

PENTECOST



The Fire Within

Lord God,
bestow upon your Church
the Holy Spirit.
Just as your Spirit
arrived with a driving force
on that first Pentecost,

may your faithful
be energized and renewed
so that with intense faith,
they might spread your fiery love.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 19, 2024 The Lord, the Giver of Life

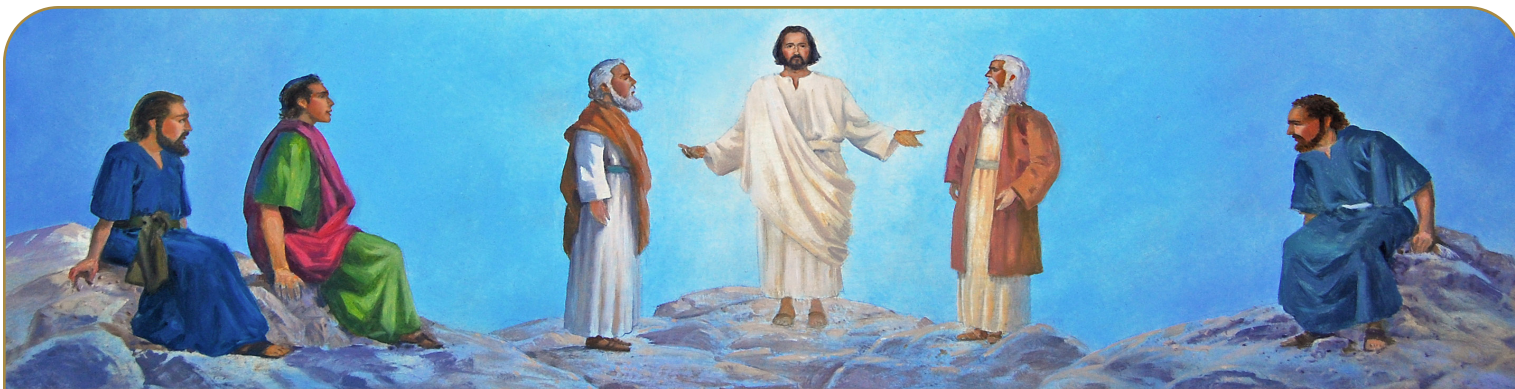


Today's readings: Acts 2:1–11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29–30, 31, 34; Galatians 5:16–25 or 1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13; John:19–23 or John 15:26–27, 16:12–15. Today we rejoice in the sending of the Holy Spirit to the world. As proclaimed in the Gospel of John, Jesus had promised to send “the Advocate . . . the Spirit of truth.” When the Spirit arrived, Acts records, it was with a driving wind that filled the house where the disciples were and appeared as tongues of fire.

From that house, the disciples went into Jerusalem fearless as they preached the Gospel in numerous languages they had never before spoken. In the years that followed the descent of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were persecuted, arrested, and stoned. Still, they kept their hearts focused on bringing Christ to others.

Christians receive the Holy Spirit during the sacrament of baptism, as the celebrant prays that God bestows “new life” by “water and the Holy Spirit.” The Spirit will assist the baptized throughout life to fulfill their responsibility as “members of Christ, Priest, Prophet and King,” as the presider says in the anointing after baptism.

In your prayer life, be attentive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and you, too, could be fearless in witnessing to the light of Christ in your life. As we recite in the Nicene Creed, the Holy Spirit is “the Lord, the giver of life.” When you open yourself to the Spirit, your life can be transformed. And just as the transformation of the disciples changed lives, so will your transformation.



THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Monday, May 20

Mary, Mother of the Church

When Pope Francis decreed that the Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church, would be celebrated on the day after Pentecost, he reflected on the tradition of honoring Mary as both Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church. He also wrote of the opportunity for the memorial to draw the faithful to expand their perspective of the Church. The memorial, the decree states, “might encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the Church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety.” How would acquiring a maternal sense of the Church influence the ministry of those who are ordained? How would it influence the laity? *Today’s readings: Acts 1:12–14; Psalm 87:1–2, 3, 5, 6–7; John 19:25–34.*

Friday, May 31

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin

Today, we remember two miracles. The first is Mary, pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit, and her older cousin Elizabeth, also pregnant in her old age. These women, and the sons carried in their wombs, had a mission to fulfill. Faith led Mary and Elizabeth to accept their mission. We, too, have a mission and purpose. As the month of Mary concludes, ask for Mary’s intercession to help you be true to your mission. *Today’s readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6; Luke 1:39–56.*

Thursday, June 13

Memorial of St. Anthony of Padua

St. Anthony of Padua brought many hearts to God through his gift of evangelizing and knowledge of Scripture. He took seriously the words from Isaiah, “the spirit of the Lord God is upon me / because the Lord has anointed me. / He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, / to heal the broken-hearted.” At our baptism, we too were anointed and entrusted

with converting hearts and announcing the Good News. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 61:1–3d; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 21–22, 25 and 27; Luke 10:1–9.*

Monday, June 24

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

John allowed the Spirit to act through him. From his mother’s womb, he recognized the presence of the Lord. As John prepared the way for the messiah, he minimized himself to allow people to see Jesus. How do you prepare the way of the Lord? Do you seek attention or are you able to minimize yourself to allow the Spirit to work through you? *Today’s readings: Isaiah 49:1–6; Psalm 139:1b–3, 13–14ab, 14c–15; Acts 13:22–26; Luke 1:57–66, 80.*

Saturday, June 29

Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul

Today we remember the lives of St. Peter and St. Paul. These apostles and martyrs are examples of obedience and resilience; they persevered in evangelization even when their lives were in jeopardy. Pray for Pope Francis and all who continue to spread the Good News, regardless of the challenges they face. *Today’s readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 19:2–3, 4–5; Galatians 1:11–20; John 21:15–19.*

Wednesday, August 28

Memorial of St. Augustine

On the Memorial of St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, we might consider how open we are to continue our conversion and live as God calls us. After many years of a worldly life, Augustine was baptized when he was nearly thirty-three years old. In *The Confessions of St. Augustine*, he wrote of his conversion, “I have loved you too late. You were with me, but I was not with you.” Pray to St. Augustine to help you notice the presence of God and to grow in faith. *Today’s readings: 1 John 4:7–16; Psalm 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; Matthew 23:8–12.*

