

Christ Child Catholic Church
Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service

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PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 31, 2020

1st reading, Acts 2: 1-11

Coming of the Holy Spirit

Pentecost (Greek “Fiftieth”) occurred 50 days after the Passover Sabbath and is another name for the Feast of Weeks or the feast of harvest; one of the three great festivals Jewish people celebrated in Jerusalem, it came to be associated with the gift of the promised land to the people of Israel. That it had **fully come** means there was no doubt that this was exactly the right day.

Spirit in both the Greek (**pneuma**) and the Hebrew (**ruach**) describes “wind” or “breath.” Here, the idea of “wind” captures the impact of the Holy Spirit.

Just as men and women did not exist until the life-giving breath of Almighty God (Genesis 2: 7), so the church did not come alive until God breathed forth the Holy Spirit.

These were not literal flames of fire. As the text says, they were **as of fire**. Fire serves as a symbol of the presence of God and a representation of the Holy Spirit. These flames could well symbolize the purity and power with which these men would speak as they proclaimed what God had done. God gave these disciples the supernatural gift to speak in a language they had never studied or known. This was not an ecstatic utterance; it was an ability to speak the languages of all those who were gathered in Jerusalem **from every nation under heaven**.

The Spirit’s presence signified their baptism into the spiritual body, the church.

There are no translators in the crowd in today’s first reading. Speakers of every tongue understand what the Spirit prompts the followers of the risen Jesus to proclaim. By the power of the Spirit, the confusion that has reigned since BABEL is undone, and human beings understand one another’s words.

2nd reading, 1 Corinthians 12: 3b -7, 12-13

Unity and Diversity in One Body

The Gifts and Fruit of the Spirit. **Love** is one of those words that, because of misuse, have lost its meaning. **Yet love is the primary characteristic that identifies a believer in Christ.** His love is a choice – a choice to love, no matter what. God’s people should be marked by such steadfastness as well.

Every Christian is a part of His spiritual body. Just as every part of the human body is important and divinely appointed, so every Christian is divinely gifted to serve as part of Christ’s body – the hands and heart of Jesus.

The gifts are specific abilities given by God for the edification of the church, and they include serving, teaching, encouragement, giving, and leading, wisdom, showing mercy, and distinguishing between good and evil spirits.

To reflect on ways the Spirit acts in our world and in our hearts.

The Gospel John 20: 19-23

The first words Jesus said to the assembled disciples were **PEACE BE WITH YOU!** They must have been terrified, first for **fear of the Jews (the coronavirus)** and because they thought they were seeing a ghost. But when Jesus showed them His wounds, they knew this was their **Lord**.

Yet Jesus’ first words are not to condemn them but to offer peace.

The power to bind and loose! If the disciples are faithful to this mission, others will experience the forgiveness of sin. If the disciples are not faithful to this mission, others will remain bound.

The Spirit of God is a Spirit of forgiveness!

Human beings have always had the power to hold one another bound to their sins by refusing

forgiveness. The offense of the unfaithful spouse, the betraying friend, the errant son or daughter continues to poison a relationship. Our unwillingness to trust again limits our ability to love such persons. Unfortunately, we also hold ourselves bound to the moment of pain, forever reliving it, forever yearning to get even.

As he breathes the Spirit into his followers, Jesus empowers them to free themselves and others.

In the words of one Eucharistic Prayer, “Your Spirit changes our hearts: enemies begin to speak to one another, those who were estranged join hands in friendship and nations seek the way of peace together.”

Nourished by the Eucharist and empowered by the Spirit of God, we are instruments of God’s will.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia!

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request or appointment

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by appointment

For Pregnancy Support

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

MASS INTENTIONS May 30 – June 5, 2020

Saturday + Ruth McCormick

Sunday Dave & Norma Hammons

Tuesday + Alexis Oliver

Wednesday + Helen Holterhoff

Thursday The Oliver family

Friday + Constantino Silva

Please pray the Rosary together in your HOME and make your home the domestic church! Please to pray for the families and our Country!

PRAYER REQUESTS: can be emailed to christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com

May 22, 2020

In response to President Trump’s statement today regarding church re-openings, the Bishops of Washington state would like to provide a unified response. We want to let you know that the public celebration of Mass was suspended, not out of fear, but out of our deepest respect for human life and health. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be instruments of God’s protection for the vulnerable and people at Mass, so we will wait to schedule our public worship when it is safe and we are prepared to do so.

The bishops across the state are working through the Washington State Catholic Conference to engage the Governor and a plan and schedule for safely gathering. Based on expert guidance from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Thomistic Institute and public health experts, we created practical guidelines outlining how we can safely return to public worship, while ensuring reverence and respect for the Sacred Liturgy of the Mass. It is our understanding that these are in review with the Governor’s office now. We look forward to his rapid response.

At the same time, we are now preparing parishes across the state for re-opening. Parishes must create an environment that is not only safe, but is liturgically reverent. Right now, we do not have a date or determination of size for Mass gatherings.

It is our hope that our right to responsibly and safely gather for worship will soon be honored so we can collaborate in a manner that respects both our Catholic tradition as well as our civic responsibilities. We eagerly await the Governor’s response to our suggestions on this so we can proceed together with our re-opening plans. We look forward to welcoming people back into our parishes.

In the heart of Christ,
Most Rev. Paul D. Etienne, Archbishop of Seattle.
Most Rev. Joseph Tyson, Bishop of Yakima.
Most Rev. Thomas A. Daly, Bishop of Spokane.
Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, and more.