The Roman Catholic Community of
Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Area, 213
One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic

Prayer for the Church
Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Church.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.
Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.
For those already afflicted, we ask you
to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.
In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church
to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus
to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you
truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.

May 31, 2020
Website: ElizabethSouthAlleghenyCC.org

Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Area, 213
Faith Formation - Adult - Children - Youth
101 McLay Drive  Elizabeth, PA  15037  412-754-0886
Email: 213FaithForm@gmail.com  Facebook: FaithFormation-EGSA

Looking For A Faith Community? Wherever you are on your faith journey, we welcome you to join our
community. You may register by calling the Faith Community Office.
You can feel so small standing by the seashore. The vastness of all that is before you expands much farther than your eye can see. What is happening on the other side? As tides continue to ebb and flow, what occurs as they come and go remains largely a mystery and the effects of their presence unknown in your sight. Yet, things are moving and changing as you gaze upon the water, as the thumbprint of their presence is left behind. The greater the wind and wave, the greater the effect. But even a gentle breeze leaves its humble mark upon the seashore on which you stand. The smallest pebble still makes a ripple in the great blue expanse of ocean waters. It doesn’t need to be big.

You never know the full impact of your smallest gesture or simplest of words. A yes or no, agree or disagree, here or there, this or that can influence time and history in ways you may never know. The Holy Spirit is like that: fierce and torrential, and then almost still and silent, creating and recreating nonetheless. Coming as a gentle breeze or a gusty wind, God’s Holy Spirit continues to move over, around, and into the waters of our lives. The Spirit brings fruit and unknown possibilities to what we humbly bring with us and that same Spirit eventually brings all to fulfillment in Christ.

The first disciples didn’t have much. They possessed simple faith and a willingness to go into unchartered territory with a love of their friend God, humble offerings, and a knowledge that they were not alone. This allowed them to do amazing things with very little. Do you believe that you are being led and that you have a purposeful life? We often do not realize our value because we do not think that the little we have is good enough. How wrong we are! A little flour mixed with water and embraced by a prayer of blessing transforms simple offerings into the magnificent Eucharistic presence of God. If the Holy Spirit can do such amazing things with these humble gifts of the earth, even more can happen with you. Don’t underestimate the value of the smile you gave a stranger, the door held open for an elderly widow, the listening ear offered to one who was lonely, the tolerance given to the wounded soul who is angry, and the loving shoulder you offered as a cradle under the head of someone in pain. Modest gifts offered with love can be transformed by the Spirit into wondrous blessings you may never know.

It’s Pentecost. Trust. You are not alone.

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Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel
Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

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Go forth and make disciples of all peoples
—Matthew 28:19

Please keep in mind, in these extraordinary times that, although we cannot attend Mass, the Church’s financial obligations remain. We ask that you continue to support your Church as you are able and look to the time when we can gather together again in faith. Some options:

- Mail or deliver offertory envelopes & Parish Share pledges to your church office (or secure mailbox).
- Set up your church as an automatic bill payee through your online banking.
- Donate through Online Giving for your church on our grouping website, [www.elizabethsouthalleghenycc.org](http://www.elizabethsouthalleghenycc.org)

Click on the ONLINE GIVING tab on the red bar at the top of the webpage, select your church, and complete the online form.

Visit our grouping website for the latest news, weekly bulletin, links to Daily Mass and Readings.

Blessings, Fr. Wagner
Pentecost Sunday

When we were in high school, there was an old cheer at ballgames, 
We've got spirit, yes we do. We've got spirit, how 'bout you? We would scream it back and forth with the opposing team’s fans. And while, Got Spirit? could certainly be the catchphrase today, we see people receiving the spirit in many different ways. In Acts, there is a bombastic appearance of a loud noise and a driving wind, followed by people being able to understand speech in many languages. It is reminiscent of a booming, This is my Son, my Beloved. Psalm 104 Lord, Send out Your Spirit was also the first psalm used at the Easter Vigil, in response to the creation story. First Corinthians acknowledges that there are many different spiritual gifts, but we must use them together as the body of Christ. The Sequence is a beautiful prayer that calls down the Spirit. In John’s Gospel, the Spirit comes through the breath of Jesus. What can we take away from this? That the Spirit of God is not one size fits all. Rather, the Holy Spirit will come to us, speak to us, be given to us, as each of us needs.

