

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 2:3-4

# PENTECOST SUNDAY

MAY 23, 2021

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### **Our Lady Queen of Peace Served by**

Rev. Antonio L. Ricarte, Pastor

[frtony@olqp.org](mailto:frtony@olqp.org)

Rev. Rafal T. Smola, Parochial Vicar

[frrafal@olqp.org](mailto:frrafal@olqp.org)

Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Zaccardo, Pastor Emeritus

Deacon Christian Scalo, Transitional Deacon

Deacon Joseph L. Mantineo, Permanent Deacon

[dcnjoe@olqp.org](mailto:dcnjoe@olqp.org)

Deacon Anthony A. Balestrieri, Deacon Emeritus

Justine Garcia, Pastoral Associate for Religious Ed.

[ReEd@olqp.org](mailto:ReEd@olqp.org)

Giovanni Longo, Director of Music

[dirmusic@olqp.org](mailto:dirmusic@olqp.org)

Glenn Clark, Principal, St. Peter Academy

Dorothy Feula and Harriet Sottile, Lay Trustees

### **Mass Schedule**

Saturday - 5:00 PM

(Anticipated Mass)\*

Sunday - 8:00, 10:00 AM and

12:00 Noon\*

Daily - Monday-Saturday

8:30 AM

Holy days - See Bulletin for

Mass Schedule

\*Livestreamed at

[www.facebook.com/olqpch](http://www.facebook.com/olqpch)

### **Reconciliation**

Saturday - 1:00 PM or by

appointment

### **Baptism**

Please call to arrange for your child's baptism soon after birth

### **RCIA**

Adults desiring to be baptized, confirmed or become a Catholic, please contact the Parish Office

### **Anointing of the Sick (973.567.7424)**

Please call for a priest to schedule this Sacrament of healing and forgiveness for someone who is seriously ill or in danger of death. Do not wait until the sick person is unconscious.

### **Matrimony**

All Catholics should seek to have their marriage blessed by the Church so as to live in God's good grace and receive the Holy Eucharist. Contact a priest a year prior to the intended date of marriage to ensure proper preparation.

**Parish Center Office Hours** Monday through Thursday: 9AM - 12N / 1PM - 3PM; Friday: 9AM - 1PM



Facebook/OLQPCH



YouTube/OLQPCHMaywood

[www.olqp.org](http://www.olqp.org)

[parish@olqp.org](mailto:parish@olqp.org)

### **Parish Center**

201-845-9566

Fax: 201-845-3742

### **Religious Education**

201-845-9566 ext. 117

[ReEd@olqp.org](mailto:ReEd@olqp.org)

### **St. Peter Academy**

201-261-3468

[www.spare.org](http://www.spare.org)

## ✚ Mass Intentions

**May 23, 2021 to May 30, 2021**

### Sunday - PENTECOST SUNDAY

5/23 8:00 am People of the Parish  
 10:00 am Living and Deceased Members of the  
 OLQP Rosary Altar Society  
 12:00 noon Julio and Eva Montoto

### Monday - The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

5/24 8:30 am Maria Revilla

### Tuesday - Weekday [Saint Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church; Saint Gregory VII, Pope; Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin]

5/25 8:30 am Barbara Kowalonek

### Wednesday - Saint Philip Neri, Priest

5/26 8:30 am Bridget Cullinane

### Thursday - Weekday [Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop]

5/27 8:30 am Juan de La Cruz Arias

### Friday - Weekday

5/28 8:30 am Rosa Maria Rave Patiño

### Saturday - Weekday [Saint Paul VI, Pope; BVM]

5/29 8:30 am Juan de La Cruz Patiño  
 5:00 pm Richie Neumann

### Sunday - THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

5/30 8:00 am The D'Arigo Family  
 10:00 am Living and Deceased Members of the  
 OLQP Knights of Columbus  
 12:00 noon People of the Parish

## Weekly Memorials

### Altar Candles

in Memory of Charles McAuliffe by Barbara Merkle

### Paschal Candle

in Memory of John A. Hrablook donated  
 by the Hrablook and Martello Families

## May 16, 2021 - Today's Readings

**First Reading** - They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in different tongues (Acts 2:1-11).

**Psalms** - Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth (Psalm 104).

**Second Reading** - There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13) or Galatians 5:16-25.

**Gospel** - As the Father has sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit (John 20:19-23) or John 15:26-27; 16:12-15.



