



MAY 28, 2023 | PENTECOST SUNDAY

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

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ST. THERESA'S

312 Tazewell Ave.
Tazewell, VA 24651

ST. ELIZABETH'S

160 Merrick Lane
Pocahontas, VA 24635

ST. MARY'S

1122 Farmer Street
Richlands, VA 24641

ST. JOSEPH'S

1007 Independence Rd.
Grundy, VA 24614

Experiencing the power and influence of the Holy Spirit

YOU MAY have noticed that after today's second reading there was a special prayer to the Holy Spirit. It can be prayed at any time of the year, not just on Pentecost Sunday. I have often found myself returning to some of the lines of the Pentecost Sequence, such as, "Heal our wounds, our strength renew, on our dryness pour thy dew." We all have wounds that need healing; our strength always needs renewing, our dryness of heart and spirit always needs freshening up.

There are some wonderful titles given to the Holy Spirit in this prayer, "Lord of light," "Father of the poor," "Light immortal, light divine." These are titles that could just as easily be given to God the Father or to Jesus, which is not surprising because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus and the Spirit of God the Father. In the creed, we say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the

Son." The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Jesus and, more precisely, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God's love and the Spirit of Jesus' love. The Holy Spirit is the presence of the love of God the Father and the love of Jesus in our lives. Saint Paul writes that "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

We know that the very best of human love is always life-giving for others. The love of God the Father, the love of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, are supremely life giving. The Holy Spirit brings life, a sharing in God's life, to all of us who open our hearts to receive the Spirit.

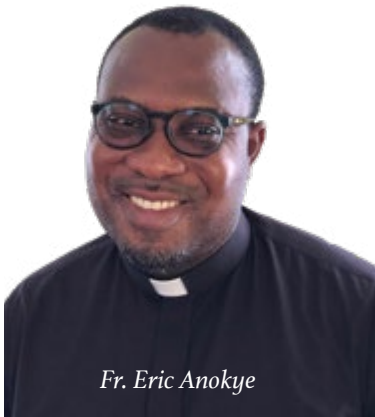
There is a very good image of the creative, life-giving power of the Holy Spirit in today's gospel reading. There you have the disciples shortly after Good Friday. They were only half alive. They were so terrified that they had locked themselves in a room. They were afraid that what had been done to Jesus might also be done to them. Into that fearful group stepped the risen Lord. The gospel reading says that he breathed on them while saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit." The risen Lord's action of breathing on the disciples calls to mind a story in the second chapter of the Book of Genesis. There God creates the first man by forming him from the dust of the earth and breathing into his nostrils the breath of life. The gospel reading describes a moment of new creation as the risen Lord breaths

the breath of life, the Holy Spirit, upon the disciples.

There is a line in the Responsorial Psalm which reflects what is happening in the gospel reading, "You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth." We all stand in daily need of the creative, life-giving, Spirit, because like those first disciples we can be tempted to retreat behind closed doors. We allow fear to take hold of us. We withdraw into ourselves. It is in such moments that we need the risen Lord to stand among us and to breathe his life-giving Spirit into our lives. At such times we need to pray that line in the prayer after the second reading, "heal our wounds, our strength renew, on our dryness pour thy dew."

The risen Lord is always standing ready to answer such a prayer. At one point in Luke's gospel, Jesus says, "How much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" The prayer, "Come Holy Spirit" is one prayer we can be sure the Lord will hear. It was to such a prayer that Jesus was referring when he said, "Ask, and it will be given you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you." In that sense, Pentecost is not a past event to be remembered. It is or it can be a present reality, because the risen Lord is always standing among us, ready to breathe the Holy Spirit upon us.

Our first reading today from the Acts of the Apostles is the



Fr. Eric Anokye

account of the first Pentecost, but as you read on in the Acts of the Apostles you discover that there are several other Pentecosts, many moments when the Holy Spirit comes down upon individuals or upon the whole church. As Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit on those disciples in the gospel reading, he said to them, "As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." The Holy Spirit will always revive us, recreate us, with a view to our being sent out to share in the Lord's work in the world. The Spirit empowers us to do the Lord's work, and as Paul reminds us in today's second reading, the Spirit empowers each of us in a very personal way. Paul speaks there about the "particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person" and he talks of the Spirit "working in all sorts of different ways in different people."

The Spirit respects our uniqueness, our individuality. The Spirit never creates sameness. The Spirit creates unity, community, but always a unity in diversity. The Spirit will always bring our personal uniqueness to full flowering. The Spirit will always create a communion of people graced in many different ways, for the service of all.



