



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

**Sunday, June 9, 2019
Pentecost**

8:00 AM

Gathering: Send Us Your Spirit BB 453

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 104)

*Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew
the face of the earth.*

Sprinkling Rite: *God, you have moved upon the
waters, you have sung in the rush of
wind and flame; and in your love,
you have called us sons and
daughters, make us people of the
water and your name.*

Preparation Spirit, Come BB 452

Mass Parts Storrington Mass

Communion I Am The Living Bread BB 356
One Bread, One Body BB 339

Recessional: The Spirit Sends Us Forth BB 377

10:00 AM

Gathering: Send Us Your Spirit BB 453

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 104)

*Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew
the face of the earth.*

Sprinkling Rite: *If we have died to ourselves in Jesus,
then we shall arise to new life in Him,
Alleluia, alleluia!*

Preparation Holy Spirit BB 448
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
BB 678

Mass Parts Mass of God's Promise

Communion God's Holy Gifts BB 342
One Bread, One Body BB 339

Recessional: Canticle Of The Sun BB 425

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in \$7,000.00 each week in order to make ends meet. Thank you for your generosity to our parish! Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. We depend upon your support!

May 26, 2019

Offertory \$5,814.60
Catholic Communications \$1,192.81

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
JUNE 2, 2019
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**

PARISH GIVING

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has engaged *Parish Giving* to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Parish Giving allows you to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year. This program is available to parishioners at no cost. Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

June 9, 2019	No Second Collection
June 16, 2019	Fuel
June 23, 2019	No Second Collection
June 30, 2019	Works of the Holy Father
July 7, 2019	Property Management

**Out of respect, please remember to
silence or turn off
your cell phones during Mass.
Thank you!**



**Suggested Weekly Contribution
Based on Income**

Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/ \$100	\$3,000/ \$60
\$75,000	\$3,750/ \$75	\$2,250/ \$45
\$60,000	\$3,000/ \$60	\$1,800/ \$36
\$50,000	\$2,500/ \$50	\$1,500/ \$30
\$40,000	\$2,000/ \$40	\$1,200/ \$24
\$30,000	\$1,500/ \$30	\$900/ \$18
\$25,000	\$1,250/ \$25	\$750/ \$15
\$15,000	\$750/ \$15	\$450/ \$9

**Suggested Weekly Contribution
Based on a Percentage Increase**

Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$15.00	\$18.75	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

PAINT THE TOWN!

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign. Our next projects include exterior painting for the church and Parish house in Newton. We'd also like to paint the interior sanctuary of the church in Newton and complete some electrical upgrades to the church.

Other possible projects include work on our Plaistow and Newton parking lots, and ramp access to the church in Plaistow.

Can you help?

Any contribution is welcome. Make checks payable to
Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.



**PENTECOST IS UPON US!
SHOW YOUR TEAM SPIRIT!
WEAR RED TO CHURCH
ON THE WEEKEND OF
JUNE 8-9**

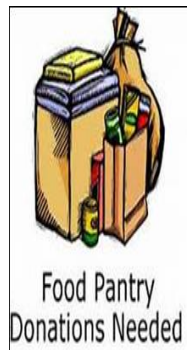
**Pentecost Evening Prayer and
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Holy Angels Church
Sunday, June 9 at 6:00 PM
Pentecost Dessert Reception follows
at 6:30 PM in the parish hall**



ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE! <http://stlukenh.org>

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Food or care items are always needed – donations can be dropped off at Church or are welcome at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Cash donations for food are always welcome – make checks payable to **St. Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry**. All donations to the Food Pantry go toward helping the needy of our communities.



FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Thursday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

For more information, call the St. Luke Food Pantry at **603-819-4949**.

CONFIRMANDI!

Congratulations to the following young people who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on June 9:

Isabella Keogh

Sophia Keogh

Jack Keogh

WHILE AWAY THIS SPRING / SUMMER...

We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the Spring / Summer even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the Spring / Summer months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.

