

**Parish Newsletter**  
**For**  
**5 June 2022**



**PENTECOST**

*From Father Robert – Reflection On The Gospel*

The Holy Spirit is described as the Comforter or Paraclete, which translates from the Greek as Helper or Advocate. Earlier in John's gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that he will leave them, but that the Father will send them another Advocate, one that will teach them everything and remind them of all they have been taught. The Advocate that will come to them in "the Spirit of truth" who will be with them always. As the third person of the Holy Trinity, one way the Holy Spirit may be understood as the active presence of God that enacts the will of God. In Genesis as the world was formed, we are told that a mighty wind swept over the waters before God spoke light into existence. With the Word, creation came into being, and God's Spirit caused it to be so.

It could be argued that the presence or the anointing of the Holy Spirit is an essential ingredient at the beginning of ministry and for its success. In John's gospel, before Jesus begins His public ministry, John the Baptist testified, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon Him" (John 1:32).

This confirmed for John that the One he just baptized was indeed the prophesied Son of God, the One Whom John heralded. Luke's gospel gives the account of Jesus announcing to those gathered in the synagogue the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me..." This after He was tempted in the desert by the devil. Luke informs us that not only was Jesus filled with the Spirit (through baptism) but He was also in the power of the Spirit: filled with the indwelling power of the Spirit and anointed. To anoint is to confer a special and specific designation one that denotes separation and is intended for use that is holy. While one is typically anointed with oil, to be anointed with the Spirit is particular, indeed, and implies a designation and capacity that comes from God. Just as Jesus began His public ministry after being imbued (filled) with the power of the Spirit, the disciples, newly reconstituted as twelve, were told to journey to Jerusalem where they would receive "power" when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Now that Jesus had physically departed, it was important that the disciples receive the power of the Holy Spirit as they began public ministry in Jesus' stead. Of course, as conveyed in the first reading, the Spirit of God was poured out on all who were present on the day of Pentecost, for in Scripture we see the physical manifestation of the Spirit as wind or breath, fire, and a dove.

We, too, are "sealed" with the Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation, which prepares and strengthens us for ministry, our service to the Body of Christ. Pentecost is often viewed as the birth of the church. Jesus empowered the disciples to continue His work when He breathed on them and empowered them. Our bodies are even temples of the Holy Spirit, according to

St. Paul. Pentecost Sunday serves as a reminder of the gift of God's Spirit, bestowed so that we may have power for service and guidance from the Advocate Who will remind us of all truth and be with us always.



What is one area of your life that can benefit from intentional renewal?

How do you work to bring the message of Jesus to those who "speak a different language" than you, perhaps in politics or career? How do you engage those who are different from you?

Knowing that the first act of the Holy Spirit when sent to the apostles is the work of communication, how can you renew the way you speak with family, friends, and colleagues?

Have you ever gone to Sunday Liturgy in another country and heard the words you know so well spoken in a different language? What was this experience like?



The Brentwood Community Chorus will present their Spring Concert here in our sanctuary next Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 p.m. All are invited to attend. There will be a free will offering. The chorus numbers are close to 100 singers plus instrumentalists under the direction of Susan Stuart.



Each week I have the blessing of recognizing some of the many volunteers who do so much for the parish throughout each week.

Thank you to those who clean the sanctuary and the bathrooms in preparation for the coming weekend: **Al Cosce, Reno and Thelma Benasfre, Phil Hadsell, Ada Nnaji, Jean Rogers, Carole Miller, and Steve Rojek.**

To **Virginia Noack** who vacuums the carpets at the entrance to the church each day, empties the waste receptacles in the restrooms as well as making sure they are clean and ready for use.

To **Lisa Lombardo** who records our liturgies and uploads them to our You Tube Channel for those who cannot be with us in person.