Unlock The Doors

When we put the Gospel in its context, John 20 starts with the empty tomb and the appearance to Mary Magdalene. Still, the disciples were scared and confused. They gathered together to regroup. They locked the door for fear of the Jews, whom they had just experienced as an angry mob, whom they had just seen crucify their friend Jesus. These disciples were afraid of the Jews, but they may also have been feeling guilty and confused for running away from Jesus at the cross, for hiding, for trying to protect themselves. Now the risen Jesus comes to them saying, Peace be with you, showing them his wounds, and greeting them again. Jesus is modeling something very powerful here. Most of us hate to be vulnerable. We try to hide our wounds and scars. We try to protect ourselves and show everybody that we have it together. In order to be healed, to receive the Spirit, to move on in our lives, we need to unlock our internal doors. We need to let Jesus into our house, into our hearts, and into those darkened corners of ourselves. It might be frightening. It might mean going to the sacrament of reconciliation or speaking with a spiritual director or even with a therapist.

The Richness Of The Spirit

Students, and most adults recalling their school days, are familiar with the phrase compare and contrast that shows up from time to time on tests. Today we hear two different accounts of the giving of the Holy Spirit to the church. Let’s contrast, then compare.

- Luke’s account from Acts is filled with arresting details: the mighty wind from heaven, the tongues of flame, the miracle of different languages.
- John’s account seems timid: fearful disciples, the wounded Christ, the expelling of breath from his risen body, not from the sky.

Our literal, modern minds wonder which way it happened; our noisy culture probably makes us prefer the former. But if we compare the two, we find that the dazzling richness of the Spirit fills both accounts, for it is the very breath of the risen Christ, ascended to the sky in Luke, that appears to his disciples in John and sends his followers forth to carry on his mission of forgiving sin and proclaiming the mighty acts of God.

Receive The Holy Spirit

We often worry about how others will respond if we are less than perfect. Jesus knew the disciples were flawed humans. He did not get angry or give them a guilt trip. He said, Peace be with you. He was gentle. Jesus gave them the gift of new life through a simple gesture. He breathed the Spirit into them. This is reminiscent of Genesis, when God breathed life into Adam, and Ezekiel, when God breathed life back into the dry bones. Jesus concluded with, Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained. So not only did Jesus entrust them with this role, this power, he first showed them how it is done. How do we in turn breathe life into our families and friends? Our coworkers? The stranger we meet? Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School
1640 Fawcett Ave. White Oak, PA 15131
Pre-School 3 & 4, Kindergarten, First - Eighth Grade
If you have any questions or would like more info, please call the school office, 412-672-2360.
Webpage: www.maryofnazarethschool.org
Some Pentecost Thoughts

Jesus knew his time on earth was limited, yet he knew his message and mission had to go on. So his final gift to those who believe was the Holy Spirit, sent from the Father to guide all His followers. The Spirit would guide the disciples and all of us to continue the mission and message of the Risen Jesus.

This same Spirit guides us today in a very real way as we grow in relationships rooted in collaboration, courage and compassion. In these relationships, we grow to learn Jesus, to love Jesus, and to live Jesus in our daily lives.

The disciples had witnessed Jesus crucified, risen from the dead, and ascended into heaven. They gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem, fearful of angry crowds, uncertain as to what to do next.

Suddenly, The Spirit descends on the disciples, dispelling fear (Acts 2:1-4). The Spirit comes in what seems like a strong wind as tongues of fire rest on each disciple. Their fear vanishes, and they are filled with the Holy Spirit, starting to speak in the various languages so all who listened with open hearts could understand.

The Spirit brings many gifts (1 Corinthians 12:6-7, plus chapter 12 and 13). The Spirit shares different gifts that will benefit each believer and the community. The body is one but made up of many parts.

We, too, are all one in the same Spirit, baptized into one Body of Christ, regardless of our talents, gender, or nationality.

In John’s gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples (John 20:19-23). Jesus, the Word, the Son of God, appears to the disciples, giving them his peace and sending them forth to share his word, to be his presence in the world.

Today, centuries later, His Spirit remains guiding and empowering us to go forth, to be his hands and feet in our world. Together, we go forth to proclaim the kingdom of God on earth, the mission and message of the Risen Jesus.

