

May 31, 2020

Pentecost Sunday



We Pray for the Sick

(Covid patients marked with a (C))

David Krall (C), Laura Dugan, Joan Perrault, Pam Wyatt, Sandra Wilcox, Okie Son Breese, Msgr. George Moeller, Lawrence Klapka, Paul Woods, Richard Tobash, Angela Smith, Pompei Real, Matthew Godwin, Ben Paepcke, Wendy Berns, Claire Murphy, Betty Bodwine, Rick Montoni, Jerome DeLucia, Ellen Adajian, Dave Earhart, AJ McKoy, Felicidad Deiparine, Linda Lee Panlilio, Sr. Mary Margaret Pignone, Lisa Ellis, Randy George, Angela Morton, Marisu DeLeon, Deanna Ross, Noah Herrick, Carroll Celentano, Russ and Rita Hildebrand, Jean Dugan, Shelly Godwin, Beverly Frick

Prayers of Gratitude

(Those who have recovered from Covid)

Fr. James Connor
Melanie Tagaytay
Tricia Bulacan

In Memory+

Lois Bender+
Boniface Ibe Chukwugere+
Michael Franko+
Rory Schneider+
Greg Bullard+

Readings for the Week:

Monday - Gn 3:9-15, 20/Jn 19:25-34
Tuesday - 2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18/Mk 12:13-17
Wed - 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12/Mk 12:18-27
Thursday - 2 Tm 2:8-15/Mk 12:28-34
Friday - 2 Tm 3:10-17/Mk 12:35-37

Your Church is Here!

You can find us virtually online at:

<http://theshrine.org/index.php/virtualparish>

<https://www.facebook.com/ShrineSacredHeartMtWashington/>

Eucharistic Ministers and Greeters: During this time of special restrictions due to the corona virus pandemic, we will only be distributing Communion using the host and not wine. However, those assigned as cup ministers will be needed to distribute hosts. In the main sanctuary the celebrant and one of the assigned bread ministers will give communion to those coming up the center isle of the church. The other bread minister will give communion to those in the chapel. The cup ministers will need to be bread ministers for those people in the undercroft and (at certain masses) outside in the garden. Greeters will need to be more active in welcoming people and directing them to follow the seating arrangements in how the pews are marked off to keep people seated with the necessary physical distancing, and asking that people entering the pew first move in so the others using the pew do not have to step over them to get their seat. Also, a greeter must always be stationed near the collection baskets for security and to take the baskets to the sacristy when people have left the church. we will need extra volunteers to help with these tasks, so if you can do so when you are coming to a mass when you have not been assigned as a minister, please let us know if you will be able to fill in to help with any of these needs.

Fr. Au

We will Gather Again Soon!

As we prepare to reopen the Shrine, we can send messages to you to make sure you are up to date on reopening plans and all things Shrine related, including Fr. Au's weekly homilies, readings, and Intercessions. If you have not been receiving emails or even texts, please send an email to office@theshrine.org with your information. You can also call 410-466-6884, ext.10 to leave a voice message with your information. We look forward to hearing from you!

**HELP
WANTED**

*Your parish
needs you!*

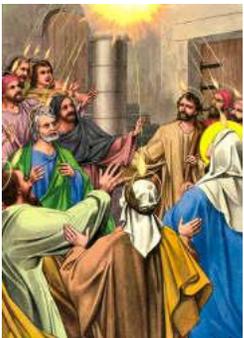
Pentecost Mass, Sunday, May 31st

Join us starting this Saturday, May 30th at 5pm to watch the Pentecost Mass with Readings, Homily, Intercessions (offered in different languages by various parishioners), and prayers. Links will be sent via email, and the service can be viewed on our website @ <http://theshrine.org/virtualparish>, and notifications on our Facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/ShrineSacredHeartMtWashington/> Although we are apart, this is a wonderful way of staying connected.

About Pentecost

After Jesus had ascended to heaven from Mt. Olivet, the apostles and disciples returned to the Holy City. They remained together in the Upper Room or Cenacle, the place where Jesus had appeared to them and which may well be called the first Christian church. About a hundred and twenty persons were assembled there. They chose Matthias as an apostle in place of the unhappy Judas; they prayed and waited for the Paraclete.

Ten days had passed, it was Sunday, the seventh Sunday after the resurrection. At about nine o'clock in the morning, as they were together praying fervently, the Holy



Spirit descended upon them. Note how all the great theophanies in Christ's life occurred during the course of prayer. After His baptism, for instance, when Jesus was praying the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove; likewise, it was during prayer at night that the transfiguration took place on Tabor. Surely too it was while Mary

was praying that Gabriel delivered his message, and the Holy Spirit overshadowed her. Pentecost followed precedent. The small community of Christians had prepared themselves through prayer for the coming of the Paraclete. The same is true at Mass today, every day; through prayer we ready our souls for the advent of the Spirit.

The descent upon the apostles was internal and invisible in nature although accompanied by certain visible phenomena. There came a mighty roar, like the onrush of a violent wind. It came suddenly, from heaven; but unlike storms that strike a structure from without, this one penetrated and filled the room where the disciples were gathered. Therefore, it was not a natural wind, it was a miracle peculiar to the occasion. A second visible sign consisted in tongues of fire that descended upon each one

present. These fiery tongues gave visible evidence that the Holy Spirit had descended upon them.

Today at Mass, particularly at holy Communion, the power of the Holy Spirit will come down upon us; fiery tongues will not be seen, but invisible tongues of fire will not be absent. There was still another external manifestation of the Holy Spirit; the apostles and disciples were enabled to speak various languages.

After the roar of the wind many of Jerusalem's pilgrims hurried to the Cenacle. Pentecost was one of the three festivals which obliged all Jews to be present in Jerusalem. Jews from distant lands, and Jewish converts from paganism too, attended these feasts. As a result, a colorful crowd speaking a variety of languages surrounded the house. Now the apostles, who so shortly before had hid in fear behind locked doors, came forth and courageously walked among the multitude speaking to each in his native tongue. It was indeed amazing! Galileans, and multilingual?

But the malicious too were present; they had the answer. Nothing marvelous at all! Those Galileans were simply drunk, and their drunken babble sounded like a foreign language! Peter showed no hesitation in answering the charge. None of their number, he said, were intoxicated; it was but nine o'clock in the morning, and at that hour men usually are sober.

What the multitude saw was, in fact, the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy: In those days (of the Messiah), God will pour forth His Spirit upon men and they will prophesy. . . . Then the apostle pointed his words more directly against the accusers: they had killed Jesus, had nailed Him to the Cross; but God had awakened Him and after His departure to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit.

The pilgrims who had heard Peter give this first pentecostal sermon "were pierced to the heart and said: Brethren, what shall we do? But Peter said to them: Repent and be baptized; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Three thousand responded.

One final question: why the miracle of tongues? In answer, recall the story regarding the tower of Babel. Puffed up by pride, men attempted to build a tower that would touch the heavens. To punish their sin, God confused their speech. Sin causes confusion and division. Now Christ came to gather all men into His Church and thereby to unite them to Himself. This should result in creating but one family of nations again. To this blessed state the miracle of tongues points.

