

PENTECOST SUNDAY~ MAY 28, 2023

**STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO
ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER
ST. JOSEPH, PORT FELIX
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

**PASTOR: FR. JONATHAN NNAJIOFOR 902-366-2927
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 902-358-2346**

May 28, 2023 • Pentecost Sunday • Year A

The Holy Spirit Comes

This Week's Readings at Mass

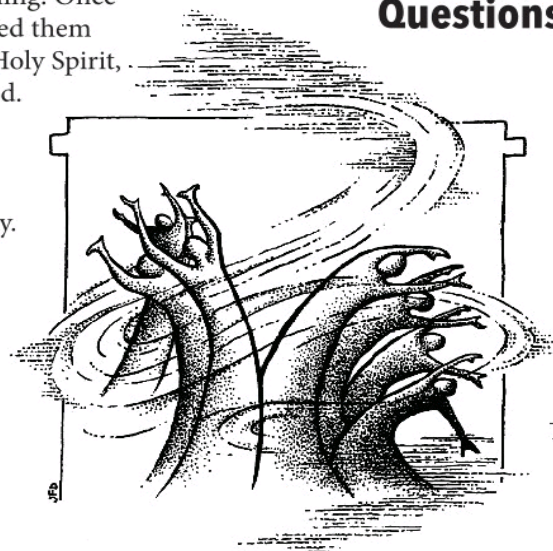
- ▶ Acts 2:1-11 - Apostles receive the gift of tongues
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 - One body in Christ
- ▶ John 20:19-23 - "Receive the Holy Spirit"

If you ask a group of people how the apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit, some will say through tongues of fire while others will say that Jesus breathed on them. We get the first image from today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles. The second image comes from John's Gospel. How the apostles historically received the gift of the Spirit is less important than what resulted when the Spirit filled them. In both stories, the apostles changed from a group in hiding, fearful for their lives, to bold and confident proclaimers of God's great works through Jesus.

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus breathed on the apostles just as God breathed life into the first human. Like the readings from John's Gospel that we've heard the last few weeks, Jesus is showing his friends that he is one and the same as God. Just as the first human came alive with God's breath, so the apostles come alive in a new way when they receive the Holy Spirit.

Before the coming of the Spirit, they were a fearful, closed group, hiding out, paralyzed to continue Jesus' ministry of healing and teaching. Once Jesus came to them and offered them his peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, they immediately transformed. Rejoicing replaced fear, and the willingness to move outward to minister to others replaced their desire for safety.

After Jesus breathed on the disciples, he tells them, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." This verse is often interpreted as the origin of priests' authority to forgive



"To each individual the manifestation of the spirit is given for some benefit."

Sheepish Question:

When, lately, have I felt the Spirit prompting me in a way that serves others.

sins, but it applies to all of us. Jesus is pointing out the power we all have in choosing how we respond to hurt. When we forgive others, we not only free them from our anger and resentment, we free ourselves from carrying those emotions. On the other hand, if we retain someone's sins by refusing to forgive them, we are holding ourselves bound by anger, resentment, blame, and hurt. We are just as much the prisoner in the relationship. Our refusal to forgive affects not only the offending person, but us, as well.

Questions of the Week

- 1 When have you had the privileged experience of watching someone else move from fear to courage? How did God/the Holy Spirit play a role in that?
- 2 When have you experienced freedom by being forgiven by someone? When have you been able to free someone else by offering forgiveness?

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WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday, June 3 - 4:30 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul - ♥*For the Faithful*
- 6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph - ♥*For the Faithful*

Sunday, June 4 - 9:30 a.m. - St. Agnes Hall - †*Adam Rhynold*
- 11:00 a.m. - Star of the Sea - †*Eleanor Ryan*

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Thursday, June 1 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony Chapel - ♥*For the Faithful*

COMMUNION CALLS - If you know of someone who is unable to get out to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office to have their name added to the list.

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS - *The Transforming Power of the Holy Spirit* The Feast of Pentecost is the commemoration of the descending, indwelling, and transforming act of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had promised to send the Holy Spirit, whom he termed as the Advocate, the Helper, the Teacher, and the Comforter. This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. The consequence of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit was indeed indescribable and dramatic. Each one was able to understand the discourse of the apostles in his/her own language. This means that the Holy Spirit brings people of all times, races, and nations together under his wing. The Holy Spirit binds everyone together in perfect unity. It is in "one Spirit that we are all baptized in one body," says St Paul. Secondly, the Spirit has brought the Apostles out from behind closed doors, making them bold and courageous to speak out in the open about Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of courage and zeal for God. St Paul tells us in today's second reading that no one can say that Jesus is Lord except through the Spirit. Thirdly, it is through the working of the Holy Spirit that we can receive the gift of forgiveness and healing, as Jesus says in today's gospel: **"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."**

The question then becomes: Am I aware of the presence and working of the Holy Spirit in myself and in the Church?

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Star of the Sea (25)	365.00
St. Agnes (18)	275.00
Loose	19.00
Cemetery (1)	50.00
St. Joseph (17)	383.00
Loose	25.00
Cemetery (1)	50.00
St. Vincent de Paul (4)	80.00
Cemetery (1)	100.00

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS

Prize Bingo - will be held in late June, Queensport Fire Hall, date will be announced. Donations are needed and would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Donna Jackson or Alice Hendsbee for further information.

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Groundskeeper - We are pleased to welcome Russell Borden as parish groundskeeper for 2024. Please note: concerns or complaints are to be directed to the parish Property and Finance Committee. Thank you.

Ministries Schedule, June 4

Lector -Paul Smith

Cleaners - May 28 - June 3 - Baker Girls

We are inviting parishioners to serve as Sacristans, Ushers and Altar Servers for Funeral. Please contact Fr. Jonathan for more information.
Summer Fun Ticket Draw - will be held in June. There will be three draws, one for a Patio set, one for a Barbecue package and one for an outdoor pizza oven. Anyone wishing to buy or sell tickets should contact Flo Flemming. Draw date: July 1

ST JOSEPH NEWS

Weekly Bingo - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

Card Plays - Tuesday at 7:30 p.m

Parish Picnic will be held Saturday, July 1, more information to follow.

ST. AGNES NEWS

Bingo - Sundays at 7:00 p.m in the parish hall.

Groundskeeper Required - We are seeking someone to mow and maintain the parish cemetery. Please contact the parish office.

Club 100 tickets - are available from parish volunteers, draw date is May 28. All proceeds to St. Agnes Parish. Thanks for your support.

NOTES

Our Cemeteries - At this time we also wish to remind parishioners & family members of the maintenance fee of \$50.00 (minimum amount) per year. This fee is payable to the parish cemetery where your loved one is buried. This contribution is used for the upkeep of the parish cemeteries. Thanking you in advance for your support. Please note: Cemeteries are the property of The Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Antigonish

The Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine in The gift shop at the Shrine is now open for the season. The hours for the gift shop are 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, everyday including Sundays and Holidays. The Shrine is always open. We are looking forward to seeing you all again.