

Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020



Sunday May 31, Pentecost

Intentions of All Parishioners

Monday June 1, St. Justin, Martyr, Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

Geraldine Alfonso Selivonchik Req. Eric & Family

Tuesday June 2, Sts. Marcellinus & Peter, Martyrs

For all Deceased Members of Anna Wilczynsha Req.

Family

Wednesday June 3, St. Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs

No Mass

Thursday June 4, Weekday

For all Deceased Members of Anna Wilczynsha Req.

Family

Friday June 5, St. Boniface, Bishop & Martyr

In Thanksgiving for Answered Prayers

Saturday June 6, St. Norbert, Bishop; Blessed Virgin Mary

Alice Brousseau Req. Family

Sunday June 7, Most Holy Trinity

Intentions of All Parishioners

Fr. Ray will be celebrating the Masses above privately at unannounced times

A Note from Fr. Ray A Thought for Pentecost

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, the 50th day after the Solemnity of Easter.

The Gospel reading takes us to a room in which the Apostles have locked themselves in. They are fearful that Christ's persecutors will crucify them as well.

They are fearful.

They are confused.

They are depressed.

They are powerless.

Then it happens! The Risen Christ appears in their midst.

Peace be with you! Receive the Holy Spirit.

...and they are transformed...from timid, aimless men to vigorous and purposeful disciples.

Our celebration today reminds us that Jesus' promise to send an advocate to be with us was fulfilled on Pentecost and continues to be fulfilled today.

There is no single word in the English language that captures the richness and depth of the Greek word, "Advocate." But the fullness of this word suggests at least three ways in which the Advocate, The Holy Spirit, is with us, now and forever.

The Holy Spirit comforts us.

The Holy Spirit strengthens us.

The Holy Spirit equips us for our Christian Ministry of Service.

The Holy Spirit is our comforter. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives us comfort by sitting beside us in our sorrows and difficulties.

We have all had the experience of wanting to comfort someone in time of pain or grief. We can't find the words, or our words are inadequate. So we end up just being there, or holding hands, giving a hug, or just sitting quietly beside the person.

Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, God sits beside us in even the most bitter grief.

May God Bless You,
Fr. Ray

We invite you to wear something RED today to celebrate Pentecost and the remind yourself and others that we are never left alone. The Holy Spirit is *Always* with us!



Helping Our Parish Grow

WEEKLY OFFERTORY



We ask that you continue to support OLM with your weekly offerings by placing your donation in the mail or dropping it off at the office.

Thank You for Your Continued Generous Support & May God Bless You!



The Tabernacle Lamp...

is lighted for the Greater Glory of God and in recognition of the Real Presence of Christ. This week the candle is flickering in memory of Andrzej Predota. The

Tabernacle Lamp is available as a memorial for \$5.

Welcome to Our Lady of Mercy!

We welcome you to enjoy this online bulletin at a time when we are not able to worship within the walls of our church.



If you are new to our parish and wish to become a member of OLM, we invite you to introduce yourself to our pastor, Fr. Raymond Smialowski when Mass resumes, and to register. Registration can be completed by stopping by the parish office, filling out the short form on the front page of our bulletin, or completing a short registration form which can be found on our home page at www.olmct.org under the heading "New to Our Parish?" Please return the form to the office by dropping it off at the Parish Office, the collection basket, or mailing it to 19 S. Canal St., Plainville.

We will keep you updated and informed on our *website*, www.olmct.org, our *Facebook* page,



www.facebook.com/ourladyofmercychurchct, and *My Parish App*, myparishapp.net as to any new news connected with OLM.

Stay updated! Keep us informed!

Sacrament of Baptism

We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism of your child. You may begin preparation even before your child is born. To begin the process, call Sue at 860-747-5451. The date of the Baptism is scheduled after attending the Parent Preparation Program. Please note that Godparents must be confirmed and obtain a *Sponsor Certificate* from their own Catholic parish.



Still Looking for a few Parish Gardeners

You are invited to share your gardening talents by "adopting" a planter or another area on our church property by planting flowers and maintaining the planted area that you "adopted" through the spring and summer. Your talents will be greatly appreciated. It is also a way to give glory to God. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Ray in the Parish Office at 860.747.6825.



St. Joseph Cemetery News

We recently posted a notice in our parish cemetery announcing that over grown shrubs will be removed by cemetery personnel beginning *June 1, 2020. We will begin cutting shrubs tomorrow.*



Please understand that there is a great need to maintain our parish cemetery benevolently. In addition, glass vases, containers, wire fencing around monuments are not allowed in our cemetery. Such glass objects and fencing are a potential danger to our personnel, particularly when the lawn is being mowed. Wire fencing can get caught in lawn mowing machinery and cause mishaps and injuries.

We respectfully ask that you remove all of these items before *TOMORROW, June 1, 2020*. After that date the cemetery staff will be removing these items from the grave plots in the cemetery. These items will be placed at the back of the cemetery behind the green fence where the shed is for you to claim. We ask that you *ONLY plant flowers 10" from the base of an upright monument. To ease mowing, plantings of any kind are prohibited near flat markers.* If you would like a copy of the updated cemetery rules mailed to you, please call the cemetery office at 860.747.6825. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Food Pantry Collection

Please remember that as a parish we ask you to help those in need by contributions of nonperishable food items, toiletries, etc. on the first weekend of every month. The June collection dates are *NEXT weekend, June 6 & 7*. Items can be left in the Gathering Space. Thank you for your generosity.

When Will Mass Resume?

The Archdiocese of Hartford is currently working to prepare a set of guidelines for the resuming of public Masses and liturgies at churches within the archdiocese. Once this work has been concluded and a completed set of guidelines has been prepared, the archbishop will announce when and how the resuming of public Masses and liturgies can take place.

