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"THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER."
—JN 15:26

PENTECOST SUNDAY

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
(Acts 2:3)

PSALM:

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (Ps 104) Or Alleluia.

SECOND READING:

In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
Against such there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23)

GOSPEL:

"But when he comes, the Spirit of truth,
he will guide you to all truth." (Jn 15:27, 16:13)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 23, 2021

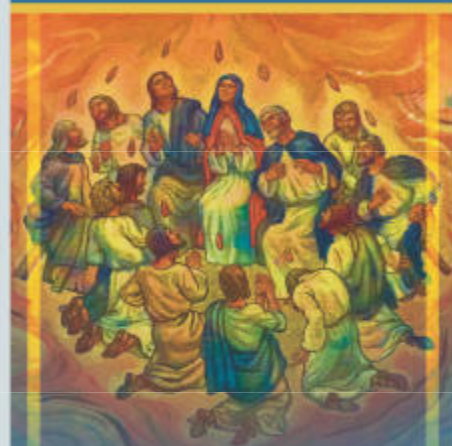
Sunday:	Pentecost Sunday
Monday:	Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Tuesday:	St. Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church; St. Gregory VII, Pope; St. Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi, Virgin
Wednesday:	St. Philip Neri, Priest
Thursday:	St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
Saturday:	St. Paul VI, Pope; BVM
Next Sunday:	The Most Holy Trinity

**"AS MARINERS ARE
GUIDED INTO PORT BY
THE SHINING OF A STAR,
SO CHRISTIANS ARE
GUIDED TO HEAVEN
BY MARY."**

- SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

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PENTECOST SUNDAY



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REFLECT

FIRST READING

The descent of the Holy Spirit onto the disciples, which marked the beginning of the Church, was a transformative experience for the followers of Jesus. What have been some transformative experiences for you in your faith journey?

SECOND READING

Paul speaks to the Galatians about our universal struggle between the Spirit and the flesh. Paul even lists examples of the "works of the flesh" and the "fruits of the Spirit." How would you measure your own success in this spiritual battle?

GOSPEL READING

Jesus assured his disciples that his Father would send the "Spirit of truth" to believers offering guidance and divine gifts. Where do you see the Holy Spirit active in your life?

YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES — BUT YOU WILL

Those of us in ministry love this saying: God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called.

We all know that sort of queasy feeling we get in the pit of our stomachs when it becomes clear what we're supposed to do, in any situation. It's that feeling of: Oh, no. Not me. Not now. I can't.

We've all got our list of reasons why not, don't we? We do it for everything, from big life problems to small everyday choices. I'm not going to invite my neighbor to church because I don't want to come across as pushy. I'm not going to make amends with my cousin because she'll just walk all over me again. I'm not going to say a Rosary tonight because I'm tired and it'll just stress me out.

However, even if we all put our lists of "reasons why we can't" together, I don't think any of us have reasons quite as valid as the apostles. Their job was to convert the nations — and here they are, a bunch of fishermen who haven't been out of Judea, who speak only their own languages. Were they supposed to preach the Gospel via a particularly compelling game of charades?

But even that big, giant, stop-you-dead-in-your-tracks Reason Why We Can't was nothing, because God had a plan. He didn't call a bunch of equipped men. He called them, and He equipped them. Cue the tongues of fire!

God doesn't call us to do His will because we have what it takes. He calls us because He's ready to give us what it takes. Being a good steward is to answer the call of Christ knowing he will provide.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WHY ARE CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT BIBLES DIFFERENT?

Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians used a Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint. This collection of the texts of the Hebrew Scriptures included 46 books. At the time of the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s, the Protestant reformers began to create their own translations of the Bible (into local languages) and some began to question why the Jewish Scriptures would have included texts that were written in Greek, because, they assumed, the only valid Jewish Scriptures would have been written in Hebrew. And so, they decided to remove seven books from the Old Testament: Baruch, Sirach, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Tobit, Judith and Wisdom (as well as portions of the Books of Daniel and Esther). This means that the Protestant Old Testament only includes 39 books, while Catholic Bibles continue to

include those original 46 books. Both Catholic and Protestant Bibles include 27 books and letters in the New Testament.

