



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

# Family Faith Focus

Volume 8, Issue 44

May 31, 2020

## **Dates to Remember**

- All Masses and Parish Gatherings have been suspended by Cardinal Cupich until further notice.
- Please see our parish website for more information and links to view Sunday or weekday Masses online.

## **Pentecost Prayer**

The earth rejoices,  
it bears its first fruits  
of glory:  
Jesus has risen to the  
Father!  
In joy, the earth brings  
forth the promise!  
Calm in its humility,  
it draws the light from  
on high.

*Come Spirit of God!  
Come engulf the universe  
in your glory!*

You are the life of all  
life, the youth that  
renews everything.

You are the heart of the  
world, beating in the  
rhythm of love.

You are the joy and hope  
that bears us to the  
Father.

—Days of the Lord

## **Pentecost Sunday**

**John 20: 19-23**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

On the evening of that first day of the week,  
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,  
for fear of the Jews,

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

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,  
“Receive the Holy Spirit.

Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,  
and whose sins you retain are retained.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



## **Prayer to the Holy Spirit**

Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful.  
And kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit  
and they shall be created.  
And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord,  
by the light of the Holy Spirit  
You have taught the hearts of your faithful.  
In the same Spirit  
help us to relish what is right  
and always rejoice in your consolation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

The English translation of the Prayer to the Holy Spirit from *A Book of Prayers*  
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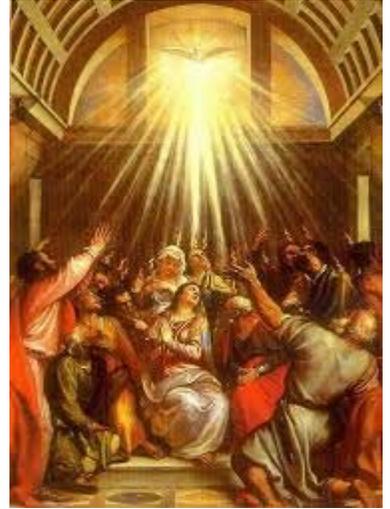
# Sunday Gospel Connection: May 31, 2020

## Pentecost Sunday, Cycle A

### John 20: 19-23

**Gospel Background:** 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, taken from the Gospel of John, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts to each other. It is enough to 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.

We previously heard today's Gospel on the second Sunday of Easter. At that time, we also heard the passage that follows, which describes Jesus' appearance to Thomas. In that context, we were led to reflect on belief and unbelief.



In the context of the feast of Pentecost, this reading 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." As he breathes the Holy Spirit upon them, Jesus sends his disciples to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins.

This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. This reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are washed clean from sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God in forgiving 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.

**Family Connection:** 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 we learn to accept forgiveness. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that 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 all 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 upon the concern and how your family might address it. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-23. Talk together about how Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us in the work of forgiveness and to bring us peace. Pray together today's psalm, or the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking that the Holy Spirit help your family. Share with one another the sign of peace.

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For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/pentecost-sunday-cycle-a-sunday-connection/>

# 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.*