Basic Information Everyone Needs to Know About Reopening Churches for Public Worship

- Sunday Mass Obligation - Archbishop Blair has dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass every Catholic in the Archdiocese of Hartford, and unless otherwise announced, this dispensation will continue through Sunday, September 6.

- When Will Mass Resume - As of Monday, June 8, 2020, parishes of the Archdiocese of Hartford can reopen for the public celebration of weekday Masses only. A date is not yet determined for the resuming of Sunday Mass but will be considered following the successful implementation of the weekday Mass guidelines of this document.

- Who Can Come - In this first stage of resuming public worship, no more than a total of fifty (50) socially distanced persons may be present at a given Mass in keeping with the limitation currently set by the civil authorities.

- Who Shouldn't Come - The elderly, those with pre-existing conditions, those who are fearful or anxious, and those who are taking care of a sick or homebound person need not be concerned if they miss Mass as the dispensation from the Sunday obligation has now been extended. Anyone in those categories is asked to continue taking advantage of television of streaming Masses online as they stay home and stay safe.

- What to Bring - Unless exempt, those attending Mass are required to wear masks or face coverings and are asked to bring hand sanitizer for use during the liturgy.

- Social Distancing - Those attending Mass are required to keep proper social distancing while in the church. This will require everyone to remain 6 feet apart from anyone who is not a member of their household.

- What About Confession - As of June 8 the ban on any publicly scheduled confessions is also lifted. This is done, however, at the discretion of the pastor, with the sacrament of Penance only to be resumed when proper procedures are in place.

- Waiting Until Prepared - It is the task of each pastor to establish a set of procedures to safely implement the required guidelines in order to resume public liturgies and sacraments in his parish. If a parish cannot offer Mass safely, following the guidelines of this document, they should not offer Mass at the current time.

Please check the website, facebook page, My Parish App, or call the Parish Office at 860.747.6825 for updated information about OLM. To read the entire document, please go to:

<https://archdioceseofhartford.org/guidelines-for-opening-churches-for-public-worship-in-the-archdiocese-of-hartford/>

Unscramble: The Pentecost Story

Unscramble the words to finish the story and use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks at the end.

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one _____⁷ [LCPAE] together. And _____⁸ [ENYLUSDD] there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving _____⁶ [DWN] and it filled the entire _____⁵ [USHOE] in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of _____³ [ERFI] which parted and came to rest on each of them. And they were all _____² [ILFLDE] with the Holy Spirit and _____¹ [GNEAB] to speak in different tongues, as the _____⁴ [IPSTRI] enabled them to proclaim.

Pentecost is the _____ of the Church!



Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the front line of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

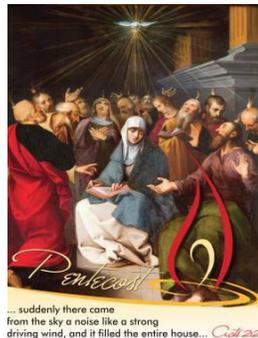
Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, and constant in prayer. Amen.

Pentecost

The original day of Pentecost saw dramatic events that are important to the life of the Church. But where did the feast of Pentecost come from? How can we understand what happened on it? And what does it mean for us today? Here are a few things to know and share about it . . .



What does the name "Pentecost" mean? It comes from the Greek word for "fiftieth" (pentecoste). The reason is that Pentecost is the fiftieth day after Easter Sunday (on the Christian calendar). This name came into use in the late Old Testament period and was inherited by the authors of the New Testament.

What else is this feast known as? In the Old Testament, it is referred to by several names: The feast of weeks, The feast of harvest, The day of first-fruits

Today in Jewish circles it is known as Shavu`ot. It goes by various names in different languages. In England (and English), it has also been known as "Whitsunday" (White Sunday). This name is presumably derived from the white baptismal garments of those recently baptized.

What kind of feast was Pentecost in the Old Testament? It was a harvest festival, signifying the end of the grain harvest. Deuteronomy 16 states:

You shall count seven weeks; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you first put the sickle

to the standing grain. Then you shall keep the feast of weeks to the Lord your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the Lord your God blesses you; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God [Dt. 16:9-11a].

What does Pentecost represent in the New Testament? It represents the fulfillment of Christ's promise from the end of Luke's Gospel: "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high" [Lk. 24:46-49]. This "clothing with power" comes with the bestowal of the Holy Spirit upon the Church.

How is the Holy Spirit symbolized in the events of the day of Pentecost? Acts 2 records: When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. This contains two notable symbols of the Holy Spirit and his activity: the elements of wind and fire. Wind is a basic symbol of the Holy Spirit, as the Greek word for "Spirit" (*Pneuma*) also means "wind" and "breath." Although the term used for "wind" in this passage is *pnoe* (a term related to *pneuma*), the reader is meant to understand the connection between the mighty wind and the Holy Spirit. Concerning the symbol of fire, the Catechism notes: While water signifies birth and the fruitfulness of life given in the Holy Spirit, fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions. In the form of tongues "as of fire," the Holy Spirit rests on the disciples on the morning of Pentecost and fills them with himself. The spiritual tradition has retained this symbolism of fire as one of the most expressive images of the Holy Spirit's actions. "Do not quench the Spirit" [CCC 696].



Is there a connection between the "tongues" of fire and the speaking in other "tongues" in this passage? Yes. In both cases, the Greek word for "tongues" is the same (*glossai*), and the reader is meant to understand the connection. The word "tongue" is used to signify both an individual flame and an individual language. The "tongues as of fire" (i.e., individual flames) are distributed to and rest on the disciples, thus empowering them to miraculously speak in "other tongues" (i.e., languages). This is a result of the action of the Holy Spirit, signified by fire. Taken from: www.ncregister.com