

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Pentecost Sunday

May 31, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Everybody enjoys celebrating a birthday unless you are at the age when you want to forget another birthday. Birthdays are a time of blessings and good cheer. Today we celebrate the great Feast of Pentecost which is often referred to as the birthday or the beginning of the Church. All of us are the Church so it is **our** birthday. **Happy Birthday!!!** What is so special about **our** birthday this year is the fact that after not being able to be physically present with one another these past few months while celebrating the Eucharist (because of the COVID-19 Pandemic) we now can come together to celebrate Eucharist as long as we adhere to the social distancing guidelines proposed by our Bishop and church leaders. Let us celebrate well today's feast/birthday with great joy and enthusiasm and renew our commitment to Jesus and to one another.



Pentecost was a major Jewish feast called Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks. Shavuot was celebrated on the fiftieth day after the Feast of Harvest or the First-Fruits. This feast was one of thanksgiving to Yahweh for the gift of the wheat harvest and for the Covenant on Mt. Sinai. In the Christian tradition Pentecost recalls the event when the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus' Apostles empowering them to take up Jesus' ministry and mission of going out and bringing His Gospel to all nations. Pentecost also inaugurates the life of the Church in Jesus' name celebrating Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit to all of us.

There are two accounts of the Christian Pentecost event in our Scripture readings. One is from St. Luke's account in the Acts of the Apostles and the other is from St. John's Gospel. Both accounts use **creation** imagery suggesting that the Pentecost event is about a **new creation**. Luke initiates the **new creation** in the same way in which he tends to highlight important events in Jesus' life. (For example Jesus' birth (Lk. 2:6) and Jesus' resolute determination to go to Jerusalem to fulfill His mission to suffer and die (Lk. 9:51). In his Pentecost account, Luke introduces the dawning of the age of the Holy Spirit as the dominant reality of the **new creation**. The Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples gathered in a room. Tongues of fire, the rushing of wind and the speaking in tongues manifest the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples.

St. John's account of the Pentecost event of the **new creation** consists of the following elements. First, Jesus appears to the community of frightened disciples and offers them His **peace**, comfort and forgiveness. Jesus' **peace** is not just a simple greeting.

Continued...

Weekend Masses

Sat May 30	4:00 p.m.	Ellen, Lillian, & Richard Von Lehmden
Sun May 31	10:00 a.m.	In thanksgiving
Sat June 6	4:00 p.m.	Jim Alt
Sun June 7	10:00 a.m.	Kathy Sehlhorst, Tim Kahle

SUNDAY COLLECTION



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for June 6 & 7, 2020

Money Counters: Courtney Gerten & Deb Buck
4:00 p.m.

Greeters:

Cantor:

Ushers: Dave and Mary Hoffer

Lector:

E.M.: Basil Meyer

Servers:

8:00 a.m.

Greeter:

Cantor:

Usher: Mike and Rhonda Maag

Lector:

E.M.: Edna Conkling

Server:

10:00 a.m.

Greeters:

Cantor:

Ushers:

Lectors: Anna Crisp

E.M.:

Servers: Elizabeth Honse

Readings for June 7, 2020

Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

1st Reading: Exodus 34:4 – 6, 8 – 9

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11 – 13

Gospel Reading: John 3:16 – 18

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...Rather His **peace** conjures up the divine presence which will become permanent in the bestowal of the Holy Spirit. Secondly, Jesus bestows upon His disciples an **apostolic commissioning** sending them out to continue His ministry and mission in the world. Just as God the Father sent Jesus into the world revealing God's divine presence in Jesus' words and deeds so now Jesus sends His disciples out to continue doing God's work. Finally, Jesus ratifies His disciple's commissioning by breathing upon them the gift of the Holy Spirit. This imparts to the disciples the divine life necessary to carry out their ministry and mission. Included in their ministry and mission is the power to forgive and retain sin.

So what should the Feast of Pentecost mean for each one of us today? Firstly, this feast reminds us that gift of the Holy Spirit is not limited to prophets, saints and church leaders. The Holy Spirit is given to **all** of us in Baptism and strengthened in our Confirmation. Secondly, the Holy Spirit **is present** not just in dramatic moments (tongues of fire, or gushing winds) but whenever we manifest courage in living the Gospel, when we open our heart in prayer, when we reach out to one another, when we make wise and good choices, when we appreciate the magnificence of God's presence and deepen our knowledge and love of the Lord. Lastly, today's feast proves that the Holy Spirit **is** for every life and for every age a source of renewal and **re-creation**. Have a blessed week and HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Love & Prayers,
Fr. John

IMPORTANT: The faithful of the Diocese of Toledo **continue to be dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice**. Please use your best judgment when considering the gradual return to Mass.

To read about the new guidelines that will be implemented at St. Mary's with the gradual return to Mass, please follow this link:
<https://d2y1pz2y630308.cloudfront.net/2319/documents/2020/5/RECONNECT.pdf>

The Red Cross Blood Drive is Thursday, June 4th. Donors and volunteers are both needed for this. **To volunteer**, please sign up here:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9iGYjNkTASiQ29ZS2ZRMHBXTUdrdjkNKYWY0NkRoavBBWHJV/view?usp=sharing>



To schedule an appointment to give blood, please visit:
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>

Many thanks to K&R Landscaping and Keith Sunderhaus and his crew for the beautiful mulch in our landscape! It looks great!

RCIA Grace Schroeder and Debbie Bullman, our RCIA candidates, will be received into the church at the 4 p.m. Mass next Saturday, June 6. Please pray for them as they finally get to complete this process!!



Congratulations Graduates! We will honor our 2020 high school graduates at the 10:00 Mass on Sunday, June 7. Please join us in honoring Luke Denecker, Isaac Inmon, Andrew Lovett, and Libby Schaadt. Congratulations on a job well done and may God continue to bless you in all your future endeavors!

St. Gerard's in Lima live streams Mass throughout the week at 8:30 a.m. Monday – Friday, on Saturday at 5 p.m., and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. To view this live stream, go to their website: <http://www.stgerardchurch.org/> and click on the icon on the right side of the page that says "Live Webcast Watch Here"