

Pentecost Sunday - May 23, 2021



Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

The Holy Spirit descends upon the apostles gathered in Jerusalem.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 104:1,24,29-31,34

God's Spirit renews the earth.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13

We are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-23

Jesus appears to his disciples and gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. The account in today's Gospel, John 20:19-23, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Yet the event in John's Gospel takes place on Easter Sunday. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts. It is to we know that after his death, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who

would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world.

In the context of the feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' act of breathing the Holy Spirit upon the apostles mirrors God's act of breathing life into Adam. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for "spirit" can also be translated as "breath." This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiveness of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.

Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. The Gospel for Pentecost reminds us that the Church begins with the command to forgive. Within the family, the domestic church, we learn how to forgive and how to accept forgiveness. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to do both. Today is a fitting time to share a family celebration of reconciliation. As you gather together as a family, sit quietly for a few minutes, inviting everyone to reflect upon their need to forgive and to receive forgiveness. If there is a situation or issue within the family that needs attention, spend some time reflecting on how your family might address it. <https://www.loyolapress.com>

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Fr. Joe has completed his 6 years as a pastor in Mount Forest, and the bishop has now assigned him to be a pastor at St. Patrick's parish in Cambridge.

Fr. Joe will be greatly missed!

Fr. David Avila is coming to our parish as a new pastor on June 30, 2021.

Let us keep both Fr. Joe and Fr. David in our prayers.

EX CORDE FOUNDATION GRANT

Thank You!

Ex Corde is a Foundation that Bishop Crosby established to financially help Parishes. The Foundation assists Parishes that are in need of basic repairs and renovations.

We are pleased to announce that St. Mary of the Purification Parish was awarded \$20,000 to repair windows in the hall, repair the Hall flat roof water leak and repair the garage roof leak at the Rectory.

We are very grateful to the Ex-Corde Foundation for their generous support!

REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL is a partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library and Archives and Development and Peace. On May 27th (7-9 p.m.) the film *The End of Immigration* will be featured. The documentary examines the realities of temporary foreign workers in Canada and reveals an inequity that is impacting our society. Afterwards, film producers Marie Bondi and Malcolm Guy will answer questions, and our own Sarah Guinta and Father Peter Ciallella will speak about ministry to migrant workers in our Diocese. Watch the film! Join the discussion!

A **NOVENA** to *The Sacred Heart of Jesus* has been published by the Institute for Catholic Education for use by families, in classrooms, or privately. The nine-days of prayer leading up to the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11th, gives us an opportunity to "*find our sure comfort and rest in the Sacred Heart of Christ's love for each and every one of us.*" The Solemnity is also the World Day of Prayer for Priests. Wednesday, June 2nd, is a day of preparation for the Novena which begins in earnest on June 3rd. The brief daily prayer provides opportunity to bring personal intentions before the Lord. The Novena can be found on our Diocesan [website](#).

Cast yourself into to arms of God and be very sure that if he wants anything of you, he will fit you for the work and give you strength. – St. Philip Neri

YEAR of ST. JOSEPH



Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection, or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

May is the month of the Rosary devotion



"Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world."

-Blessed Pope Pius IX

The Sisters of the Carmel of Saint Joseph will pray for you during the Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 8th to July 16th, 2021

Are you troubled? Do you need spiritual support? You can participate in the Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Send your prayer intention slip with your name and address to:

**Carmel of Saint Joseph1127
Carmel-Koch Road, R.R. #1St. Agatha, ON
N0B 2L0**

For more information check the website for the Carmelite Nuns: www.thecarmel.ca

Unfurl the sails and let God steer us where he will.
–St. Bede the Venerable