To our Parish Office Volunteers: **Alicia Perez, Melodye Costanza, Lorraine Lohmeier, and Bev Iacona.**

To our Parish Security Team: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek, Tony Gmina, Dave Simpson, Brian McCoy, Tom and Stevie Catchings, Jose Perez, Bill Barbanica, and Rick Carraher.**

To those who help and assist Estrella Rusk, Financial Secretary, with accounting, data entry, recording, and banking.

To our Liturgical Ministers: **Ushers, Greeters, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Cantors, Sacristans, Altar Guild, Adult Acolytes, Art & Environment Committee Members, Liturgy Committee Members, Funeral Coordinators, and Alexandra Hernandez and Lori Curiel** who launder and iron the Sacred Linens.



**Knights of Columbus®**

*From Grand Knight, Chip Sharpe*

With great pleasure and gratitude, I want to thank the talented and energetic team that conducted our first breakfast burrito Sunday in over two years. And what a success it was.

No fewer than 13 of our members stepped up to support the event. Starting at 0630 Sunday morning, they prepared, cooked, wrapped, and served over 300 egg, sausage, and cheese burritos, nearly all of which were

bought and consumed by eager parishioners, anxious for yet another reminder of our pre-pandemic fellowship. The new kitchen performed spectacularly, with cleanup completed by 0900, the kitchen left gleaming more brightly than new. And our senior and still vibrant patriarch Clem Bushman even managed to lead our Fifth Sunday Rosary in the process.

Please join me in recognizing the team. The members include: **Bill Barbanica, Jeff Boatright, Jeffrey Boatright, Clem Bushman, Jack Goncalves, Phil Hadsell, Rob Laxner, Blake Rojek, Steven Rojek, Steve Rojek, Dave Simpson, Ron Yarolimek, and Bruce Costa.**

Very well done brothers, and thank you.



On behalf of all of us, I want to thank the members of our Art & Environment Committee for once again preparing such a powerful visual, colorful, inspiring environment for Pentecost and the next two weeks. They spent the majority of this past Wednesday, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and working until 3:00 p.m. to create an environment that will support our worship together for the next three weeks. Our thanks and gratitude to: **Tom & Stevie Catchings, Kris Shoemaker, Peter Degl'Innocenti, Doris Radovan, Rima LaLough, Pablo & Norma Villegas, Leo & Minnie Rivera, Don Benson, Rich Confetti, Theresa Nelms, and Phil Hadsell.**



Our Deanery and representatives from its eight parishes met this past Wednesday evening, June 1<sup>st</sup>, at Good Shepherd Parish Hall. Representatives from the MAP Task Force facilitated the session seeking recommendations from us as to how to go forward. Information from the survey was shared to make us aware of the current situation of the diocese with diminishing numbers of active parishioners and diminishing numbers of priests to serve the people of our diocese. We have been in decline for a number of years bringing us to this moment that is forcing us to realign parishes and clergy.

A question was presented to the group that was stated as follows:

“Given our constraints and your knowledge of your deanery, what structural collaboration best serves to create a vibrant deanery?

**Cluster:** two or more parishes remain separate and retain their names but share one priest and one administration.

**Merger:** Two or more parishes are combined to form one new parish while consolidating membership, property, and finances.

Closure: church and other buildings sold, rented, or used for other purposes.  
Parishioners assisted to attend another neighboring parish.

The large group was broken into eight groups, with participants from each of the parishes and the overwhelming consensus of each group was that no parishes in our deanery should be closed given the growth that is taking place in far east county. Building of new homes is taking place in Pittsburg, Antioch, Oakley, Brentwood, Byron/Discovery Bay and beyond. The recommendation was that we find ways to collaborate in ministry, sharing resources, personnel, and finding a way to make our parishes flourish as a result. Suggestions were to create deanery RCIA, RCIC, confirmation, Faith Formation, Adult Faith Formation, and sacramental programs.

The Task Force representatives present indicated that they would take the sharing and recommendations from our group to the entire Task Force as well as to the bishop for further reflection. Our deanery felt that much more work needs to be done so that the diocese has a better/complete understanding of our parishes, the ethnic and cultural diversity, before making any decisions affecting far east county.

