

Pastor's Corner

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Time of a Pandemic

Pentecost. This weekend we celebrate Pentecost, the official end of the Easter Season. Pentecost was a harvest festival in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, Pentecost marks the coming of the Holy Spirit after Jesus' ascension into heaven.

The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, is present in every sacrament and is responsible for changing bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus at every Mass. The Holy Spirit is the active, energizing presence of God in our world.

As we continue to deal with the coronavirus pandemic and shutdown, let's call upon the Holy Spirit to stir up the Spirit-gifts we received at Baptism which were sealed at Confirmation, our personal Pentecost. Holy Spirit, please stir up in us:

- +Wisdom - to realize that all things pass, including pandemics
- +Knowledge – to appreciate that God is bringing good out of this trial
- +Understanding – to comprehend God's compassion and mercy for all who suffer
- +Counsel– to make good choices with our time and energy during the disruption
- +Courage – to reject fear and be bold in witnessing to our faith in God when others are losing hope
- + Piety – to use this time to rekindle our commitment to prayer and faith
- +Awe of God– to recognize God is greater than all life's challenges, including Covid 19

Thanks be to God for the magnificent gifts of the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we continue to respond to coronavirus.

Have a blessed Pentecost,
Fr. Joe

Photo of Tongues of Fire on the Apostles at Pentecost