those of us in ministry love this saying: God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called.

We all know that sort of queasy feeling we get in the pit of our stomachs when it becomes clear what we're supposed to do, in any situation. It's that feeling of: *Oh, no. Not me. Not now. I can't.*

We've all got our list of reasons why not, don't we? We do it for everything, from big life problems to small everyday choices. I'm not going to invite my neighbor to church because I don't want to come across as pushy. I'm not going to make amends with my cousin because she'll just walk all over me again. I'm not going to say a Rosary tonight because I'm tired and it'll just stress me out.

However, even if we all put our lists of "reasons why we can't" together, I don't think any of us have reasons quite as valid as the apostles. Their job was to convert the nations — and here they are, a bunch of fishermen who haven't been out of Judea, who speak only their own languages. Were they supposed to preach the Gospel via a particularly compelling game of charades?

But even that big, giant, stop-you-dead-in-your tracks Reason Why We Can't was nothing, because God had a plan. He didn't call a bunch of equipped men. He called them, and He equipped them. Cue the tongues of fire!

God doesn't call us to do His will because we have what it takes. He calls us because He's ready to give us what it takes. Being a good steward is to answer the call of Christ knowing He will provide

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
FAITH FORMATION

Celebrate Confirmation and Pentecost

Three of our high school students will be confirmed at 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday, May 22. After Mass, meet outside to congratulate the newly-confirmed and enjoy a hot dog meal with chips and birthday cupcake! **Bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket.** Thank you to the Women's Club for sponsoring and coordinating the picnic. Call the office to learn more about how the Women's Club is getting active again!

Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church as Peter becomes our first Pope; he converts thousands; and believers are unified in language, zeal, and purpose to preach the Gospel. **WEAR RED that day for the Holy Spirit!**

Please call the office to RSVP if you'd like a meal after Mass. The picnic is contingent upon weather and current COVID guidelines. With any questions about protocol or event details, contact Connie Hill.

Summer Incentive

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

K-12 students, want to visit the Minnesota State Fair for free? Go to Mass! Faith Formation is sponsoring an incentive program this summer. Attend Mass every Sunday (or Saturday anticipatory) from June 6 through August 22 and receive an admission ticket to the State Fair. Contact Connie Hill to register and learn the details.

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