Our parish representatives were well-informed, knowledgeable, articulate, creative, vocal, and had no difficulty thinking outside the box, especially with regard to education, formation, and empowerment of the laity to administer parishes and to have our clergy focus on spirituality and sacramental ministry.



Registration for Faith Formation, OCIA, OCIC (formerly RCIA and RCIC), and Confirmation continues Monday through Fridays in the Parish Office.

This weekend, Shelli Daviess, our Faith Formation Coordinator, will be in the office after all Liturgies and on Wednesday evening, June 8th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. as well.



### ***Our Children Need You!***

Faith Formation Catechists are the heart of our faith. You do not need to be a certified catechist to teach. Please consider sharing your faith with a group of children this year. In-Person classes begin September 21, 2022. All grades are taught one time per week from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., from September 21, 2022 through May 17, 2023.

The prayer of St. Francis says.... "It is in giving that we receive." Ask any catechist and they will assure you that you will get more than you give. St Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church Faith Formation will provide catechists with resources and training that help people become successful. The main goal of a catechist is the growth of faith for the children they work with.

If you would like additional information about being a catechist for grades 1-8 or for our confirmation program for grades 9-12, please contact **Shelli Daviess, Faith**

**Formation Coordinator** at 925-778-0768, ext. 305 or email me at:  
[daviesszoo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daviesszoo@sbcglobal.net)

Proverbs 22:6, "*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*"



### ***Volunteer Opportunity***

The parish is looking for a volunteer to maintain the parish website. This is a great opportunity to serve your community by supporting one of the parish's principal means of communication. Good communication skills, creativity, and attention to detail are important. The website, which is hosted by eCatholic®, can be maintained from home. Contact the parish office if interested.



The Children's Liturgy of the Word will be returning to Sunday Mornings at the 10:00 a.m. Mass in the fall. If you would love to be a Catechist for the children during the homily on Sunday mornings, please reach out to me.

It would be wonderful to have 4-5 Catechists, rotating each week to work with the children. That would mean each Catechist would work with the children every 4-5 weeks.

All materials will be provided each week. If you are interested, please contact **Shelli Daviess** at [daviesszoo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daviesszoo@sbcglobal.net) or 925-778-0768 ext. 305. Thank you.



## ***California Food Handler Cards***

As reported in the Parish Newsletter, our new kitchen has been certified by the Contra Costa Health Department and now has a permit to operate as a production kitchen. As we move closer to being able to use our new facility, we want to remind everyone that a California Food Handler Card will be required for anyone who works in our kitchen, including food servers. This will ensure that everyone working at our events has a basic knowledge of food safety and sanitation.

Food Handler Cards can be obtained by taking an online food safety course. Courses are offered by a number of certified organizations and with prices ranging from \$7 - \$15. Links for several certified organizations are posted on the parish website (note: you are not limited to the organizations listed - you may choose other organizations from which to obtain your card as long as they are certified).

Once you obtain your Food Handler Card, please provide a copy to the parish office. Per health department rules, these copies will be kept onsite in our kitchen.



***Justice Corner by Carolyn Krantz,  
Pastoral Associate***

Pentecost then was a time similar to our own. The Apostles/disciples had waited and prayed in the Upper Room for the coming of the Spirit that would form the Church of the Future. It was a time that would shape the church for years to come, a time of new meaning and understanding. We are in such a time now. The world is changing drastically. The new reality will demand new understanding of church. It will demand new leadership and different patterns of service. Reggie McNeal in *The Present Future*, (San Francisco, Jossey Bass, 2003) states, “The future belongs to those who prepare for it, not this who plan for it.” We are not to devise a plan and present it to God for approval, but rather, to prepare for it the way the Apostles did through prayer and research. We need to ask the right questions and listen to the Spirit present in the community for the answers. That's what the Synod is all about.

