

Annunciation Parish - Scripture Study 5/26/20

—Greeting and Opening Prayer

Any thoughts or questions from scripture passages you have read?

- Other faith questions?

READINGS:

ACTS 2:1-11

PS 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 (Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth)

1 COR 12:3B-7, 12-13

JN 20:19-23

GOSPEL:

- Arrival of Jesus in the upper room - Jesus can come unexpectedly. He imparts The Spirit to a group gathered together.
- The Spirit comes again at Pentecost, note Spirit comes at different times with different effects.
- Jesus send them - they are not to be a self-contained group.
 - They are sent by Him, as he was sent by the Father - and *with the same purpose*, for they will be his continued presence on Earth doing the work of the Father.
- Special gifts are given by the Spirt (we will see more of this in the First reading), but here the Spirit empowers certain individuals to act in an authoritative way in Jesus' place.
- This passage has shown up in recent times - the origin of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Do we respond to being sent by Jesus? Do we use our gifts for the carrying out of His mission?

FIRST READING:

- “The time for Pentecost was fulfilled” - what does this mean?
- They are agin gathered together (as with the times Jesus appears).
- The Body he has formed now needs a soul to make it live. There is a parallel here to the forming and birth of Adam. Humanity formed by God who breathed life, the Church is a Body - now alive by the power of God's own Spirit that gives it life.
- Signs of the Spirit: Wind, Fire.
 - Why do these symbolize the Spirit? What is it about wind and fire that speak to the movement and presence of the Spirit?
- They were gifted with the ability to communicate beyond the normal constraints of human language.
- Their message is proclaimed to people from all over the world - the message is to go out through the whole Earth and not be limited by the “normal constraints”
 - The Spirit will make possible what for humans is impossible - do we trust this?
- They proclaim the might works of God. How willing are we to let that same Spirit act in us.

SECOND READING:

- Each is gifted as the Spirit wills to be part of the one functioning Body of Jesus.
- Though many, we are one in the one Body of Jesus Christ (*Baptized into one Body*)
- The “membership” is not limited by nationality, or by legal status.

—Closing Prayer