PENTECOST

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, June 9

6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:30 PM	Pentecost Reception	<i>Plaistow</i>

Wednesday, June 12
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH CLOSED

Thursday, June 13

8:30 AM	Adoration Begins	<i>Newton</i>
8:30 PM	Adoration Ends	<i>Newton</i>

Saturday, June 15

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL **IS COMING!!!**

Miraculous Mission
Jesus Saves The World
June 24 through 28, 2019
9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Children won't want to miss out! They will meet new friends, sing songs, make crafts, play games, and eat snacks. To register, call Joyce Szczapa at 382-8324, ext. 303 or take a registration form from the back of the church. Cost is \$50 for one child, \$75 for two children, and \$85 for three children.

**St. Vincent
de Paul
Society**



The generosity of your contributions have allowed us to help out those in need with rent, medical, and heating oil assistance. The St. Vincent de Paul Society is so grateful and blessed.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, June 19 at 7:00 PM**. We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. **New members are always welcome!**

If you seek assistance or need information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324 x315.

**Hear, OH LORD, and answer me
for I am poor and needy.**

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, June 8 ~ Vigil / Pentecost

Gn 11:1-9; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39

4:00 PM Stanley Plonowski by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, June 9 ~ Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

8:00 AM Bernie Gosselin by Susan and Mick Swanwick
Newton

10:00 AM Edmund Caillouette
 by the Knights of Columbus
Plaistow

Monday, June 10 ~ Weekday

2 Cor 1:1-7; Mt 5:1-12

8:00 AM Kenneth Jenkins by Lori and Arthur Statezni
Newton

Tuesday, June 11 ~ Barnabas, Apostle

Acts 11:21b-26, 13:1-3; Mt 5:13-16

8:00 AM Eleanor Knowles by Marjorie Knowles
Plaistow

Wednesday, June 12 ~ Weekday

2 Cor 3:4-11; Mt 5:17-19

6:30 PM Michael Serratore by his family
Plaistow

Thursday, June 13 ~ Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church

2 Cor 3:15—4:1, 3-6; Mt 5:20-26

8:00 AM Barbara Tremblay by Gayle and Ed Wencis
Newton

Friday, June 14 ~ Weekday

2 Cor 4:7-15; Mt 5:27-32

No Mass

Saturday, June 15 ~ Weekday

2 Cor 5:14-21; Mt 5:33-37 (Day)

Rv 8:22-31; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16:12-15 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Roland Guilmette by his family
Plaistow

Sunday, June 16 ~ The Most Holy Trinity

Prv 8:22-31; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16:12-15

8:00 AM Ed Caillouette by Susan and Mick Swanwick
Newton

10:00 AM Bill Knowles by the Prayer Shawl Committee
Plaistow

PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

JUNE 9, 2019

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Allow God to journey with you in your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are **September 14-15, 2019** in Medway, MA and **October 18-20, 2019** in Laconia, NH. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.

RCIA

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have questions, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, July 7, 2019** in the Parish Office living room. All parents planning to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism are welcome. Families wishing to celebrate Baptism in the Church must be registered (according to Church Canon Law) and practicing (attending Sunday Mass) for 3 full months before a Baptism can be scheduled. The use of the envelope system is always optional; however, it does guarantee a manner of accountability. For most families, the Pastor or staff can easily verify attendance during these three months. Church Canon Law also regulates baptismal sponsors (godparents). Sponsors must be at least 16, fully initiated (having received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), and be practicing Catholics living Christian lives consistent with the Church's teaching. Please see Fr. Albert with questions.

FIAT DAYS

Young Women ~ Ages 14-18
July 8-11, 2019

Northeast Catholic College, Warner, NH

Do you want to say "yes" to God's plan for your life? You are invited to attend the first annual Fiat Days camp to spend time with other young women your age looking at the Lord's call in your life while having lots of fun. Fiat Days is an overnight camp led by the Vocations Team of the Diocese and the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Healing Love of Rochester, NH. It includes a full schedule of hiking, swimming, canoeing, sports and games, daily Mass and prayer, and opportunities to grow in friendship with the Lord and with each other.

Cost is \$50 for the weekend
(financial aid is available)

For more information, or to register, please visit
www.liveinblackandwhite.com

ADORATION

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual, but it is a great source of grace for us as a parish family, as well.

We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord, **but** we need more people so there will be at least two people at each hour. We are also looking for people who would be able to substitute.