We have both a great and a horrible history, just as the Apostles did. They had given up all to follow Jesus in His ministry. And they had betrayed and forsaken Him as well. We have congregations that are about service to the community and those that are clinging to the past and want to reproduce it. We don't know God's plan, but we can prepare for it. "Prepare the Way of the Lord," Be ready.

Spiritual preparation is about partnering with God for what He has in mind. What does He want of His followers in this day and age? We have some clues. We know

that being a welcoming church that inspires people, transforms a community. We have seen the results of well-planned liturgies. We have learned to care for the sick and dying. We have more research to do to discover what's going on in the culture (whether we like it or not) to see how we can reach the younger generations.

Kingdom vision requires kingdom values to support it. We need to explore what it means to have the values that make up missionary disciples and see what fits with our congregation. We need to be ready to carry out the recommendations from the Synod when they are available. We need to discover what values are demonstrated by members of our congregation. Where can we work together with other Christian denominations to better the community? We need to explore the culture that is coming to be through the eyes of younger people.

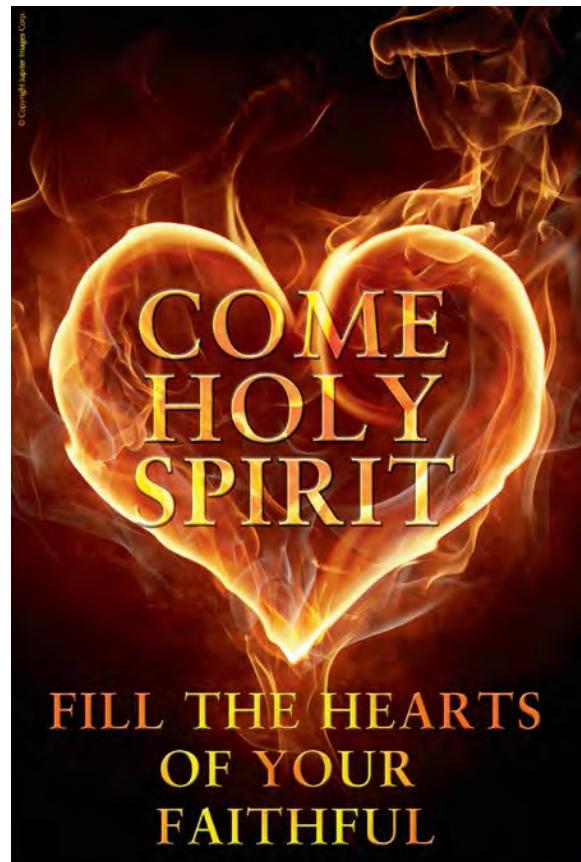
Earlier in my life, I thought God was calling me to Africa. Instead he called me to the African Church in Louisiana. In preparation I read the theologians that came from African missionary work. Joseph Donders said in 1985 that the “new model of church calls for the transformation of ministerial structures and attitudes. It calls for the transformation of the seminary system” to develop priests that “work within the community, not above it or outside it.”\* “Go to the people learn from them, love them, start with what they know, build with what they have. But of the best leaders, when the job is done, when the task is accomplished, the people will all say: We have done it ourselves.”\*

We have a lot to learn from other's experience. We have many models of those doing church and facing cultural change. Let us put aside our fears and explore how church members from other cultures faced

