

## **Pentecost Sunday: Receive the Holy Spirit**

**First Reading: Acts 2:1-11**

**Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13**

**Gospel: John 20:19-23**

This year's weather has been crazy. The winter was cold and rainy. Then we finally moved into spring and again, it's cold and rainy. However, rain is not necessarily a bad thing unless we are on vacation. (Don't say *again*.) We need lots of water in our life and boy did we get it. Water is so essential to our life. Here are some fun facts of how much water is in God's creations: humans 60%, plants 80%, cows 70%, cats 67%, and dogs 80%. Most creatures and plants are made up of two-thirds water! Humans can only live about three days without water. Yes, water is so essential.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem who lived around the 300's and was Doctor of the Church asks, "Why did Christ call the grace of the Spirit water?" St. Cyril goes on to explain that it's because all living things depends on water. Water is the same for the most part; it doesn't change. As water absorbs into humans, animals, and plants it doesn't change, but it adapts itself to every creature. The same thing happens with the grace of the Holy Spirit. He is the same Spirit all the time; He does not change, but adapts himself to each person.

As the Holy Spirit enters the soul, He affects different people in different ways. For example, the Spirit makes some of us to be teachers of the Truth, others to interpret scripture, others to heal, others to work with the poor, etc. The Holy Spirit strengthens us and helps us to use our God-given gifts for others and for God. The Holy Spirit is truly our Advocate and Counselor.

That same Spirit who came upon the apostles in wind and tongues of fire is the same Holy Spirit that came to us in Baptism and Confirmation. What happened to the apostles after they received the Holy Spirit? They went out without fear and spread the Good News. The same things happen to us. The Spirit doesn't just make us good human beings, it makes us supernatural human beings! We have the power of God in us. That should give us great confidence and hope.

Lately, many of us have been afraid and living in fear because of the virus. We do need to be careful and reasonable. At the same time, our Lord does not want us to live in fear. We have the power of the Holy Spirit in us. Don't forget that as we face life's challenges and adventures. As St. John Paul II says, "Do not be afraid!" Also, St. Paul says, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" How are we going to live differently this week as we realize that the power of the Holy Spirit is in us?

Let us continue to pray for those infected with this virus and all those who are affected indirectly – especially our healthcare workers, cleaners, and all those who are considered "necessary" workers. We humbly ask, Lord, for those of us out of work, that we may safely return to work very soon.

God bless,

Fr. Mark