Newton – Thursday
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM

If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

Parish Office	382-8324
Parish Prayer Line	382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society	382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry	819-4949
Preschool	382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent	382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
Joyce Szapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Thomas Kondel	tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
Youth Ministry	youth@stluketheevangelist.net
Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠



BLESSING OF FATHERS

There will be a special blessing of fathers at all Masses on
**Father's Day Weekend,
June 15-16, 2019**

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

The annual "Baby Bottle Campaign" for the Pregnancy Care Center **begins on the weekend of June 15-16**. The Pregnancy Care Center is a Christ-centered ministry offering life-affirming services designed to empower women and men to make informed decisions about unexpected pregnancy, abstinence education, and recover from post-abortion trauma. These services are free and confidential. Please pick up a bottle and fill it with coins, bills or checks (made payable to PPC). **Return them by the weekend of July 6-7.**



Catholic Day
at NORTHEAST DELTA DENTAL STADIUM



Sunday, June 9, 2019
Fisher Cats vs. Flying Squirrels
12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$8.00 - \$11.25
<http://bit.ly/FCCatholicDiocese>

Includes: Pregame prayer, recognition on the field, singing of the National Anthem & God Bless America, Catholic student announcer of the day, and more!

Please contact Brian Harrison with any questions
bharrison@rcbm.org • (603) 663-0173

YOUNG NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

July 21-26, 2019 ~ Worcester, MA

Young Neighbors In Action is a Catholic week-long mission for high school teens. To learn more, or to register, contact Brian Harrison at bharrison@rcbm.org

AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile.com is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please register today to start shopping and donating at www.amazonsmile.com. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/ or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaistow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.

JESUS aCROSS THE BORDER

Friday, June 14, 2019

YOUNG ADULT MASS at 7:00 PM
St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine
1105 Boylston, Street, Boston, MA
LIVE CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC
The Bebop Pub
1116 Boylston Street, Boston, MA
7:00 PM to 1:00 AM
www.jesusacrosstheborder.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ST JUDE COUNCIL # 6617

GIVE YOUR PARISH COMMUNITY

1 HOUR A MONTH

The Knights of Columbus are a vital and vibrant part of the St Luke the Evangelist Parish. We welcome any practicing Catholic man 18 or older to join the Knights, whose main purpose is charitable works in support of our parish and community. Joining is simple – talk to a brother Knight or you can now join on-line. Go to www.kofc.org/joinus. Your Council is involved in many activities from collecting money for people with intellectual disabilities through the Tootsie Roll Drive to the annual St Jude Golf Open which raises money for parish families in need. The list is as long as you want it to be. Do you have a certain passion you would like to get involved in? Come join us and make it a reality! We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be. Feel free to call Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, email him at dans49@comcast.net, or catch him at the 8:00 AM Sunday Mass in Newton. For more information about the Knights, go to www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html

PENTECOST



Abundance of the Holy Spirit

Father of all nations,
you gather your people
so that we may know the power
of the Holy Spirit,
alive in the driving wind
and the tongues of fire.
May we be filled
abundantly with your Spirit,
so that we can proclaim
your holy name to every
man, woman, and child
throughout the earth.
May all the world know
the mighty deeds of our God.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday, June 9, 2019
Our Soul's Most Welcome Guest



Today's Readings: Acts 2:1–11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 25–30, 31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13; John 20:19–23. The Easter season ends with the Solemnity of Pentecost, which marks the disciples going into the world. In today's reading from Acts, the disciples are gathered in the upper room, the place where they encountered the Risen Christ and where they received the gift of his Body and Blood. Here, they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and are empowered for the mission that Jesus has entrusted to them.

Crowds in the streets of Jerusalem understand when the disciples speak, even though the gathering consists of people from many nations. This group symbolizes the

worldwide mission of the Church. The Spirit will guide and encourage the disciples as they journey beyond Jerusalem to share the Word of God with all people.

The work of the disciples continues today. In our lives, followers of Christ are to welcome and look to the Holy Spirit for guidance as they continue to make God known. Some may be astounded at this and others bewildered. Still, we need to speak “of the mighty works of God.” Take some time in quiet and begin a prayer with “Come, Holy Spirit, come!” In your own words, request courage, strength, and a joyful spirit for carrying out your discipleship. Seek to make the Spirit a welcome guest in your prayer life.



THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Monday, June 10

Mary, Mother of the Church

A year ago, Pope Francis proclaimed that the day after Pentecost would be celebrated as the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. In the document in which this day was promulgated, the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments recalls Mary and John standing at the foot of the Cross. There, the document states, Mary welcomed “all people in the person of the beloved disciple as sons and daughters reborn unto eternal life.” *Today’s Readings: Genesis 3:9–15, 20 or Acts 1:12–14; Psalm 87:1–2, 3 and 5, 6–7; John 19:25–34.*

Tuesday, June 11

St. Barnabas

Barnabas was a companion of St. Paul, and the account of their journeys is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. This disciple was not one of the original Twelve Apostles, but tradition holds that he was a part of the seventy-two commissioned by Jesus to preach. He is, then, given the title of Apostle. Acting as a mediator, he is responsible for introducing Paul, who persecuted the early Christians, to the other Apostles. Barnabas is invoked as a peacemaker. *Today’s Readings: Acts 11:21b–26; 13:1–3; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4, 5–6; Matthew 5:13–16.*

Thursday, June 13

St. Anthony of Padua

St. Anthony of Padua, a Franciscan friar, loved Sacred Scripture and had a gift for preaching. He especially valued his Book of Psalms that he had filled with notes and comments that he used to teach other friars. When a young novice stole Anthony’s book while leaving the community, Anthony prayed that it would be found or returned to him. Soon after, both the book and the young man returned to the community. St. Anthony is invoked as the patron saint of lost

articles. *Today’s Readings: 2 Corinthians 3:15–4:1, 3–6; Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11–12, 13–14; Matthew 5:20–26.*

Monday, July 22

St. Mary Magdalene

In elevating the day when Mary Magdalene is honored from a memorial to a feast day, Pope Francis recognized her role as an evangelizer. Most saints are honored on the liturgical calendar with a day designated as a “memorial.” Days of particular significance and the days honoring the Twelve Apostles are feast days. Mary Magdalene has long been called the apostle to the Apostles for proclaiming to them that Jesus had risen. *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.*

Thursday, July 25

St. James the Apostle

James was among the first Apostles called by Jesus. He and his brother John were fishing with their father in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. Their response to Jesus’ call was to immediately abandon their nets and follow. Along with Peter and John, James witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus’ daughter, and was with the Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane. *Today’s Readings: 2 Corinthians 4:7–15; Psalm 126:1bc–2ad, 2cd–3, 4–5, 6; Matthew 20:20–28.*

Wednesday, August 21

St. Pius X

Pope Pius X desired that the faithful receive Holy Communion frequently. His devotion to the Eucharist brought him to be called the “Pope of the Blessed Sacrament.” He is the patron saint of first communicants and the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa. His motto was “Restore all things in Christ, so that Christ may be all in all.” How does the Eucharist assist the Church and each of us to live Pope St. Pius X’s motto? *Today’s Readings: Judges 9:6–1; Psalm 9:2–3, 4–5, 21–22, 25 and 27; Matthew 20:1–16.*





Bringing Home the Word

Pentecost (C)
June 9, 2019

Getting to Know God

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Our daughter married into a large Italian family whose get-togethers include dozens of people. (More than fifty were there for Christmas dinner, and not everyone could make it.) Ours is a small and often-quiet family, so Katy had to get used to more noise and activity than she had growing up. It was like learning a new language. It's often that way when couples wed. Over time, we come to know the inside jokes, the way the in-laws mark occasions, who we can joke with, and who prefers a more serious interaction. Just as with growing up in our own families, we

become a part of them and they become a part of us.

When the Holy Spirit descended on those gathered in the upper room, it was like a wedding. They had to learn the language of God's family—one that included proclamation, sharing, repentance, and mercy. They had to learn what it meant to be part of one body, using their unique gifts to build on what Christ had already started. With the Holy Spirit as inspiration and source of grace, the disciples and apostles were sent to testify and invite the world to the eternal life that Christ offers.

In any relationship it takes time to get to know the other. God has the advantage in his relationship with us—he already knows us fully and intimately. In getting to know him and learning his language, we may feel awkward or out of place. But he constantly welcomes and invites us to be a part of his life and Church, knowing we might eventually come to live with him forever. +

Sunday Readings

Acts 2:1–11

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.