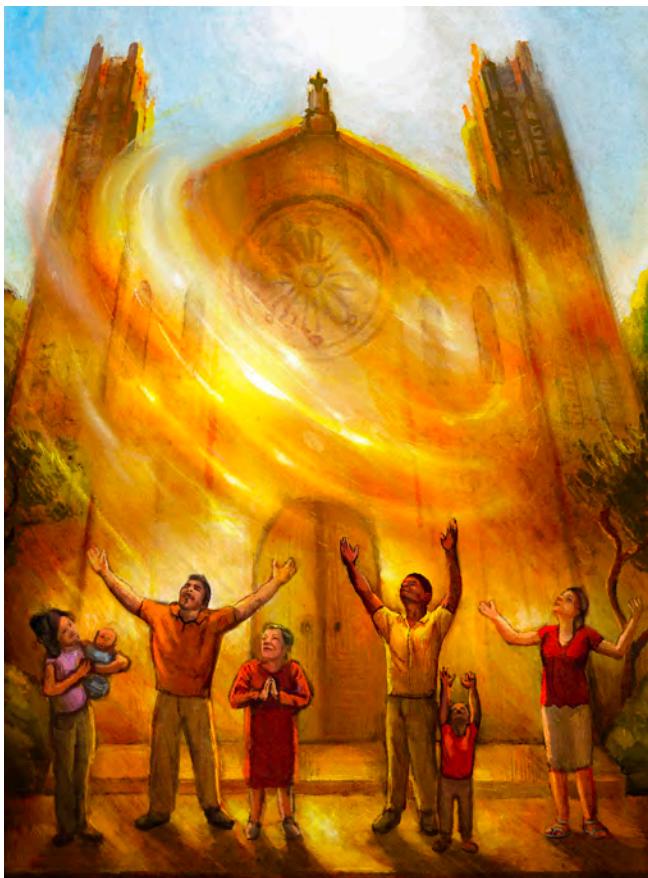
change. After all, “We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia..., yet we all hear the Spirit speaking in our own tongues.” We, like the large crowd in the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, are from many places, but through prayer and preparation, we will hear what the Spirit says to become the Church of the Future.

\*Joseph Donders, *Non-Bourgeois Theology*, Maryknoll, NY, Orbis Books, 1985, p. 92-93., 164-5

Another recommended book written about the church's role in great change during the South African apartheid is by Albert Nolan, *Hope in an Age of Despair*, Maryknoll, NY, Orbis Books, 2009.



# SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST



## Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Come, Holy Spirit!  
Shine the light of your presence into  
our hearts.  
Fill us with the goodness of your love  
and mercy.  
Free us from the darkness of doubt  
and fear,  
and open us to your healing love.  
Soften our hearts that are hardened  
by anger and distrust,  
and guide us to know your power  
present in every human heart.  
May the witness of our lives be  
a source of hope  
to all seeking your comforting presence.  
We seek to honor you all our days.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
(Prayer adapted from the Sequence  
for Pentecost)

## Sunday, June 5, 2022 The Power of the Spirit

*Today's readings: Acts 2:1–11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29–30, 31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13; John 19–23.* Imagine the energy that must have been in the room where the disciples had gathered to await the coming of the Holy Spirit. Anticipation may have been mixed with fear as the disciples pondered the words about the Advocate. And then the driving wind and tongues of fire settle over them all.

Compelled to leave the locked room, the disciples find themselves in the midst of a crowd from all ends of the known world. Inspired to proclaim the “mighty acts of God,” they are understood in the native languages of the gathered. Filled with the Holy Spirit, the disciples are

bolstered by the gift of courage. Never again will they live in fear.

This Pentecost day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism and affirmed in confirmation. This Spirit is our life force as disciples. As followers of Christ, we simply need to be open and ready for all that this Spirit will do in and through us. It is the power of the Spirit that will give us the courage and wisdom to be the people God has called us to be. Through that Spirit, we bear witness that we are adopted children of God and, as St. Paul says, we can cry, “Abba, Father.” As joint heirs with Christ, we live to glorify God.



## THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

### Thursday, June 23

#### Called to be Prophetic

John the Baptist can be seen as a bridge between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Gospel for today proclaims that “He (John) will be filled with the Holy Spirit . . . and he will go before him (Jesus) in spirit and power . . . to prepare a people fit for the Lord.” We too are called to prepare a way for Jesus by our words and our actions. We are called to be a prophetic voice calling for a just and peaceful world. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 49:1–6; Psalm 139:1b–3, 13–14ab, 14c–15; Acts 13:22–26; Luke 1:57–66, 80.*

### Wednesday, June 29

#### Sts. Peter and Paul

Two men could not have been more different in their approach to ministry than Sts. Peter and Paul. They disagreed upon how to spread the good news, but both possessed passion and commitment to the Gospel. Each of us has been called in our baptism to take the message of God’s love, mercy, and compassion to the world. How we accomplish our common mission will be as individual as our gifts and talents. *Today’s readings: Acts 12:1–11; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 17–18; Matthew 16:13–19.*

### Friday, July 22

#### St. Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene is referred to as the apostle to the apostles. While she is the first person to see Jesus after the resurrection, she only recognizes him after he says her name. With her faith awakened in the encounter, she sees Christ. At his request, she goes to the disciples and announces, “I have seen the Lord!” If we slow down, we too will hear Jesus call our name and our eyes will be opened to see him in those around us. *Today’s readings: Song of Songs 3:1–4b or 2 Corinthians 5:14–17; Psalm 63:2, 3–4, 5–6, 8–9; John 20:1–2, 11–18.*

### Saturday, August 6

#### Transfiguration of the Lord

The account of the transfiguration is proclaimed twice during the liturgical year, on the Second Sunday of Lent and on August 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Atop a mountain, Peter, John, and James witnessed an event that left them in stunned silence. First, they saw a transfigured Jesus speaking with Elijah and Moses. Then they heard a voice from the cloud say, “This is my chosen Son, listen to him.” Take some time today to reflect on how you see Jesus as your king in the fullness of his majestic glory. How do you share your belief that Jesus the Lord is king, and most high over all the earth? *Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14; Psalm 97:1–2, 5, 6, 9; 2 Peter 1:16–19; Luke 9:28b–36.*

### Monday, August 15

#### Solemnity of the Assumption

As Catholics we believe that Mary was full of grace. This is the angel Gabriel’s greeting in the account of the Annunciation. The doctrine of the Assumption of Mary that we celebrate today proclaims that at the end of her life, full of grace, Mary was taken into heaven body and soul. Today we ask Mary to show us the way to live full of grace. *Today’s readings: Revelation 11:19a, 12:1–6a, 10ab; Psalm 45:10, 11, 12, 16; 1 Corinthians 15:20–27; Luke 1:39–56.*

### Saturday, August 27

#### St. Monica

St. Monica is known for her perseverance in praying for her son, Augustine. Her deepest desire was for Augustine to turn to God. Today’s first reading proclaims: “This is the will of God, your holiness.” Monica believed this with her whole heart, and through an answer to her prayer, her son found God and holiness. Will God do any less for us when we pray? *Today’s readings: 1 Corinthians 1:26–31; Psalm 33:12–13, 18–19, 20–21; Matthew 25:14–30.*



# Donate Blood In Honor Of **Matthew Ouimet**

Celebrate life and make a difference by giving blood. Blood is needed for many different kinds of patients. It could be a young child with a rare blood disorder, a family member fighting cancer, or a friend involved in a car accident. Please schedule an appointment to donate at this special blood drive. You'll feel good knowing you've helped change the lives of patients in need.



## **TEAM MATTHEW BLOOD DRIVE** **St. Ignatius of Antioch** **Catholic Church**

Located in the Parrish Hall  
3351 Contra Loma Blvd  
Antioch, CA 94509

**Friday, June 10, 2022**  
**11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

For an appointment, please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)  
and enter the sponsor code: MatthewOuimet  
or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility to donate blood, please call 1-866-236-3276.

**Come to give June 1-30 and get a \$5 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice.**



**American Red Cross**

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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# **St. Ignatius of Antioch**

## **Relay for Life Mini-Relay**

*Saturday, June 11*

*6 PM to 9 PM*

**Raffle Prizes! Music!**

**Food (BBQ by our Knights)**

Tickets for Food will be sold after  
mass starting May 21.

Proceeds will benefit the American  
Cancer Society

See Alicia Perez or Maryann Peddicord for more Info