

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Last Sunday on the Feast of Pentecost we heard from St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians, that *"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord... To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."* In the bulletin we printed a list of the traditional gifts which are presented in the Bible in Isaiah Chapter 11. This is why they are called the "Isaian gifts" and they are given to us for our personal growth in holiness. There are other gifts, usually referred to as "charisms," that are given to us so that we can help our fellow believers in the Church. These are described in the Bible in Chapter 12 of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians and are listed below.

Each of us, by virtue of our Baptism and Confirmation, have received at least some of these gifts. We should pray to the Holy Spirit and ask him to show us which of these gifts we have received by allowing us to experience them. We also need to be open to receiving them and have the courage to exercise them when we are prompted to do so. If you have questions about these gifts and how you are to use them, just let me know and I will be happy to talk with you.

With my prayers,
Fr. Conley

Gifts of the Holy Spirit-The Corinthian Gifts

(often referred to as the Charismatic Gifts) We do not 'possess' the manifestation gifts. We are the vehicles the Lord uses for the outpouring of His blessings upon His people. We are the **'gift bearers'** and must function "with humility, willingness to take risks, trust in God, and love for our brothers and sisters in Christ" –Catechism of the **GIFTS OF HEALING**) – supernatural outpourings of God's power which results in the healing of sickness and disease without the use of medical means. This can involve "sickness" of the body, soul and/or spirit. God is interested in healing our total person. Jesus used many different methods of healing, such as laying on of hands, casting out demons, spitting and making mud then applying it, and proclaiming healing from a distance. Jesus is the healer. Healing is given as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit to build up, encourage, strengthen, make

new or whole an individual or a group for the glory of God and the blessing of His people – to sanctify or to make holy the recipient, to glorify God, to build faith, to be a sign of the power and presence of God, to meet the need, to change the circumstances, to build up the Church. Healing may be physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual or relational. When we pray for healing, some type of healing comes, though it may not be specifically what we asked for. Healing is often accompanied with the gift of tears – a wonderful gift described by one of the saints as the "washing of the soul". Joy also often accompanies healing and can be expressed through "holy laughter" or tears. Discernment of all the circumstances of the Divine Gift of Healing is necessary. Those in the Healing Ministry should be committed to receiving continuous teaching, deep prayer and the use of the sacraments, and open to the other manifestation or charismatic gifts, especially Word of Knowledge and Word of Prophecy. Christians open to the manifestation gifts of the Holy Spirit, to use them for their own building up and then for the building up of the church, should know what the gifts are and pray for the gift of discernment in when and how to use certain gifts.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE - a supernatural revelation of facts past, present, or future which we did not learn through the efforts of the natural mind. True supernatural knowledge starts with knowing God personally, through Jesus Christ. Jesus and the disciples received many 'words of knowledge' from the Holy Spirit.

WORD OF WISDOM - a 'word of wisdom' is a supernatural revelation of God's timing and method of ministry in a given situation.

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT/TONGUES – a spontaneous, inspired utterance by the Holy Spirit in which we use our voice according to the Spirit's prompting. To speak or sing in Tongues or "to pray in the Spirit," as it's called, is what happens when a believer allows the indwelling Spirit to guide and form the words they utter. To pray, to speak or to sing in Tongues is to pray in what could be an earthly or heavenly language; a language current on the earth or one long dead, or it could be any one of countless dialects. Praying in tongues brings

deliverance, inspiration, refreshment (both spiritually and physically), revival, wisdom and is a means to victory in spiritual warfare. 'The primary purpose of prayer tongues is to praise God. The gift of tongues is considered the "least" of the gifts, even though it is an important manifestation of the baptism in the Spirit. It is the 'gateway' gift to the other gifts. If we humble ourselves in our relationship with the Lord so much as to yield to His Holy Spirit within us in order to 'babble' in a 'strange tongue', then we open ourselves so much more to surrender to the other gifts to be manifest in us for the good of the Church.

PROPHECY – a supernatural communication from God to an individual or a group of believers. Prophecy builds up, encourages, exhorts and consoles. It draws us closer to God in worship, and stirs up a response in God's people such as joy, freedom, peace and enthusiasm. Prophecy can manifest through a vision, words, and thoughts. It is necessary to discern the message that is spoken, not necessarily to accept everything that is said as 'gospel-truth'. Prophecy should always be discerned and tested by the body of believers present. Prophecy is not an ability given to someone to prophesy at will, but rather a definite message given at a particular time by the Spirit for a distinct purpose. (to be continued next week).

PRAISE & WORSHIP GATHERING this Thursday at 6:30 pm and dinner will be served. Everyone is invited to come and join us for Spirit-filled praise of our Lord. For more information contact Fr. Conley.

NEXT WEEK, we will take up the **PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION**, which provides Pope Francis with the funds he needs to carry out his charitable works around the world. The proceeds benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Please be generous!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FOR ADULTS BEGINS THURS JUNE 27, details to follow.

KNOW OF PARISHIONERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND? Please contact Fr. Conley or Sister Theresa at the rectory so we can minister to their spiritual needs.

ANNUAL JUNE DINNER - Sacred Heart Church in Bushwood is having their dinner next Sunday, June 23, from 12 Noon until the food is gone. Menu includes: Fried Chicken, Crab Cakes, Country Ham, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Green Beans, Beets, Rolls, Coffee & Tea. **ALL YOU CAN EAT**, served buffet style. Adults \$26, Children 7-12 \$6, Children under 6 free.

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary's Church,
Thank you for your generous donation to our Food Pantry! You have been so faithful to this ministry and your gifts have made and are making a big impact. This is something we never take for granted!! We serve families in Charles County, and knowing you're alongside us doing work for God's Kingdom is very encouraging. Hughesville Baptist Church exists to engage our community and our world with the gospel of Jesus Christ and enable His followers to grow in an authentic relationship with Him.
Sincerely,
Harold Arnold, Food Pantry Chairman

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8am Mary K. Estep, 10am Maurice I. Long, Sr., 12N Parishioners, **MON:** 8am Joseph Tolarski, Jr., **TUES:** 8am George F. Neale, **WED:** 8am Mary Jane Hicks, **THURS:** 8am Eleanor Jenifer, **FRI:** 9:30am Rev. Joseph Kleinstuber, **SAT:** 9am **NO MASS**, 4pm Rev. Seamus Kuebler.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS: Stephen Balenger, Mary Bowes, Deacon Gene Burroughs, Quint Burroughs, Brenda Callahan, Joe Cross, Agnes Curtis, Chuck Davis, Kendall Farrell, George Fassel, John Fassel, Arlene Gandolfi, Kevin Gardiner, Lee Gardiner, James Gibson, Zynae Green, Carol Johnson, Irma Johnson, Angie Kalnasy, Regina Kijesky, Lillian Komar, Susie Logan, Florence Middleton, Mary Emma Middleton, John Nichols, Johnny Norman, Mary Reeves, Sylvene Savoy, William Leon Savoy, Edna Sweeney, Beth Weise, Brice Zimmer.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST

WEEKEND: \$10,022.26. \$2095.50 of that was received from people who contribute through online banking. The un-identified donations totaled \$676.26. We received \$96.00 for our School Support.