

**Sunday, May 31, 2020
Solemnity Of Pentecost**

During these anxious and challenging days, I want to thank you for your prayers and ongoing support of the ministries of our Parish. Even though you are not physically present at the celebration of the Liturgy, you and your family are in our hearts as we pray for you and with you. I also thank you for your concern for the poor and forgotten through your support of our Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry.

In the coming days and weeks, we will be severely challenged as a Parish community in terms of finances. We do not have any cash reserves on which to fall, and salaries, supplies and utilities continue to be a part of the operations of our Parish.

I consulted early on with members of our Finance Council and have put in place various cost saving strategies to help us ride out the Corona storm. With the advice and support of the Diocese, the Parish applied for and was granted a US Government PPP loan that will support our payroll through the beginning of June. I am deeply grateful for your continuing support of the work of our Parish, even in your absence. Your ongoing support will mean that the Parish can continue the work of ministry for the present and will help us look toward a future when we are all together again.

If you would like assistance in making electronic contributions, please see the Parish Giving section in the right-hand column of this page.

May God console us, heal us and bless us in the days to come.

RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS

Attention Parents

Please be sure to accompany your young children when they need to use the restroom during Mass. This is for their safety and your peace of mind. Thank you for your assistance.

✠ 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 3 and 10, 2020

Offertory	\$10,331.96
Property Management	\$ 381.92

May 17 and 24, 2020

Offertory	\$13,908.54
Ascension	\$ 322.82
Catholic Communications	\$ 160.65

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 is a simple, secure, and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. It allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smart phone. You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend. 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

May 31, 2020	No Second Collection
June 7, 2020	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!

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.

SANCTUARY CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.

VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon in Newton may be also be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00.

FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, or address changes in your family, please notify the Parish Office at jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net or call 603-382-8324. If you are new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. You can also find a registration form on our website at <http://stlukenh.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.amazon.com. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

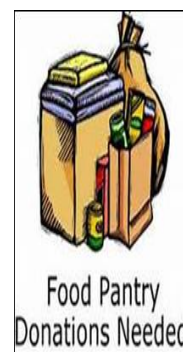
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contributions to the parish for 2019, **please call Jackie** at the Parish Office at 382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**

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**.

WHILE AWAY THIS SPRING...

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

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, May 31
DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION
8:00 AM IN NEWTON
10:00 AM IN PLAISTOW

Monday, June 1
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Tuesday, June 2
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Wednesday, June 3
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

Thursday, June 4
HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER FROM
8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

8:30 AM Adoration Begins Newton
8:30 PM Adoration Ends Newton

Saturday, June 6
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Plaistow
DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION
4:00 PM IN PLAISTOW

Sunday, June 7
DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION
8:00 AM IN NEWTON
10:00 AM IN PLAISTOW

**St. Vincent
de Paul
Society**



We're looking for new members! Have you ever wondered just what the St. Vincent de Paul Society is all about? Plan to join us at our next scheduled meeting **Wednesday, June 17 at 7:00 PM** in the Holy Angels Church Hall for some light refreshments and information on how you can become a member of this vibrant, caring group of people. We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have. See you on June 17!

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, May 30 ~ Vigil / Solemnity of Pentecost
Acts 2: 1-11; 1 Cor 12: 3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20: 19-23
Paul Fournier by Edith Fournier
No Public Mass

Sunday, May 31 ~ Solemnity of Pentecost
Acts 2: 1-11; 1 Cor 12: 3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20: 19-23
People of the Parish
No Public Mass
Veronica Webster (12th Anniversary)
by her daughter
No Public Mass

Monday, June 1 ~ Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Gen 3:9-15, 20; Jn 19:25-34
People of the Parish
No Public Mass

Tuesday, June 2 ~ Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs
2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18; Mk 12:13-17
Intentions of Edward Duhamel
No Public Mass

Wednesday, June 3 ~ Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs
2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12; Mk 12:18-27
People of the Parish
No Public Mass

Thursday, June 4 ~ Weekday
2 Tm 2:8-15; Mk 12:28-34
People of the Parish
No Public Mass

Friday, June 5 ~ Boniface, Bishop and Martyr
2 Tm 3:10-17; Mk 12:35-37
No Mass

Saturday, June 6 ~ Norbert, Bishop
2 Tm 4:1-8; Mk 12:38-44 (Day)
Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Stanley Plonowski by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow (IF public Mass allowed)

Sunday, June 7 ~ The Most Holy Trinity
Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18
8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton (IF public Mass is allowed)
10:00 AM Roger Couture by Knights of Columbus
Plaistow (IF public Mass is allowed)

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.