1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13 or Romans 8:8–17

In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free.

John 20:19–23 or John 14:15–16, 23b–26

Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

God has the advantage in his relationship with us—he already knows us fully and intimately.

A Word from Pope Francis

The Holy Spirit is the fire of love burning in the Church and in our hearts, even though we often cover him with the ash of our sins. Let us ask him: Spirit of God, Lord, who dwell in my heart and in the heart of the Church, guiding and shaping her in diversity, come!

—Pentecost Mass, June 4, 2017



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- God already knows you well. Are you able to relax and confide your deepest thoughts to him?
- How can you use your unique gifts to invite others to the eternal life that Christ offers?

The Holy Spirit: The Breath of Life

By Michael D. Guinan, OFM

One hears lots of talk lately about spirituality. People are interested in living deeper spiritual lives. For some, the spirit in spirituality is the human spirit reaching for transcendence. But for the Christian, this isn't enough. The spirit is the Holy Spirit of God. In a real sense, our Christian spiritual life can be seen as the art of letting God's Spirit fill us, work in us, guide us.

But what is this Spirit? In Scripture the meaning of "spirit" (whether the Hebrew *ruach*, the Greek *pneuma*, or the Latin *spiritus*) is wind or breath. The spirit of God is God's breath, and breath is a sign of life. When we live, we breathe. God's breath empowers us to do God's work.

Moses was led by God's Spirit in teaching the people; the Spirit rushed on David when he was anointed king; the Servant of the Lord received the Spirit to establish justice for the lands. The Spirit of God is the dynamic breath by which God achieves his divine purposes—revelation, deliverance, and the rule of justice and peace.

All of this comes into focus in Jesus. He is conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit, and his ministry begins and continues in the Spirit. He preaches, confronts sin, and brings healing through the Spirit. At his death, John



records in his Gospel, Jesus "handed over the spirit" (19:30). At the Last Supper, Jesus promised his disciples the gift of the Spirit. When Jesus appeared to them on the evening of his resurrection day, "he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the holy Spirit'" (John 20:22).

Gifts of the Spirit

The Christian, then, lives in and with the power of the same Breath/Spirit as Jesus. "But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him" (1 Corinthians 6:17). The fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22–23).

Over the centuries, for various reasons, many Christians have come to think of the Spirit in very spiritual terms—connected with our souls. The body (and the world of matter) is then spurned, distrusted, even despised as we seek to save our souls.

Body and Soul

Yet nothing could be further from the truth of Scripture. It isn't matter that is opposed to the Spirit, but only sin. When Paul speaks of our whole person under the dominion of sin, weakness, and death, he calls this living "according to the flesh" (Romans 8:5–10).

This use of "flesh" should not be equated with the body. "Living according to the Spirit" means that our whole person is guided by the Spirit of God. We Christians are whole persons—body and soul, thoughts and feelings, emotions and passions, hopes and fears. We are called to live all of our relationships—to ourselves, to others, to all creation, and to God—in and with the power of the Spirit.

All of us share the same call and challenge. Through baptism and confirmation, we all share in Jesus' gift of the Spirit. The Second Vatican Council stressed that there is only one basic Christian call to holiness, but we are all called (vocation) and sent (mission), each in her or his own way, to continue Christ's presence in our world today, sharing in his work of teaching, healing, and working for life, justice, and peace.

This is a daunting challenge, but we do not face it alone. The Spirit/Breath of God is with us, empowering us to share in God's purposes and work. +



*Lord, you send forth your Spirit.
Teach me to walk your way
of love and compassion
in hope and gratitude.*

—From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of
Easter Through Pentecost*, Rev. Warren J. Savage
and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 10–15

Monday, Blessed Virgin Mary:

Gn 3:9–15, 20 or Acts 1:12–14 / Jn 19:25–34

Tuesday, St. Barnabas:

Acts 11:21b–26; 13:1–3 / Mt 5:13–16

Wednesday, Weekday:

2 Cor 3:4–11 / Mt 5:17–19

Thursday, St. Anthony of Padua:

2 Cor 3:15–4:1, 3–6 / Mt 5:20–26

Friday, Weekday:

2 Cor 4:7–15 / Mt 5:27–32

Saturday, Weekday:

2 Cor 5:14–21 / Mt 5:33–37