PASTOR

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OFFICE MANAGER/ BOOKKEEPER

Lydia St. Peter

OFFICE HOURS

Mon–Fri 9:30AM – 2:30PM

Please call the parish office to make arrangements for the **Sacraments of Baptism, Anointing of the Sick or Holy Matrimony** as well as funerals. **Reconciliation** is available from 30 minutes before a scheduled Mass.

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY

4PM – St. Joseph's

6PM – St. Mary's

SUNDAY

9AM – St. Elizabeth's

11:30AM – St. Theresa's

TUESDAY & FRIDAY

10AM – St. Theresa's

Cover image:

Juan Bautista Maíno,
Pentecostes, 1615–20

6 essential rules every Catholic man should live by

catholicgentleman.com blog



BEFORE there were the *12 Rules for Life* from Jordan Peterson, there were the *13 Rules of the Catholic Gentleman's Rule of Life*.

Here we'll go over six very practical rules that every Catholic man can implement in their own life.

1. "I will fear, love and honor God above all others, even at the cost of my own life."

The early Church was full of martyrs. These men didn't simply give up their lives for Christ, they faced their death with courage and — sometimes — even jokes! It is said that as St. Lawrence was being roasted to death on an iron grill, he teasingly told his torturers, "I am done on this side, turn me over."

Christ was so real to the early Christians that they counted death as nothing so long as they could be with Him. You may not have to die for your faith. But you may suffer from "soft martyrdom," such as losing friends over your beliefs.

The word "martyr" means "witness." By holding true to Christ's teachings, you are witnessing to a higher order of values.

2. "I will honor holy things and treat them with respect."

Once upon a time, sacred things were treated as sacred. Even in Western churches, a screen separated the sanctuary and altar from the people. This highlighted that the Mass was a holy moment, not some ordinary event.

We now live in a world that has lost a sense of the sacred. Even in some Catholic Churches, you have people who trivialize what's holy.

We don't want to drag God down to our level. Sure, Christ came down to us in the flesh, but this was to raise us up to share in His divine life. Jesus is your Lord. Remember this and be reverent.

3. “I will learn to pray as if my eternal salvation depends on it.”

God created you to be in a relationship with Him. Prayer is the bedrock of this relationship. After all, how can you have a good relationship with someone if you don't talk to them regularly?

Your eternal salvation depends on prayer, but don't think of this in a legalistic way. It's not as if you will be saved by saying X number of prayers. The point is that if you don't want to spend time with God here on earth, why are you going to want to spend eternity with Him?

The more you pray, the stronger your soul grows. Without it, the ups and downs of life will dictate your behavior. Don't try going through life without prayer.

4. “I will struggle for virtue and to overcome myself, no matter how difficult the process, not sinking to the level of mediocrity and excuse making.”

The spiritual life is HARD. Christ said, “Take up your cross and follow me.” If you're going to get serious about the spiritual life, it will hurt.

Growing spiritually involves dying to yourself and your love of pleasure, comfort and success. Not that those things are bad in themselves, but you can't let them dominate you. That's why penance is an essential part of spiritual life. We have to mortify our desires for food, drink, sex and other pleasures so that Christ can reign in us.

5. “I will prefer the Beatitudes to the world's values, remembering the truth that if anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in Him.”

The world operates by a very clear paradigm. It's the exact opposite of God's order. The world emphasizes power, pleasure, prestige, revenge and looking out only for yourself.

In the Beatitudes, Christ flips all these worldly values on their heads. He says, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” He promises eternal joy to the persecuted, suffering and forgotten.

This gives hope to those without “worldly success,” while also challenging those living only for this life.

Try to make time to reread the Beatitudes and meditate on them frequently. We promise they will change your life!

6. “I will treat others made in the image and likeness of God with dignity and respect, especially remembering to honor and to serve the poor, the weak and the rejected as I would Christ Himself.”

This goes back to the two great commandments (which are really one): Love the Lord your God with your whole soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself.

Each one of us is made in the image and likeness of God. This includes the poor and suffering. The saints who served the poor always said they were serving Christ Himself. And Christ said that we would be judged by how we treated the least among us.

Go out of your way to love and serve others, especially those who can't give anything in return. Otherwise, you don't really love God.

These are life-changing principles that will make you holier and happier! Start looking for ways to incorporate them into your life. The world needs men who live by these values. It needs YOU to set an example!