“

How varied are
your works, LORD!

In wisdom you have
made them all;
the earth is full of
your creatures.

PSALM 104:24

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LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The phrase "being filled with the Holy Spirit" may summon forth images that are a bit too intense for some folks. They may conclude that when one is filled with the Holy Spirit that they immediately begin speaking in tongues, loudly praise God, sing alleluia from roof tops, and do other demonstrative things. In reality, being filled with the Holy Spirit means being filled with the fullness of God's life and in touch with the power and wonder of God's presence. It is the Holy Spirit that draws us together as a community of faith, inspires us with wisdom and right judgment, and turns us from the darkness of sin to the virtues that bring life. We live in a world where it is hard to discover truth. The Holy Spirit, through the ministry of the church, guides us to truth and shows us the way to be the graced human beings God made us to be. Come, Holy Spirit, and fill our hearts!

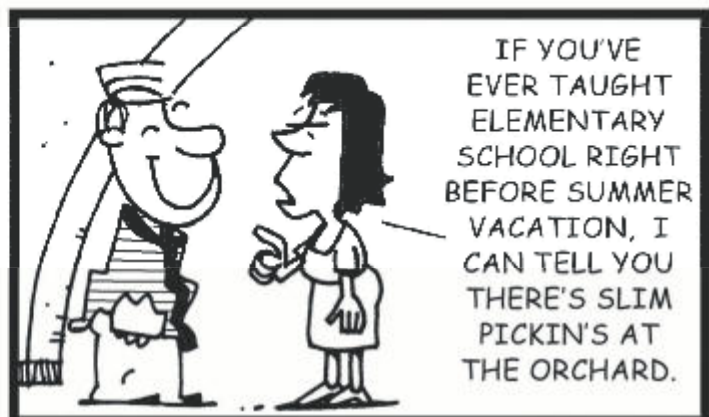


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PENTECOST

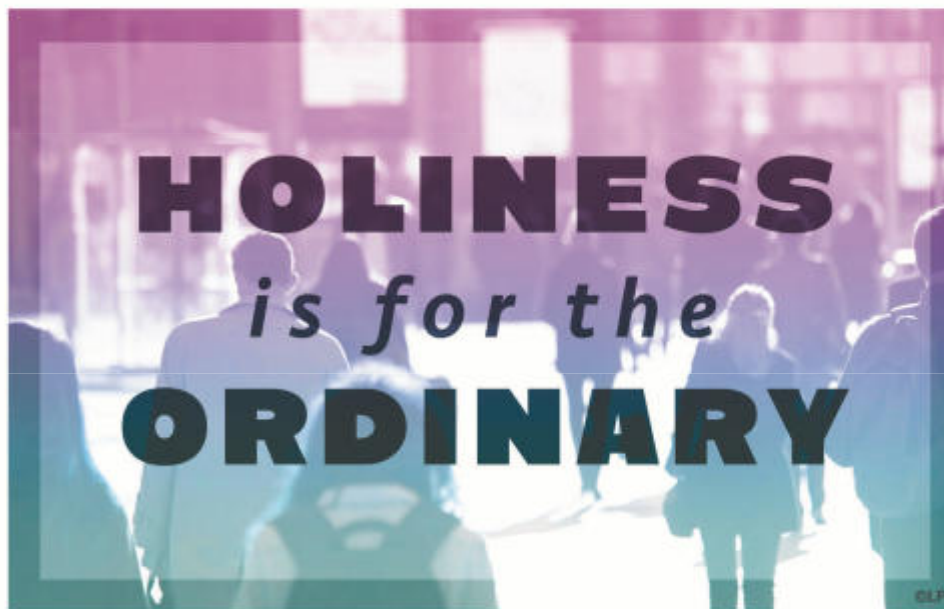


GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Begin by taking a moment to calm yourself, focus on your breathing and become aware of the life force that flows through your veins. Center yourself in the words and affections of St. Augustine's Prayer to the Holy Spirit, "Breath in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy." Sanctifying, bringing things to wholeness, blessing, restoring and creating are just some of the fruits of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not always about proclaiming loud cries of praise or singing alleluia from a roof top. It is about unfolding and encountering the ordinary in an extraordinary way. Being filled with the Holy Spirit means being filled with the fullness of God's life and in touch with the power and wonder of God's presence. It's about becoming holy.