## Please Remember in Your Prayers

### Sick Relatives & Friends

Mary Adamo Cristina Aguilar Josefina Baldoza Mary Ellen Barberia Dcn. Anthony Balestrieri Claire Borrello Ginny Cattaneo Carmen Cepeda Carmen Maria Colon <b>Brian Connors</b> Richard DeSpagna Sally DeSpagna Emily DeStefano Phil Dimitri Eileen Diverio Mark Diverio Emily Ferreira Yancey Garcia Eric Hagberg	<b>Mary Ann Harty</b> Gardenia Hougbo Dominic Jengo Rosemarie Kaminski Rev. Michael Kreder Alice Liso Diane Lohrer Dcn. Joseph Mantineo Gerry Marcincavage Sonia Medrano Andrew J. Mendez Frankie Monnecka Jim Moran Barbara Nelson Sharon Osnowitz Harriet Pellicione Vallie Pompilio Francis Quinn	Robert Raimo Elsy Ruiz Fran Sampson Wilbert Santos Cindy Sommers Pat Sommers Joanne Sontag Richard Spagnuolo Joseph Steiner Carolyn Sobering Jacqueline Sullivan Tony Tempio Liam Justin Torres Marianne Tracey Connie Vitale Mary Walker Andrew Wey Julia Whitney Joyce Wilson *Names in bold are new to the list
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## Prayer Shawl Ministry



If you are adding someone to our Parish sick list, please consider the healing power of these beautiful shawls. They are prayed over by the Prayer Shawl Ministry and blessed by our Pastor. If you know of someone you think is in need of a Prayer Shawl, please contact the Parish Center: 201-845-9566.

## The 2022 Mass Book Opens June 2nd



The 2022 Mass Book will open on June 2nd. Please visit the Parish Center to select your preferred dates.

The Church teaches us that our prayers are invaluable to the living as well as those who have died. We commend them to God's mercy when we pray for them. The living and the dead are helped not only by our daily prayers, but by the offering of Masses in their name for the benefit of their souls.

## Readings for the Week

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Ps 87:1-3, 5-7; Jn 19:25-34  
 Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12; Ps 50:5-8, 14, 23; Mk 10:28-31  
 Wednesday: Sir 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Mk 10:32-45  
 Thursday: Sir 42:15-25; Ps 33:2-9; Mk 10:46-52  
 Friday: Sir 44:1, 9-13; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Mk 11:11-26  
 Saturday: Sir 51:12cd-20; Ps 19:8-11; Mk 11:27-33  
 Sunday: Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Ps 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

## Congratulations to the Newly Baptized and First Communicant!

Congratulations to the new baptized - Nicholas Michael Farrington, Alana Ray Hasson, Luca Hien Mojkowski, their families and their sponsors!



Congratulations to the First Communicant, Louis Weber, and his family!



## Novena to the Holy Spirit for the Seven Gifts

The novena in honor of the Holy Spirit is the **oldest** of all novenas since it was first made at the direction of Our Lord Himself when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost. **It is still the only novena officially prescribed by the Church.** Addressed to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, it is a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian. This Novena begins on the day after the Solemnity of the Ascension, Friday of the 6th Week of Easter, even if the Solemnity of the Ascension is transferred to the 7th Sunday.

Below is the prayer for Day 9 of the Novena (For the prayers of all 9 days, please visit <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/novena-to-the-holy-spirit-for-the-seven-gifts-309>)

### Day Nine: Saturday, Vigil of Pentecost

Thou, on those who evermore Thee confess and Thee Adore, in Thy sevenfold gift, Descend; Give Them Comfort when they *(continued in the next column)*

die; Give them Life with Thee on high; Give them joys which never end. Amen.

### The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of the Holy Spirit perfect the supernatural virtues by enabling us to practice them with greater docility to divine inspiration. As we grow in the knowledge and love of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit, our service becomes more sincere and generous, the practice of virtue more perfect. Such acts of virtue leave the heart filled with joy and consolation and are known as Fruits of the Holy Spirit. These Fruits in turn render the practice of virtue more attractive and become a powerful incentive for still greater efforts in the service of God, to serve Whom is to reign.

### Prayer

Come, O Divine Spirit, fill my heart with Thy heavenly fruits, Thy charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, faith, mildness, and temperance, that I may never weary in the service of God, but by continued faithful submission to Thy inspiration may merit to be united eternally with Thee in the love of the Father and the Son. Amen.