MAY 31, 2020

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS

Let God amplify the love in your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are **September 12-13, 2020** in Medway, MA and **October 16-18, 2020** in (TBD), NH. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://www.mema.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 12, 2020** 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.



VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn in loving memory of
Thomas Antczak
and
Francis Antczak



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
Cathy Smith
Joyce Szapa
Jackie Tremblay
Thomas Kondel
Val Barczak
Parish Council

fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
mvmbarczak@comcast.net
parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

CREIGHTON FERTILITYCARE SYSTEM

The Creighton FertilityCare System is a highly effective and morally acceptable natural method of family planning. It is healthy and strengthens marriage. It is used to achieve a pregnancy or avoid a pregnancy and can be useful in the diagnosis and treatment of reproductive disease. Online introductory classes will be held on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Mary Menendez, CFCP, St. Gerard Majella FertilityCare Services, at 603-642-8050 or CreightonFertility@yahoo.com.

CREMATION AND THE CHURCH

On October 25, 2016, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published a new instruction on the burial of the dead and on the conservation of the ashes in case of cremation. The instruction reiterated the long held view that the Church is not opposed to the practice of cremation, though it continues to recommend that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places. **However, the new document insists that ashes should not be kept in private homes, and that the scattering of ashes in the air, on land, or at sea is not permitted.** The instruction also insists that remains may not be divided among various family members, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry, or other objects. Please contact Father Albert in the Parish Office with any questions. Brochures about the Rite of Christian Funerals are available at the Church entrances.

PROJECT RACHEL

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential non-judgmental help is available. Call Project Rachel's national toll-free number at 1-888-456-HOPE (4673) or visit www.hopeafterabortion.org.

ORDINATIONS

With praise and thanksgiving to God, the Diocese of Manchester will ordain two transitional deacons on Saturday, May 30 at 10:00 am at the Cathedral in Manchester. Please pray for **David Gagnon** and **Joseph Moynahan** as they are ordained for service as Deacons in our Diocese.

The Diocese will also ordain two Deacons for service as Priests on Saturday, June 6 at 10:00 am at the Cathedral. Please pray for **Deacons Ryan Amazeen** and **Joshua Livingston** as they prepare for service as Presbyters in our Diocese. Because of the coronavirus outbreak all will be ordained in a largely empty Cathedral, with only their parents, close relatives and friends in attendance. All in the Diocese can watch a livestream from the Cathedral website, www.stjosephcathedralnh.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH UPDATE

All Programs continue to offer support during the COVID-19 pandemic

In this challenging and unprecedented time, Catholic Charities NH continues to serve the needs of the vulnerable across New Hampshire. While most of its physical locations are closed, all of their programs remain operational. The staff is working remotely and is accessible to serve individuals and families facing increasing hardship during this difficult period. If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact 603-669-3030. You may also visit www.cc-nh.org/programs for more information on how Catholic Charities NH continues to adapt to changing needs statewide.

HOSPITAL VISITATION

If you or someone you know is in the hospital and wants to receive a visit, please contact the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. If you or someone you know faces a hospital admission, make sure they know to inform the hospital that they are Catholic and are members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish. If a person cannot make this information known at the time of admission, a family member may be able to make that information known to the hospital staff.

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

For centuries Pentecost has been one of the premier days of the Church year. The Church in different places has celebrated Pentecost with all kinds of symbols and traditions. Customary at Pentecost were branches of fresh foliage, bundles of green grasses and reeds, and a large number of familiar spring flowers: roses, poppies, peonies and irises.