It is not just for saints or people who have a religious vocation. Holiness is for the ordinary, simple run-of-the-mill person who desires to love God, others, and all of creation. When an ordinary, humble person becomes connected with life and the wondrous power of God's love, they begin to live life more deeply, a bit more reverently, desire a simple life and find themselves relishing in ordinary beauty. Their senses become attuned to the Author of life and they realize that they are not alone. The Holy Spirit connects all



of the dots of human experience and existence, bringing everyone to center on the Divine Presence. The Holy Spirit does not just breathe "on me" but "in me" and is the force behind every breath I take. Take a moment to soak that thought in. There is the Divine Presence of the Holy Spirit in me, right now. When a person becomes in touch with truth, they know that when inspired by the Holy Spirit, his or her actions are not solely their own. They realize that they are moved by Divine Grace and drawn to things not found in secular affairs.

We live in a world where it is hard to discover truth. Real truth is veiled by so many imposters that it is hard to find, especially for those who are young. It is easy to get fooled and duped and

often, without full conscious awareness of doing so, we choose to walk down a path of self-absorption and destruction. It is only the Holy Spirit, through the ministry of the church most especially, who guides us to truth and shows us the way to be the graced and holy human beings God made us to be. The wonders and inspirations of today's Feast of Pentecost are necessary to share with both those we love and those who only casually cross our paths. The first disciples, touched by the Holy Spirit, brought the Gospel to the ends of the earth one step at a time. Is it unrealistic to ask that we assist in that same mission by helping people understand who they are and who God is one at a time? Ask the Holy Spirit to alleviate the fear in your heart that prevents you from doing so.

"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me." - Jn 16:12-14a

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Monday, May 24, 2021
**Memorial of The Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of the Church**

In 2018, Pope Francis created the new Marian memorial that the universal church celebrates today, the Monday after Pentecost. The title “Mother of the Church” was bestowed on Mary in 1964 by Pope Saint Paul VI at the closing of the Second Vatican Council. Her role as mother of the church goes back to when Jesus, on the cross, gave her and the beloved disciple to one another and to when she became the mother of Christ, whose body we are all members of. Not everyone has a mother figure to rely on—know that you can always rely on the mother of us all.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 or
Acts 1:12-14; John 19:25-34*

Tuesday, May 25, 2021
**Optional Memorial of Mary Magdalene
De' Pazzi, Virgin**

When Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi became a Carmelite nun in 1583, she couldn't foresee the great physical suffering from an unknown disease that would besiege her. Nor could she foresee having the same type of ecstatic religious visions—followed by years of “spiritual dryness”—as did another Carmelite saint, Teresa of Ávila. Magdalene's bout of spiritual dryness, so severe that she considered suicide, ended on Pentecost in 1590. With Pentecost 2021 so recently behind us, pray as she did: “Come, Holy Spirit . . . Come, as you descended on Mary, that the Word might become flesh and work in us through grace.”

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 35:1-12; Mark 10:28-31

Wednesday, May 26, 2021
Memorial of Philip Neri, Priest

In the middle of Rome in the 16th century lived a man whose joyful nature made him something of a people magnet for both the powerful and the poor. Saint Philip Neri was a deeply spiritual man who exuded natural warmth, listened well, and in loving generosity, led others to know God. This spiritual director, priest, and confessor was known to ask, “Well, when shall we begin to do good?” It is no surprise that Neri, known as the “Apostle of Rome,” inspired followers to join him in caring for the sick and the poor. Where can you do some good today?

*TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17;
Mark 10:32-45*

*Invest just five minutes a day,
and your faith will deepen and grow
a day at a time.*

Thursday, May 27, 2021
**Optional Memorial of Augustine
of Canterbury, Bishop**

Augustine of Canterbury, memorialized today, is remembered as a major figure in evangelizing England. The renowned Canterbury Cathedral was built on the site of a church and monastery he built around the end of the sixth century. In spite of his stature now as “Apostle of the English,” he met with bitter disappointment, too. His efforts to bring the English bishops in line with Rome were roundly rebuffed, a disappointment he took to his death. Can you let go of your failures, knowing that, like Augustine, they do not define your life?

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 42:15-25, Mark 10:46-52

Friday, May 28, 2021

Figs are a popular fruit in the Bible, from Genesis with Eve and Adam wearing fig leaves clear through the Book of Revelation's apocalyptic falling of winter figs. Why so many figs? The fig itself is sweet and has lots of dietary fiber, calcium, and various minerals and vitamins. It is a great source of energy and flavor. Perhaps because it is so plentiful, delicious, and nutritious, the fig is also rich in symbolism for health and abundance. In the gospels, Jesus expects us to be like figs—to be “nutritious” to others and abundant in our presence and giving. Let us go forth to nurture the world!

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 44:1, 9-13; Mark 11:11-26

Saturday, May 29, 2021
Optional Memorial of Paul VI, Pope

The ecumenical movement received a much-needed boost during the papacy of Saint Pope Paul VI (1963-78). After the Second Vatican Council in the mid-1960s, Pope Paul went out of his way to promote ecumenical dialogue and partnership. When asked by a cardinal for permission to initiate a joint Catholic-Protestant translation of the Bible, Paul is said to have responded, “I am totally in favor!” He issued formal approval later that year on Pentecost Sunday, our recently celebrated feast commemorating the moment when the Holy Spirit allowed believers of all backgrounds and languages to truly understand each other. Come, Holy Spirit!

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 51:12cd-20; Mark 11:27-33

Kids Corner

READ THE GOSPEL & COLOR



One day one of your best friends may move away, and you won't see him every day. You can still stay close to your friend by talking on the phone, writing letters, or sending e-mail messages. Jesus knew he would be leaving. He would not see his friends every day. Jesus promised to send his Spirit to them. When they were confused, the Spirit would show them the truth. When they missed him, Jesus would send them messages by the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit, Jesus could always stay close to his friends.

PRAYER

God, thank you for sending your Spirit so I can stay close to Jesus, too.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Before you sit down to read a Bible story, ask God to send his Spirit to help you. When you listen carefully to God's word, the Spirit can send you a special message from Jesus!

May mayo

Mass Intentions

Weekend of May 22nd & 23rd
Pentecost Sunday

✠ Ron Watras

For the People of St Stevens

✠ Paul Hester

Monday May 24th

✠ Emma De La Pena

Tuesday May 25th

✠ Robert Blondin

Wednesday May 26th

✠ James McElenny

Thursday May 27th

✠ Paul Hester

Friday May 28st

✠ Robert & Thomas Kishen

No Daily Mass

Weekend of May 29th & 30th
The Most Holy Trinity

✠ David Loza

For the People of St Stevens

✠ Paul Hester

Office & Gift Shop Hours

Mon.—Thur., 9:00 a.m.—12 Noon
Closed Friday

Mass Times

Daily Masses:

Monday—Thursday at 8:00 a.m.

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

All Masses are streamed

<http://saintstevensparish.org>



May 1—September 30

Daily Masses

Monday—Thursday

8:00 a.m.

No Friday Mass

Confessions

Saturday 3:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

Weekend Masses

(Remain the Same)

Saturday Vigil Mass

4:00 p.m.

