

From the Desk of Father Jeff



Pentecost Celebration:

At the 10am Mass on June 8th, we will celebrate a special Pentecost Mass with rose petals falling from the ceiling symbolizing the coming down of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Last year we used 2,000 rose petals in this celebration with many parishioners and guests commenting on its beauty. This year, we will increase the number of rose petals to 12,000, symbolizing one rose petal per each registered parishioner of St. Catherine Labouré Parish. Please join us for this beautiful and unique celebration!

I also encourage all parishioners to wear the color red for Pentecost Sunday as a way to celebrate and commemorate the day. In the Catholic Church, the color red holds profound significance, particularly on Pentecost Sunday. This vibrant hue symbolizes two key aspects of the Holy Spirit's descent upon the Apostles: fire and divine love.

When the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles, Acts 2:3 describes "tongues as of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them." Red vividly recalls these tongues of fire, representing the transformative power, zeal, and courage the Holy Spirit bestowed upon the early Church. It signifies the burning love of God that ignited the Apostles' hearts, empowering them to boldly proclaim the Gospel to all nations.

Additionally, red is the liturgical color for martyrs who shed their blood for Christ. While Pentecost is not a day of martyrdom, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit empowered the Apostles to face persecution and even death for their faith, making them witnesses (which means "martyrs" in Greek) to Christ's resurrection.

Thus, wearing red on Pentecost is a visual reminder of the Holy Spirit's fiery presence, divine love, and the empowering courage given to the Church, marking it as the "birthday" of the Church filled with fervor and mission.

Donut Sunday Thank You!

In order for us to provide 17 dozen donuts weekly after the 10am Mass, we rely heavily on our generous sponsors to alleviate some of the significant costs! Last weekend was our last donut social before the summer break and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the hospitality committee for setting up and serving each week. I also want to thank our generous sponsors and their donations for making this "ministry" possible by bringing so many people and children together to enjoy community and fellowship each and every week!

The Importance of being Registered at the Parish:

Registration isn't merely putting your name on a list; it's a concrete step in affirming your belonging to our spiritual family. It allows us to better serve you, especially during significant moments like baptisms, weddings, anointing of the sick and funerals. When you are registered, we can more readily provide sacramental records, write letters of recommendation, and ensure you receive important communications regarding parish life, events, and ministries. One of the significant requirements for you to be a godparent or a confirmation sponsor is to be a practicing Catholic (going to Mass each Sunday and on Holy Days of obligation) *and to be registered* at our parish for at least 6 months. This requirement is necessary, especially after the age of 25. Parishioners after this age who are still listed under their parent's registration must register separately to be a godparent or a confirmation sponsor.

Beyond administrative advantages, parish registration fosters a deeper sense of community. It enables us to connect with you, understand your needs, and invite you to participate in parish life. Whether it's through our faith formation programs, outreach initiatives, or simply the fellowship after Mass, being a registered member strengthens your ties to the Body of Christ here in our local church.

It also provides the parish with a more accurate picture of our community, which in turn helps us plan for future growth and importantly, to responsibly allocate resources effectively to meet the spiritual needs of all. Your registration helps us understand who we are as a parish and how we can best fulfill our mission as followers of Jesus Christ.

If you haven't yet registered, or if you've moved and need to update your information, I warmly invite you to do so. Our parish office would be delighted to assist you. It's a simple act that is beneficial to both you and the parish.

You may also download the registration form online at: <https://www.sclpgh.org/join-our-parish> or scan the QR code.