Who but God could come up with such a plan?

Today marks the birth of the Church, how blessed we are to be called to share in the mission of Jesus.

While Jesus is not present in his physical body, we are one with Him whenever we gather and receive his Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist.

On this Pentecost, we are not gathered as a family, sharing our stories, and gathering at the Family Table in the Holy Eucharist.

May we come together next weekend for Mass, as a Family, sharing our Stories, and gathering at the Family Table, when we publicly celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

Marriage Moments by Susan Vogt

Peace be with you...and Jesus breathed on them...Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them (Jn 20:21-23). With COVID-19 physical distancing, we don’t offer a hand at the Sign of Peace and we are careful not to breathe on others. But, this doesn’t apply to spouses.

So too, Jesus’ last directive to forgive each other especially applies to spouses who may have become impatient with each other having been quarantined together for so long.

Parenting Pointers by Susan Vogt

As a body is one though it has many parts (1 Cor 12:4-11). Discuss the many different jobs that people in your family do? Which is the most important?

Wrong question - since each person has different talents and time. Is it time to reassess who does which jobs?

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Like the disciples in today’s gospel, there are times we shut the doors of our hearts to people or events. It’s how we create emotional distance. Permanent distancing is lethal and prevents the PEACE Jesus offers you today.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

May God Bless Our Service Personnel

We pray for and remember our Service Men and Women who are serving on active duty in the Armed Services, especially: LCpl. Peter A. Barranti, USMC; Maj. Damian Baskerville, USAF; Col. Richard Collage, PA NG; Staff Sgt. Nicholas DeLuca, Army; Ens. David DeMaio, USCG; Capt. Craig Dolhi, Army; Capt. Anthony Formica, Army; Jacob Formica, E-4, Army; 2nd Lt. John Formica, Army; SPC Samuel Formica, Army National Guard; Capt. Markus Gibson, USMC; 2ndLt. Miles Gibson, USMC; PO2. Mason Gibson, USN; T/Sgt. Michael Goodman, USAF; E5 Sgt. Brian Imundo, Army; Sgt. Russ Langley, Marines; Staff Sgt. Raymond Massung, Jr., USAF; Staff Sgt. Timothy Oeler, USAF; ENS Timothy Ragan, USN; Amn Stephanie A. Reichenbach, USAF; PFC David R. Saunders, Army National Guard; Sgt. Brandon R. Smith, USAF Pararescueman; Amn. Adam Stitt, USAF; Capt. Andrew Tkac, Army.

If you would like to add or update an active Service member, please call the Parish Office.

Thank you for your service!

May We Never Forget . . . Freedom is Never Free!

May God Bless Our Health Care Workers and All First Responders.
Sacraments

Baptism of Infants & Children
Baptism is a joyful event in the life of the church. Baptism is celebrated any Sunday after Mass. Parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptism Class.
Previous arrangements are necessary.

Instruction in the Faith - R.C.I.A.
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Program is offered for those interested in the Catholic Faith. For more information, please contact Fr. Wagner.

Reconciliation

St. Eugene Church, Liberty
Tuesday, 7 - 7:30 pm
St. Michael Church, Elizabeth
Saturday, 11-11:30 am
Queen of the Rosary Church, Glassport
Saturday, 1- 1:30 pm
St. Michael Church, Elizabeth
Saturday, 3:15-3:45 pm
St. Eugene Church, Liberty
Saturday, 5:15-5:45 pm

Marriage
The prospective bride and groom are to make arrangements with the priest or deacon at least 6 months prior to the proposed date of the wedding. Diocesan regulations require all couples to attend an approved pre-marriage preparation program.

Anointing of the Sick
the Anointing of the Sick is celebrated communally on the Second Sunday of the Month.

Ministry to the Sick and Shut In
Homebound members of the Parish should call the Parish Office to make arrangements to receive Holy Communion at home.

Sponsorship Forms
Only registered, practicing, fully-initiated Catholics are eligible for sponsor certificates. Please call the Parish Office.

Bulletin Information Deadline
2 weeks in advance of publish date. elizabethsalleghenybulletin@gmail.com

Moving
Please call or email your new address to the Parish Office.

