



Pentecost Sunday

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

MAY 23, 2021

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FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN



Pentecost: the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

On this Pentecost Sunday the Church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit, perhaps the least understood person of the Holy Trinity. The importance of this day on the Church's calendar is reflected in the fact that the feast has two sets of readings and prayers, with multiple options, for a Vigil on Saturday and for the day itself Sunday—similar to Christmas and Easter. While we do not use all the readings, we find in them a wealth of information about the Holy Spirit.

The first reading for the Vigil, Genesis 11:1-9, is the story about the tower of Babel, a story of human pride, of people wanting to build a city and a tower with its top in the sky, “and so make a name for ourselves.” As punishment, God scatters the people and confuses their language (thus, so many languages in the world). In the first reading for the Day itself, Acts 2:1-11, we find the creation of a new community that embraces the world. When the Apostles go out to preach in Jerusalem, they find “devout Jews from every nation under heaven,” and yet every person is able to understand. Thus, the human race is re-created through the action of the Holy Spirit, and true community is possible once again.

At the beginning of the reading from Acts, the disciples were “in one place together.” The descent of the Holy Spirit upon them is described in dynamic terms. “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 and began to speak in different tongues as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” Thus, the Holy Spirit is the powerful engine, a dynamic force that sends Christians out into the world to proclaim the Good News.

In the Gospel reading for Pentecost Day, John 20:19-23, we are brought back to Easter, the start of this entire Easter Season that concludes today on Pentecost. The disciples are behind locked doors, living with the fear and the pain of the crucifixion. The risen Jesus appears to them and says, “Peace be with you.” As background for understanding this passage, it should be noted that in Hebrew the same word is used for both spirit and breath. The reading continues, “He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.’” Thus, the newly formed community will have the power to forgive sins, as Jesus did, thus enabling people to be freed of their past and to focus on the needs of others. Through the power of the Spirit, the Church represents a new beginning: a human community re-created in God's image.

In the second reading for Pentecost Day, from Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, the Apostle reflects on the importance of the Spirit, as the unifier and giver of gifts within the community. “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone....As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether, Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.”

Finally, in the second reading for the Vigil, Romans 8:22-27, Paul teaches about the on-going presence of the Holy Spirit: “The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.” At the beginning of the passage Paul notes that God's re-creation is not yet complete, and it includes, not just us human beings, but the entire cosmos. “We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance.” Thus, when pain and suffering come our way, it is the Holy Spirit that gives us the strength to live in hope. The Resurrection of Jesus has changed everything; the victory over sin and death has been won. Both as individuals and as a community, we have been baptized into our Lord's dying and rising—a process that goes on and enables us to persevere. Such is the powerful, loving presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and in the community of the Church.



MEMORIAL DAY CEMETERY MASSES

are scheduled for Monday, **May 31**

9:00A *Mater Dolorosa Cemetery, Greenfield*

10:30A *Saint Anne/Saint Mary, Turners Falls*

In the event of inclement weather, there will be one Mass, offered in the church.

Remember to bring a lawn chair!

Please note: there will be no 8:00A Mass on Memorial Day.



Saturday, May 22-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Louise Kervian*

by Joyce & Tina Phillips

Sunday, May 23-Feast of Pentecost

8:00A *Ray & Carolyn Caouette*

by the Wells family

10:00A *Agnes Dobosz*

by Jean Sulda

Saturday, May 29-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Carol Demers* 3rd anniversary

by Fran & children

Sunday, May 30

8:00A *Deceased members of the Prunier family*

by Paul Prunier

10:00A *Lorraine Boguslawski*

by Mary Routhier

DAILY MASS

Monday, May 24

8:00A *Gerry & Wanda Danilewicz*

by their family

Tuesday, May 25

8:00A *Grace & blessings for Connie Galvis*

by Charlotte

Wednesday, May 26

8:00A *For the holy souls in purgatory*

by Dennis & Cyndee Grader

Thursday, May 27

8:00A *George Riendeau*

by his children

Friday, May 28

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

Our Lady's Window

May 19

Lillianna Benitez

by her family

May 24

Lorraine Boguslawski

by her family

May 27

Margaret Geraghty

by the Community Meals Group

May 28

Charles Waryasz, Jr.

by JoAnn Waryasz

WOMEN'S GROUP will meet on Tuesday, **June 8** at 6:00P. Also, please send in your 2020-2021 dues of \$10.00 by placing it in an envelope labeled OLP Women's Group in the collection basket

WEEKLY COLLECTION

May 16

Regular collection & mail

\$3,251.00

On-line

\$1,014.00

THANK YOU!



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
SPRING 2021

When:

Tuesday Evenings

May 25 through June 29 5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

Where:

Our Lady of Peace Parish Hall

This 6-week support group is for people who have experienced the death of a loved one at least three months ago. The purpose of the group is to offer support through education and sharing of feelings associated with the grieving process. Participants will explore their reactions to loss, learn about strategies to enhance coping, and share with each other the life of their loved one.

This group is free of charge. Membership is limited to **10** participants.

Registration is required. Please call Sarah Hathaway, Bereavement Coordinator, for a brief telephone consultation at (413) 774.2400.

Mask, hand hygiene, and social distancing protocols will be in place and participants will be screened for COVID-19 prior to each meeting.



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