Our Father and Hail Mary once  
Glory be to the Father SEVEN TIMES

### Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit

On my knees before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses, I offer myself, soul and body to You, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Your purity, the unerring keenness of Your justice, and the might of Your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In You I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light, and listen to Your voice, and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You, by Your compassion to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced Feet of Jesus and looking at His Five Wounds, and trusting in His Precious Blood and adoring His opened Side and stricken Heart, I implore You, Adorable Spirit, Helper of my infirmity, to keep me in Your grace that I may never sin against You. Give me grace, O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and the Son to say to You always and everywhere, 'Speak Lord for Your servant heareth.' Amen.

### Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who, before ascending into heaven, did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal, the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth, the Spirit of Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven, the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation, the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints, the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and the Spirit of Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him. Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciples and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen.

## Thank You for Your Support of Our Parish During These Challenging Times

For those of you who would like to continue to give through envelopes or cash, please place it in the designated collection boxes in the church, mail your donation to the Parish Center (410 Maywood Avenue, Maywood, NJ 07607), or drop it off at the white mailbox located to the right of the side door of the Parish Center. Thank you for your generosity!

## Daughters of Mary Meeting May 23rd



The Daughters of Mary and their moms will be meeting **Sunday May 23rd at 11 am** on the front lawn. Any girl in 3rd through 8th grade is welcome to join us.

## Please Pray for Deacon Christian's Ordination



With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God, The Archdiocese of Newark joyfully announces the ordination of

**Rev. Mr. Christian Gerard Scalo**  
To the Sacred Order of Presbyter  
By His Eminence, the Most Reverend

**Joseph W. Cardinal Tobin, C.Ss.R.**

Saturday, May 29, 2021 at 10:00 am  
The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Livestream at [www.rcan.org](http://www.rcan.org)

## Youth Ministry (201) 845-9566, ext 117

Any youth in grades 8-12 are invited to join us.  
Please email [justine.garcia@olqp.org](mailto:justine.garcia@olqp.org)

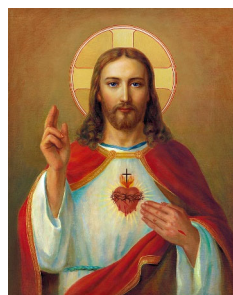
OLQP



RCIA

If you are interested in being baptized or wish to receive the sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation, our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program will prepare you for the reception of these sacraments. If you've received the sacraments of initiation and wish to learn more about your faith, our RCIA program is also for you. For more information, please contact Father Rafal at the Parish Center or email [frarafal@olqp.org](mailto:frarafal@olqp.org)

## OLQP Cursillo Community



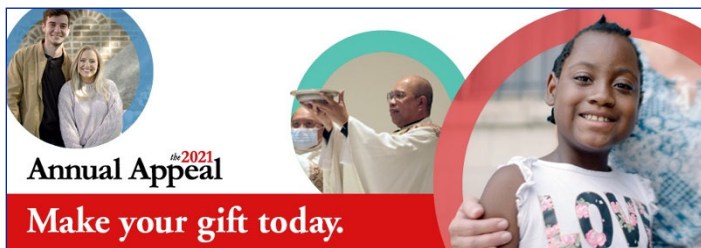
Make a Friend, Be a Friend and bring that friend to Christ

What is Cursillo? Cursillo is a short course in Christianity designed to help you:

- Gain a deeper understanding of Christian Truths
- Know that you are part of a greater and joyful community of believers with whom you can grow in faith, hope and love
- Guide you toward taking your place in the Church's Mission of making Christ present to the world.

We will be having a group reunion of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church on **Tuesday May 25, 2021** in the Queen of Peace Auditorium. It will be approximately 1 hour long in small groups of no more than 6 per table from 7-8pm. Masks are required.

If you know someone in our parish that has made their cursillo please invite them to a meeting. If you would like more information about what a cursillo weekend is all about, please come to the group reunion and we will give you more information or you can contact Joanne Godlewski at [jojowey@gmail.com](mailto:jojowey@gmail.com). Rudy or Irene Schwarz at [silverrs@optonline.net](mailto:silverrs@optonline.net) (201) 742-5695 or Connie Szymanski at [szyma843@optonline.net](mailto:szyma843@optonline.net) (201) 843-1836.



Thank you to all who have participated in the 2021 Annual Appeal and may God reward you for your generosity! While we are happy to report that we have reached our goal, we have not yet fulfilled our goal in terms of actual funds received. As of May 19th, the Archdiocese of Newark has received \$33,240.08, making us **short \$9,284.92** of our goal of \$42,525. For those who have made a pledge, please consider fulfilling your pledge by the end of **June** if you have not already done so. Fulfilling your pledge before the end of June will allow our parish to have **2%** of our assessment reduced for the next fiscal year **saving Our Lady Queen of Peace thousands of dollars**. Please call the development office at (973) 497-4129 if you have not received your statement after 30 days of making your first contribution.