On Pentecost, people feasted on the first pickings of their gardens: asparagus, peas, lettuces and herbs, rhubarb and strawberries. With pastures lush and with flocks and herds giving birth, the abundance of dairy products transformed winter's fast into springtime's great feast.

These signs of the season came to be interpreted as emblems of the life-giving Spirit, as reminders of God's covenant with all creation.

On the Jewish calendar, *Shavuot*, the feast of "Weeks," falls 50 days -seven weeks-after Passover (*Shavuot*) is also called Pentecost, from the Greek word for 50.) The days between Passover and *Shavuot* are the time of the grain harvest in many Mediterranean lands. This most important harvest of the year must be successful, though even a good crop of grain is extremely vulnerable just before it is gathered in. When grain ripens, it grows brittle and is easily broken by wind, easily rotted by rain. The 50 days in Jewish lore are a time of pensiveness, of holding one's breath until the harvest has been safely brought into storage.



Even in more northerly climates we know the anxieties of spring. When will the fields dry out so that we can plant? When will the rains come so that the seed will sprout? A hailstorm can wreck an orchard, a cold snap can kill newly hatched chicks, and a dust storm can asphyxiate a herd.

Pentecost became a celebration of the end of anxiety – a feast of fulfillment. Some of its customary images are dishes prepared from milk and honey as signs of our arrival in the “promised land” of the settled days of summer. Cheesecake was just about invented as a Pentecost delicacy.

Another Hebrew title for Pentecost is *Yom ha-Bikkurim*, “the day of firstfruits.” A firstfruit is an offering to God of the first of each harvest. Throughout the Fifty Days, an offering of barley was made to God, and at Pentecost the offering changed to the first sheaves of ripe wheat.

In Jewish and Christian folklore, Pentecost is associated with ripe, red strawberries, golden apricots and cherries - the first of the summer fruits. This is just about the time of year these fruits grow ripe in the warmer places of North America, and markets everywhere have them in abundance.

The Pentecost custom of filling homes and houses of worship with lush greenery was kept by Jews and Christian alike. The custom still lives on in central and eastern Europe. There is great mystery in a simple green branch or a stalk of green grass.

Not that many weeks ago the earth seemed lifeless, but in time the ground softened, the buds swelled and blossomed, and the Passover arrived. Now that the season is complete, the days have gotten long and warm, trees are green, and the earth has grown fruitful.

The branches and bundles of green grasses may remind us of phrases from the Pentecost sequence- *Veni Creator Spiritus* – “*dulce refrigerium*,” “sweet refreshment,” and “*in aestu temperies*,” “mildness in the heat.” These are attributes of the Holy Spirit.

City folks sometimes substituted paper roses and green foliage for the real thing. The art of cut paper added a lovely dimension to Pentecost and sometimes was combined with real greenery and flowers. Paper birds, flowers, garlands and other ornaments would be used to festoon whole small trees cut and brought inside. In past generations, Christmas was not the only season for decorated trees. Many Byzantine churches still use small birches and poplars in their decoration, especially of the front doors. Some Jewish synagogues spread their floors with sweet-smelling hay and decorate the ark of the scriptures with tree branches.

The story of the covenant on Sinai, where God came down in fire and wind, became the principal focus of the festival of *Shavuot*. The covenant completes the Passover. The Israelites kept vigil while Moses received the tablets of the law; thus keeping vigil throughout the night became a Jewish custom for *Shavuot*. It also became a custom for Christians at Pentecost so that Easter time would end the way it began, with a nighttime vigil.

We Christians add the story of the descent of the Holy Spirit to the other stories we celebrate at Pentecost, the stories we have received as a legacy from the Jewish celebration. With special delight we contrast the story in Acts of the Spirit’s gift of the understanding of languages with the disruption of languages on the tower of Babel. Pentecost can be for us a kind of festival of the nations - like Epiphany, the herald of a world at peace.