Child Abuse Hotline  1-888-808-1235
**Sunday, May 31; Pentecost Sunday**

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

The Spirit is still at work—The traditional Pentecost hymn is Veni Sancte Spiritus — Come, Holy Spirit. It’s called the Golden Sequence—a sequence being a prayer that precedes the gospel reading. It became part of the Pentecost liturgy in the 16th century but was written earlier, probably by Cardinal Stephen Langton of Canterbury around the year 1200. It’s tempting to treat the Mass as something that fell from heaven as is. Liturgy is a collaborative effort, woven across centuries—and evolving still. Put your unique stamp on it. Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, Peace be with you.

**Monday, Jun 01; Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church**

Genesis 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; John 19:25-34

Sing of Mary—Today’s celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary is still new for the Catholic Church, having been decreed by Pope Francis in 2018. But Mary’s tender loving care has been sung throughout the ages. Yes, we experience her maternal protection for each and every one of us. But it’s another thing to honor her universally as protecress of the Mystical Body of Christ. That’s why this memorial comes when it does: the day after Pentecost Sunday—the birthday of the church. Let us honor Mary in the manner of the decree, as Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the Redeemed—namely, Christ’s mother and ours. Behold, your mother.

**Tuesday, Jun 02; Marcellinus & Peter, martyrs**

2 Peter 3:12-15a, 17-18; Mark 12:13-17

Take notice—Today’s rather obscure saints from the early church are included in the Roman Martyrology, a catalog of saints who suffered martyrdom during the era of persecution of early Christians. While some claim Catholicism places too much emphasis on suffering and death, recent events suggest there is a deeper wisdom at work in the Martyrology. In times of crisis, heroic witness often involves willingness to suffer or perhaps even die for a worthy cause. Honor martyrs past and present for their witness. Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.

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**Wednesday, Jun 03; Charles Lwanga & Companions, martyr**

2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12; Mark 12:18-27

And the youth shall lead us—The world today is blessed with many young people willing to take a stand on major issues of our time. They work to end violence in schools and on our streets, protect lives, and ensure that future generations and the earth will thrive. Today in the church we honor a group of teens and 20-somethings who stood up for one another amid the threat of violence and death. Charles Lwanga and his 21 companions were martyred in Uganda in 1886 because their Catholic faith opposed the ruling king’s violent ways. In light of your faith, when and where are you called to take a stand? I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have.

**Thursday, Jun 04; Ninth Week in Ordinal Time**

2 Timothy 2:8-15; Mark 12:28-34

Not worth fighting about—Timothy was a peacemaker in the early church. He urged members of newly formed congregations to work out their differences rather than foster needless division. Sadly, church life (Catholic and otherwise) still involves far too many stories of division—sometimes over the smallest things. Whatever your community’s issue might be, be a voice for reasonable compromise. Tell them in the name of God that there must be no wrangling about words: all that this ever achieves is the destruction of those who are listening.

**Friday, Jun 05; Boniface, bishop & martyr**

2 Timothy 3:10-17; Mark 12:35-37

Aging can bring strengths—The COVID-19 crisis highlights the health risks older folks face. At the same time, it has led occasionally to examples of ageism—the tendency to see someone as weak or infirm simply because of their age. Saint Boniface would have none of that. Traversing the rugged terrain of what is now Germany during the wild and untamed Middle Ages, he continued his tireless evangelization efforts well into his 70s. In fact, only martyrdom could bring his ministry to a close. Respect your elders means respecting their ability to continue making meaningful contributions. From all these things the Lord delivered me.

**Saturday, Jun 06; Norbert, bishop**

2 Timothy 4:1-8; Mark 12:38-44

Humble pie belongs on every menu—Saint Norbert was a key figure in reforming the medieval church and monastic life. An ascetic at heart, he wore the simplest garb and walked barefoot even in winter. Having been appointed archbishop of Magdeburg in 1126 against his wishes, he arrived at the episcopal residence only to be met by a doorman who took him to be a beggar and turned him away! Church officials quickly explained the error to the doorman, but Norbert turned to him and said, You were right the first time. A healthy sense of humility will take each of us far. Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury.

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ATTENTION SENIORS
Call me if you're turning 65 and need to buy a medicare supplement - or if the price of your current supplement has increased! There may be a better plan and price for you! We offer health insurance through age 64 too.

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