I also encourage those who have not yet made a contribution to prayerfully consider making one to help meet our goal. Please also remember that any amount in excess of our goal is returned to our parish free of assessment. Thank you for your consideration and God bless!

## Regina Caeli: English and Latin

This is one of four Marian antiphons, with following versicles and prayers, traditionally said or sung after night prayer, immediately before going to sleep. It is said throughout Eastertide. (That is, from Easter Day through Pentecost, the seventh Sunday after Easter)

The *Regina caeli* is also said in place of the Angelus during Eastertide.

### Queen of Heaven

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.  
R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.  
V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.  
R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.  
V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.  
Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Regina Caeli

V. Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia.  
R. Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.  
V. Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia.  
R. Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.  
V. Gaude et laetare, Virgo Maria, alleluia.  
R. Quia surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia.  
Oremus. Deus, qui per resurrectionem Filii tui, Domini nostri Iesu Christi, mundum laetificare dignatus es: praesta, quaesumus; ut per eius Genetricem Virginem Mariam, perpetuae capiamus gaudia vitae. Per eundem Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen.

- from <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/regina-caeli-o-queen-of-heaven-375>

### Why should I register in the parish?

All members of the parish should be formally registered as members of the parish. You must be formally registered if you wish to arrange a Baptism, a Confirmation, or a Wedding in the parish Church or wish to register in the Parish School or the Religious Education (CCD) Program. You must also be a registered member of the parish for at least three months before you can obtain a Sponsor Certificate or schedule a Baptism or a Wedding.

*Please call the Parish Center at 201-845-9566 to register or visit our home page at [www.olqp.org](http://www.olqp.org), scroll down to the middle of the page and click where it states "Parish Registration" to download the form. Thank you and welcome to Our Lady Queen of Peace!*

## Thanksgiving after Holy Communion

### Anima Christi (Soul of Christ)



SOUL of Christ, sanctify me.  
Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O good Jesus, hear me.  
Within Thy Wounds hide me.  
Suffer me not to be separated from Thee.  
From the malignant enemy, defend me.  
In the hour of my death, call me,  
And bid me come to Thee.  
That with Thy saints, I may praise Thee.  
Forever and ever. Amen.  
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, may the whole world burn  
with love for Thee! (x3)

### Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, behold I come to the Sacrament of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: I come as one infirm to the physician of life, as one unclean to the fountain of mercy, as one blind to the light of everlasting brightness, as one poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Therefore I implore the abundance of Thy measureless bounty that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to heal my infirmity, wash my uncleanness, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty and clothe my nakedness, that I may receive the Bread of Angels, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, with such reverence and humility, with such sorrow and devotion, with such purity and faith, with such purpose and intention as may be profitable to my soul's salvation.



Grant unto me, I pray, the grace of receiving not only the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood, but also the grace and power of the Sacrament. O most gracious God, grant me so to receive the Body of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, which He took from the Virgin Mary, as to merit to be incorporated into His mystical Body, and to be numbered amongst His members. O most loving Father, give me grace to behold forever Thy beloved Son with His face at last unveiled, whom I now purpose to receive under the sacramental veil here below. Amen.

## Stewardship Corner

### *Turbulent Times:*

God's promise of redemption for sinners is not predicted on things going well. God didn't promise riches in heaven assuming the stock market is rising. There isn't a foot note at the bottom of the Ten Commandments with disclaimer that these were only valid under certain conditions that God reserved the right to invoke. God's covenant with us applies in both good times and difficult times (*To be continued next week*)

## Stewardship Results

	5/16/21	Weekly Goal
Offertory	6,338	5,000
Repairs	480	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,818</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>

Thank you to all for helping us meet our goal this week!

## Daily Prayer for Pope Francis and Our Clergy

Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant, Francis, our Supreme Pontiff, and direct him, according to Thy loving-kindness, in the ways of eternal salvation; that, of Thy gift, he may ever desire that which is pleasing unto Thee and may accomplish it with all his might. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Jesus, Savior of the world, sanctify Thy priests and sacred ministers.

## Treasures from Our Tradition

The roots of today's "birthday of the Church" are in an ancient Jewish festival of springtime harvest, seven weeks after Passover. Now, seven weeks after Easter, our great fifty days of rejoicing come to an end. In the countries where the Church first came to life, this is a time of harvest, and the first fruits appear: apricots and lemons, cherries and strawberries. Even in our gardens, herbs are abundant and asparagus, that close relation of the Easter lily, comes fresh to our tables. The earth is laden with so much new life, and that has always been a sign to Christians of Easter's glory.