PENTECOST SUNDAY



Come upon Us

Lord of life,
The world awaits your liberating Spirit.
Come, mighty wind, breathe new life
into us.
Come, Spirit of Truth,
reveal the evil that lingers in our midst.
Come, Wisdom of God,
teach us the way of righteousness.
Come, Fire of Love,
impassion us to act justly in all we do.
Come, Helper and Guide,
draw us together in fellowship
and peace.
Come, O Sanctifier, and make us holy.
Keep us forever united
with our loving and creating God,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 31, 2020

Today's Apostles

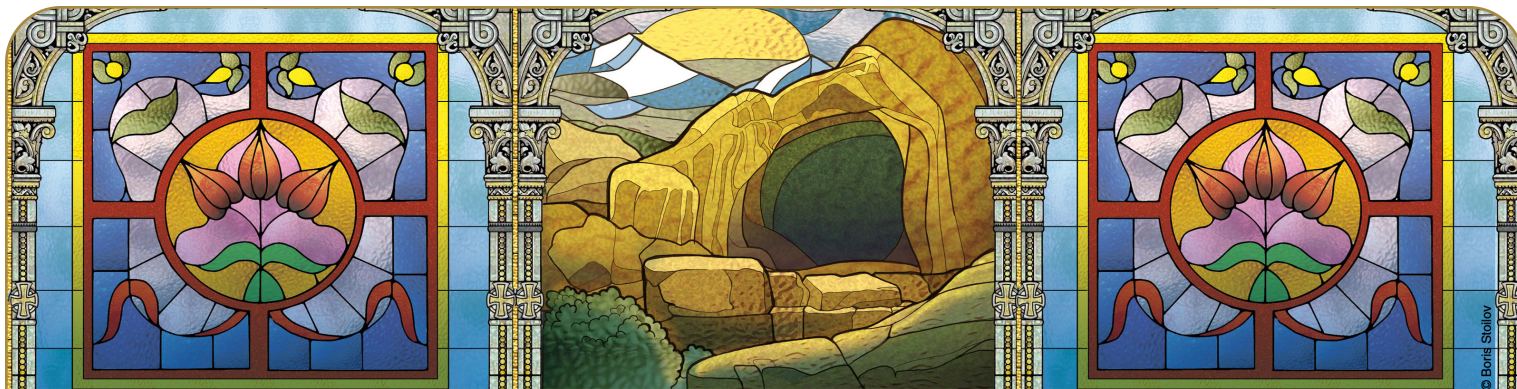


Today's Readings: Acts 2:1–11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29–30, 31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13; John 20:19–23. For the past seven weeks, we have heard what the Apostles did after Jesus poured his Spirit out upon them. We have heard compelling speeches and listened to stories of healing and exorcism. We have witnessed the conversion of Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles. We have seen Paul, a fierce opponent of Jesus' followers, become an eloquent and passionate preacher of the Gospel. We have also heard stories of ridicule, expulsion, imprisonment, and martyrdom, yet in those moments, the Apostles rejoiced that they could glorify God by dying and rising with Jesus.

As our Easter season comes to an end and we conclude our reading of the Acts of the Apostles, we might think such

marvelous stories belong to the past. We might think we could never be such loving, courageous witnesses, we could never speak and act like those Apostles did. We would be wrong to think this. St. Paul tells us, "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."

Pentecost marked the beginning of the apostolic era, the era of the Church. We are still in that era. People still need to hear the story of salvation, still need healing, still need evil expelled from their midst. God pours his Spirit out upon us to transform and empower us, and then he sends us forth. We each have something to contribute to the story of salvation, for we are the apostles of this age.



THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Monday, June 1

Mary, Mother of the Church

In the Gospel passage, Jesus ensures that his mother will be taken care of after his death. However, this passage also has a symbolic meaning. Throughout the Gospel, the Beloved Disciple has faithfully told us all that happened to Jesus so that we will believe in and worship Jesus as God's Son. Mary represents the Church, the community of believers who are continually strengthened by the witness of this disciple. As we strive to bear Christ in our world, we continue to draw strength and gain wisdom from the faithful witness of others. Pray the Rosary this week, and ask God to help you be a more faithful witness to God's love. *Today's Readings: Genesis 3:9–15, 20 or Acts 1:12–14; John 19:25–34.*

Sunday, June 7

The Most Holy Trinity

Because the first Christians worshipped the Risen Christ as Lord, it soon became necessary to explain how Jesus and God the Father, as well as the Holy Spirit, were one God and not three different gods. There were intense discussions about the nature of God in the fourth and fifth centuries. The fruit of this process is the Nicene Creed, particularly the use of the title "Father."

The term *father* implies relationship. If God is a father, then there must be a child. In God's case, the child is a Son, Jesus. The relationship does not end there; it flows outward, bringing the world into existence and giving life to countless creatures. The Holy Spirit draws the world toward God so that we may become part of the divine relationship, part of God's eternal love. *Today's Readings: Exodus 34:4b–6, 8–9; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; 2 Corinthians 13:11–13; John 3:16–18.*

Sunday, June 14

The Body and Blood of Christ

When Jesus' followers gathered after his death and Resurrection to break bread and drink from the cup, they were doing something dangerous. Their Lord had been executed, and by gathering in his name they risked the same fate. They gathered nonetheless. By communing with the Risen Christ, they declared themselves part of his body and showed their willingness to suffer for the sake of the Gospel.

When we come forward during Communion, we are doing the same thing. By partaking of the consecrated bread and wine, we become part of Christ's Body. We commit ourselves to acting as Christ in the world, even to the point of suffering, maybe even shedding our blood, so that others will know of Christ's love for them. *Today's Readings: Deuteronomy 8:2–3, 14b–16a; Psalm 147:12–13, 14–15, 19–20; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; John 6:51–58.*

Friday, June 19

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

In the First Reading, Moses reminds the Israelites that God bound himself to his people in a covenant, and they, in turn, must remain bound to God and God alone. St. John writes similarly in our Second Reading, urging us to remain bound to God by loving each other as God loves us, for God is love itself. Because we associate the human heart with love, it became natural to revere the heart of Jesus as the more particular embodiment of the Father's love.

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus tells us to yoke or bind ourselves to him. He invites us to live in a way that is not burdensome because it is the way of love and because he accompanies us every step of this way. We can trust him because we know that he has already bound himself to us in love. *Today's Readings: Deuteronomy 7:6–11; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8, 10; 1 John 4:7–16; Matthew 11:25–30.*





Bringing Home the Word

Pentecost (A)

May 31, 2020

Unity of Spirit

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The whole group of believers was gathered with Mary, Jesus' Mother, in the upper room. They were waiting for power to be given to them from on high, as Jesus had promised. They were like children with their mother, keeping the family together. Being the one on earth closest to Jesus, Mary was the disciples' physical and spiritual connection to him, and they listened to her.

Consider what a colorful group the first Christians were. Each believer was different, each unique, each had his or her own background. Yet when the

Spirit called them together with Mary, there was a beautiful harmony and complementarity. Opposite of the spirit of the evil one, which causes division and exaggerates individuality, the Spirit of God celebrates legitimate diversity while creating from these different parts one body and one spirit in Christ.

If you have ever been in Rome for an audience with the pope on Wednesday morning or at a large papal Mass like World Youth Day, you have experienced how the Spirit brings unity amid diversity. These gatherings comprise thousands of people of many different nationalities and languages, but all are united in prayer and a common spirit. This is the miracle brought about by the Spirit.

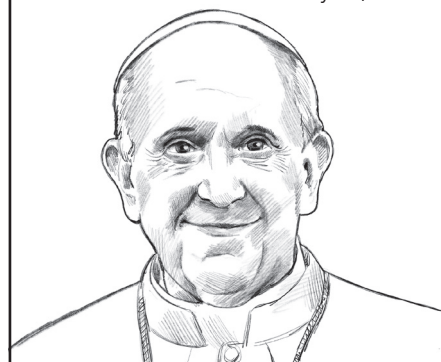
It's not easy to maintain this unity. It requires we each listen to and strive for the unity Jesus asks of us. Selfish individualism is a constant tendency, but it's much easier to resist it when we are united by Mary and the Church to Christ's Spirit. +

When the Spirit called the first Christians together, there was a beautiful harmony.