Sunday

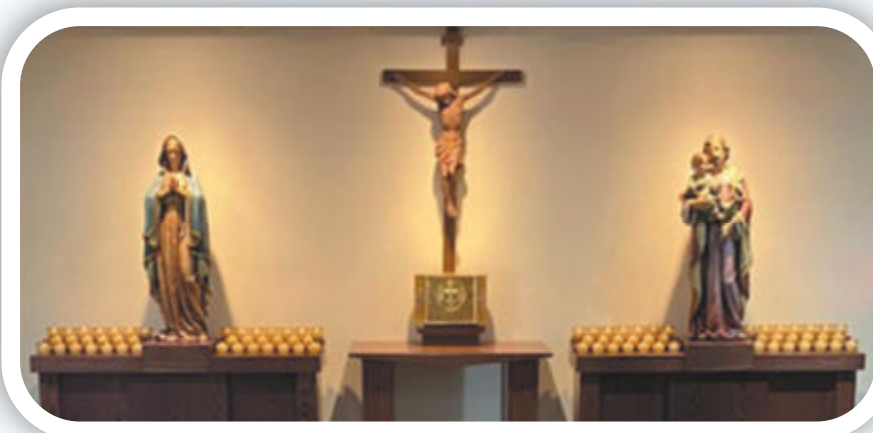
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Monday—Thursday

9:00 a.m.—12:00 (Noon)

Closed Fridays



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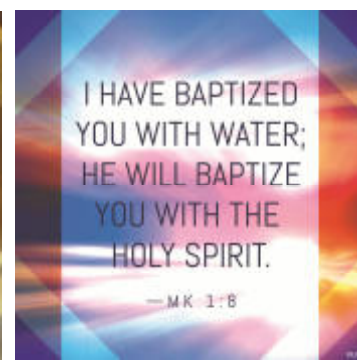
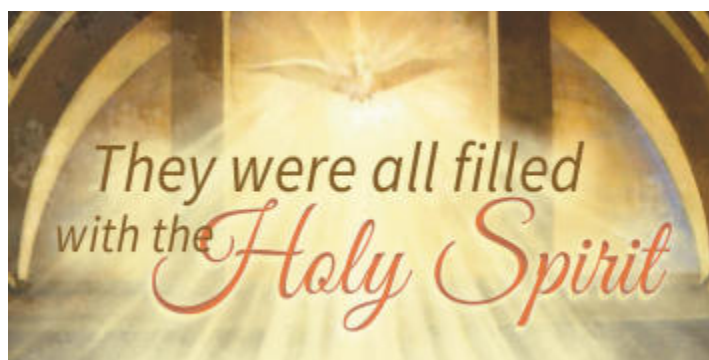
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**St. Vincent de Paul WILL BE PRESENT in May for its
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Veni, Sancte Spiritus



The **Pentecost sequence** is a beautiful composition attributed to the late 12th/early 13th century Archbishop of Canterbury Stephen Langton. This composition captures a wide range of activities of the Spirit, among them bringer of light, source of goods for the poor and all of us, comforter, sweet refreshment, solace, healer, strength, guide, source of joy. On this day when the church celebrates the coming of the Spirit and the sending of the disciples to continue Jesus' saving mission, it is especially fitting to draw attention to the Gospel as we sing our request for the Spirit to come and dwell within us.

In the Middle Ages, sequences were added to the liturgy to expand on and explain the meaning of certain feasts and celebrations. Today only four remain: the obligatory ones on Easter and Pentecost and optional ones on The Most Holy Body and Blood (Corpus Christi) and Our Lady of Sorrows. Most often, the sequences were attached to the gospel acclamation. ***Veni Sancte Spiritus***, sometimes called the **Golden Sequence**, is a **sequence** prescribed in the Roman Liturgy for the Masses of **Pentecost** and its octave, exclusive of the following Sunday. ... Before Trent many feasts had their own **sequences**. It is still sung today in some parishes on **Pentecost**.

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul's most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.
O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill!

Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away;
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue's sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end. Amen.

Alleluia!



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