Pentecost means "fifty" and our fifty days of Easter joy are complete. This Sunday is a day to savor the glory of Easter once more: picnics and cookouts, walks by the water, time in the garden—are all ways of extending the feast. Notice the paschal candle today, still burning during Mass. Our Easter celebration now complete, the candle will soon be moved to a place near the baptismal font, and be lighted at baptisms and funerals as a silent witness to Christ's abiding presence.

- James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Pentecost Sunday
Monday:	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church; Eighth Week in Ordinary Time
Tuesday:	St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII; St. Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi
Wednesday:	St. Philip Neri
Thursday:	St. Augustine of Canterbury
Saturday:	St. Paul VI; Blessed Virgin Mary

### FEAST OF FAITH

#### Liturgy: Work of the Spirit

The Spirit of God who hovered over the waters at the dawn of creation—the Holy Spirit who descended upon the disciples at Pentecost in ever-changing forms in the sound of a mighty wind or tongues of flame—hovers also over our celebration of the liturgy, giving it life, making it real. It is the Spirit of God who draws us, gathering us together, Sunday after Sunday. It is the Spirit of God who called loudly to the inspired writers of the scriptures and who continues to whisper to us, revealing ever-new facets of God's word, granting insight just when we need it. It is by the Spirit's power that, when Christ's words are uttered by the priest, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. And it is surely the Spirit who inspires us—that is, breathes in us—when, sent forth from the assembly, we seek ways to serve our brothers and sisters, to allow the gospel to come to life in the world. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love.

- Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

#### A PRAYER TO THE SPIRIT

Holy Spirit,  
who sent Christ Jesus  
to carry the Good news to the poor,  
we pray to you:  
Help us to continue your work  
by serving the poor, our brothers and sisters.

- From Come, Lord Jesus by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright © 1976, 1981, Lucien Deiss. Published by World Library Publications. p.181

## Religious Education Registration for 2021-2022

### 2021-2022 Catechetical Year

Registration for our 2021-2022 Religious Education Program is now open. Please visit:

[www.olqp.org/religious-education.html](http://www.olqp.org/religious-education.html)

for a copy of the registration form or contact our Religious Education office at ReEd@olqp.org or 201-845-9566 x117. Copies are also available in the Parish Center office. Registration Forms should be submitted no later than **August 1st**.

**Have you thought about echoing the Word of God to our Children? Are you being called to be a Catechist?** For more information on this ministry for our children, please contact Justine Garcia at ReEd@olqp.org or (201) 845-9566 x117.

### PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers all of our active military personnel here and overseas. We especially pray for our parishioners: Joshua Ashley, Ryan O'Connell, and John Velazquez.



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 2:3-4



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# PENTECOST SUNDAY

MAY 23, 2021

## COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME!

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 FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

As followers of Jesus, we are called to direct our minds and hearts to Christ's love, turning away from all that is not of God in order to be more Christ-like in our daily lives. The more we invite the Holy Spirit to draw us close to God's heart, the more readily we will avoid sin and choose life, faith, and love. In the letter to the Galatians, we hear a list of things that those who live in the Spirit are to avoid. Things like immorality, hatred, jealousy, and selfishness. At first glance, we might think to ourselves, "of course I want to avoid those things," and yet, if we are honest with ourselves, we likely recognize some of those patterns in our lives. Upon further reflection, however, we also see that these negative behaviors pose temporary pleasure while the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—lead to a life of deep and lasting fulfillment.

## NOTHING WILL STAND IN THE WAY

The Jewish people who had gathered in Jerusalem for the festival of Pentecost came from every corner of the world. They spoke many languages and yet were drawn to hear the message of Christ from the disciples who had just experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. They were astonished by what they heard—not only the message, but the way in which it was conveyed, in their own language, and by the messengers, people whom they would have considered ordinary and unremarkable, rather than the acknowledged religious leaders of their time. We, too, are called to share the love and mercy of Christ through word and action, even when we feel small and insignificant. We need only to look at the witness and experience of those first disciples and all the saints who have preceded us to know that we are capable of much when we place our lives in God's hands. Nothing can stand in the way of the incredible love of God when we are filled with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit!

## TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:1-11

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

Galatians 5:16-25

John 20:19-23 or

John 15: 26-27; 16:12-15



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