A Word from Pope Francis

As he did on Pentecost, the Lord wants to work one of the greatest miracles we can experience; he wants to turn your hands, my hands, our hands, into signs of reconciliation, of communion, of creation. He wants your hands to continue building the world of today. And he wants to build that world with you.

—Prayer vigil with young people, July 30, 2016



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- How can I encourage greater unity within my family and parish?
- Is there a way I can be more of a team player?

Sunday Readings

Acts 2:1–11

Suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and...Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire.

1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.

John 20:19–23

[Jesus] breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Reverencing the Bible

By Richard Rohr, OFM

Many of us have been privileged to be present with someone on his or her deathbed. In this setting we are concerned about listening to every word the person is saying—and about choosing our own words carefully. It is with this degree of reverence that we should approach the Bible: with humility.

Biblical language is more poetry than prose. It doesn't so much describe events historically as it seeks to lead us into those experiences. We can change words, but an experience changes us. Good biblical interpretation finds the balance between words that get us started, and encounters that are beyond words.

At the transfiguration (Matthew 17), Jesus appears to several disciples, his face shining "like the sun" and clothes "white as light." Afterward, Jesus cautions them: "Do not tell the vision...." In this example we observe the spiritual tradition balancing darkness and light, presence and absence, speaking and silence, seeing everything so well that we don't need to see anything in particular.

The Bible repeatedly finds the balance between knowing and not knowing, between using words and having humility about words. To read the Bible well, we should appreciate the

balance and allow the Spirit to stir its meaning for us. But for most of us in the contemporary West, it is an uphill struggle. We prefer to read the Bible literally and to turn to it for precise answers to questions.

Need for Grounding

Ours is a time of such change that the human psyche struggles to handle it all. Terrorist attacks and political turmoil have shaken us deeply. No wonder many of us look to certitudes for grounding. Subconsciously, we seek to make God our private property by taking the Bible literally, reading it from our own perspective and cultural interpretation. When we do this, we lapse into a kind of rigid time capsule

that does not enlighten us. God gives us just enough light for the next faith-filled step, never a blueprint for our lifetime.

The "Jesus Seminar" offers an example. Here scholars combed through New Testament texts in an effort to determine if Jesus said this or that and did or didn't use certain precise words. When we take that approach, more is lost than gained. We risk moving out of sacred space and trivializing what we might have experienced. We risk declaring victory before we have even struggled. We settle the dust by giving

ourselves answers, when the raised dust might have revealed the right questions.

Journey of Faith

Though we often wish it were so, the biblical God is not a cure-all, a cosmic answer man or woman. The God living inside of history uses it and suffers from it, gives us truths on which we can rely. But he doesn't give us all the answers. In fact, God leads us through the dilemma of our lives and invites us into a daring journey of faith. God always comes to us disguised as our lives.

The Bible offers hope, but not an escape from life. It is in life that we meet God. So very little in life is ever resolved or solved, settled or answered. There is only the crisis itself, the struggle. Our need for an answer leads us toward eternal life. God calls us to stay in the struggle—still wanting to know, but as people of faith being willing not to know. All because we can trust the One who knows all. +



PRAYER

Risen Lord, your Spirit fills the world with love and peace. Empower me to be an instrument of your peace, love, and forgiveness to all people.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 1-6

Monday, Blessed Virgin Mary: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14 / Jn 19:25-34


Tuesday, Weekday: 2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18 / Mk 12:13-17

Wednesday, St. Charles Lwanga and Companions: 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12 / Mk 12:18-27

Thursday, Weekday: 2 Tm 2:8-15 / Mk 12:28-34

Friday, St. Boniface: 2 Tm 3:10-17 / Mk 12:35-37

Saturday, Weekday: 2 Tm 4:1-8 / Mk 12:38-44

Bringing Home
the Word 

May 31, 2020

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