*(While these principles were written with men in mind, they apply equally to men **and** women! – ed.)*

mass intentions

Date	Intention
5/27 SATURDAY	
4PM	Terry Ratliff ☩ by Amy Presley
6PM	
5/28 SUNDAY	
9AM	
11:30AM	Gene Farris ☩ by Maria

stewardship of treasure

Donations Received as of May 21 (Week 47)		
CHURCH	ATTENDANCE	OFFERINGS
St. Joseph's		
St. Elizabeth's	70	\$1,734
St. Mary's		\$60
St. Theresa's		\$100
Total	70	\$1,894
Outside Donations		\$2,400
Year to Date Received		\$139,904
Goal		\$126,539
Ahead/Behind Goal		+ \$13,365

OUTSIDE DONATIONS—THANK YOU!!

St. Michael ATM, Glen Allen, VA: \$2,400

OTHER COLLECTIONS:

Home Mission: \$80
Ascension: \$70

please pray for

Louise Serreno*	Marco Warner
Gerry Hankins	Chris Lambert
Clarence Moore	Virginia Dy
Lexi Cox	Mary Muncy
Sarah Wall	Cindy Lambert
Tammy Bennett	Jean St. Clair
Margaret Wasilewski	Helen Petro
Nic Ulate	Clinard Coleman
Frannie & Rayburn Minton	Joan Harrison
Sue Bailey	Joe & Yvonne Blevins
Christian Lambert	Kyle Brown
Shane Neal	Bobby Cole
Pete Belcher	Jeffrey Parkhurst
Lucas Boyd	Sarah Walters
Ralph Heldreth	Everly Duns
Chris Jessie	Amelia Proffit
Leo Brown	Maurice Law
Carolina Ferrare	Zac Carter
Junior Aiken	Dennis & Frances Savage
Jeanne Hash	Nancy Jo Testerman
Lara Marshall	Donnie Neal
Carol & Jim Shumate	Josh Cornwell
Andrew Satmary	John Shumate
Glenn Harrison	Seth Waddell
Donna Petro	Doug Vance
Christian Marshall	Russ Hatfield
Tina Rocchetti	Connie Pace
Alice Godin	Lynn Jones
Randy Snyder	Jody Hamilton
Bryan Gunter	Jeanne Ameli
Michael Beavers	Bella Tester
Natalie Dodge	Annette Pike
Roger Empson	Everett Neese
Dreama Ritter	Pam White

council members

PARISH COUNCIL:

Tonya Hylton, Frannie Minton, Ralph Shawver, Barbara Jones, Donna Lambert, Maria Farris, Debbie Parkhurst

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Kathy & Bob Buchanan, Randy Bolling, Doug Vance, Anne Danko, Jim Talbert, Jackie Shawver, Lydia St. Peter

parish news & events

Holy Family's Spring 2023 Mass and picnic was hosted by St. Elizabeth's on May 21 at Fincastle Country Club. It was a beautiful day to join all four churches and visit as one parish family. Thank you to all participants and everyone who made this day possible.

Thank you to Paul & Kathy Smith of the Appalachian Twinning Ministries in Glen Allen! The ATM donated \$2400.00 in gift cards to Holy Family Parish's outreach programs. Our community appreciates the ATM and St. Michael parishioners for their generous hearts!

Fr. Eric always asks us to read ahead to get the most out of Sunday Mass. Would you like to be better prepared with a group discussion? Join us as Bible study resumes at St. Theresa's on June 7 at 7PM. This summer we will discuss the readings for each week's Sunday Mass.

The diocese has approved a return to general distribution of the Precious Blood at Holy Communion! Our goal is to have the Precious Blood available again beginning on June 10/11—The Solemnity of the Body & Blood of Christ. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at each church must attend refresher training before serving as ministers of the cup. Training dates/times will be announced as soon as Fr. Eric has firmed them up!

Remember to email your Father's Day photos for the June 18 bulletin to the parish office.

The parish office will be closed Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.



• *Mass at St. Elizabeth's*



• *Lunch at Fincastle Country Club*



• *Fr. Eric, Paul & Kathy Smith,
Ralph Sharver*

birthdays & anniversaries:

MAY 28: Matthew French | **30:** Francine Horn | **31:** Debi Cox

JUNE 1: Bridget Honaker | **2:** Brad Belcher

“Come, *Holy Spirit*, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.”



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