



**MAY 23, 2021 | PENTECOST SUNDAY**

# HOLY FAMILY PARISH

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Tazewell, VA 24651

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**ST. JOSEPH'S**  
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## *Living by the Powerful Influence of the Holy Spirit*

**I**nfluence as the ability to have an impact on the character of someone is very significant in life. In fact, all the things we do or fail to do come from influences from various things inside and outside of us. Parents influence their children to act in specific ways. Teachers influence their students to adopt certain values or qualities. Friends influence each other in the best or the worst ways (Prov. 27:17). Apart from human influence, there are also influences from things like food, drink, environment, culture, society, and other things. In short, life is a trajectory of influences, which could be direct or indirect, however, to experience influence from anyone or anything, one needs to be open to it; disposition encourages influence.

Today is the feast of Pentecost which celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles as they were praying together in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. Before His ascension into heaven, our Lord Jesus Christ instructed them not to leave Jerusalem until they receive the power from above; the Holy Spirit (Act 1:8). Ten days after, the promise was fulfilled. The Pentecost encounter narrative from Acts of the Apos-

tles (2:2-4) says,

*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.*

To proceed in this reflection, we need to reappraise our understanding about the personality of the Holy Spirit. It is common to hear some people refer to the Holy Spirit as a “thing.” The designation is wrong! The “mighty wind” and “tongues of fire” in the account of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost were outwards signs indicating His presence, not Him *per se*. Earlier in the Gospel of Matthew (3:16), the Holy Spirit manifested His presence during the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ in the form of a dove, yet we cannot say that the Holy Spirit is a dove.

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Divine Trinity. He is eternally one and equal with the Father and the Son. In the beginning, we notice the presence of the Holy Spirit when the book of Genesis tells us that the Spirit

of God was moving over the face of the deep (Gen. 1:2). In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was unknown as a person. Instead, we hear about the Spirit of God (Gen 41:38; Numbers 27:18, Judges 6:34). It was David who gave the full designation, “Holy Spirit,” in his prayer of repentance (Psalm 51:11).

If we can know the Holy Spirit, then he will become relevant for us. During the initial instruction about the Holy Spirit, our Lord Jesus Christ promised the apostles that he would ask the Father, and He will give them another advocate, the Spirit of truth which the world cannot receive because it neither *sees* him nor *knows* him (John 14: 16-17). From our Lord’s instruction, we understand the power of knowledge—you cannot receive what you don’t know.

One may ask: did the apostles know about the Holy Spirit before Pentecost? The answer is a big YES. Another question would be how? If we go back to the Gospel of John (14:17b), our Lord assures the apostles that they know the Holy Spirit because He (the Holy Spirit) abides with them and will be in them.

To make it more practical, every encounter with Jesus Christ is also an encounter with the Holy Spirit as well as with the Father because they share the same God-head. We understand this more with our Lord's reply to Philip when he made the request, "show us the Father" and our Lord says to him, "whoever has seen me has seen the father" (John 14:9). In the same way and by implication, the knowledge of the Son implies knowledge of the Holy Spirit.

If we know the Holy Spirit what impact do we expect from His outpouring like on the day of Pentecost. Often, we erroneously assume that the encounter with the Holy Spirit must end in speaking in tongues and shouting. We need two things from the Holy Spirit, namely His gifts (1 Cor.12:1-11) and His Fruits (Gal.5:22).

However, for us to have a productive encounter with the Holy Spirit we need to be open to His impactful presence. The first thing we need to do is to disconnect from sin because the Holy Spirit is allergic to sin. Our Lord Jesus tell us that the Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin which has roots in unbelief (John 16:8-9). In the letter to the Galatians (5:16-17), St Paul instructs that we should live (walk) in the Spirit

and not in the flesh which is prone to sin. In Romans (8:8), St. Paul maintains that those who live in the flesh cannot please God.

When we make efforts to disconnect from sin, we qualify to climb up to the Upper Room for the new Pentecost encounter. Those who were at the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost received cleansing through their encounter with the risen Lord. We can say that they already have the template of the Holy Spirit in them when the risen Lord breathed on them saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22).

The Holy Spirit is our teacher, let us listen to Him.

The Holy Spirit is our leader and guide, let us follow Him.

The Holy Spirit is our comforter, let us stay close to Him.

The Holy Spirit is our advocate, let us consult Him.

The Holy Spirit is our help, let us reach out to Him.

The Holy Spirit is God, let us adore and worship Him.

As we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, let us strive proactively to walk in the spirit and not in the flesh. Have an awesome celebration.

## PASTOR

Fr. Eric Anokye  
eanokye@richmonddiocese.org  
(276) 385-7312

## OFFICE MANAGER/ BOOKKEEPER

Lydia St. Peter

## OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri 9:30AM - 2:30PM

Please call the parish office to make arrangements for the **Sacraments of Baptism, Anointing of the Sick or Holy Matrimony** as well as funerals. **Reconciliation** is available from 30 minutes before a scheduled Mass.

## MASS TIMES

### SATURDAY

4PM - St. Joseph's  
6PM - St. Mary's

### SUNDAY

9AM - St. Elizabeth's  
11:30AM - St. Theresa's

### MON | WED | FRI

10AM - St. Theresa's

Cover image:

Jean II Restout, *Pentecost*, 1732

# Augustine and the Holy Spirit

BY DEACON LAWRENCE KLIMECKI



## AUGUSTINE

*"I was weeping in the most bitter contrition of my heart, when I heard the voice of children from a neighboring house chanting, 'take up and read; take up and read.' I could not remember ever having heard the like, so checking the torrent of my tears, I arose, interpreting it to be no other than a command from God to open the book and read the first chapter I should find. Eagerly then I returned to the place where I had laid the volume of the apostle. I seized, opened, and in silence read that section on which my eyes first fell: 'Not in revelry and drunkenness, not in licentiousness and lewdness, not in strife and envy; but put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.' No further would I read, nor did I need to. For instantly at the end of this sentence, it seemed as if a light of serenity infused into my heart and all the darkness of doubt vanished away.*

*The task is daunting, to go out and preach the Word of God to a hostile world. That is what the*

*apostles were called to do. That is what we are called to do." -Augustine, Confessions*

Augustine of Hippo had a Christian mother and a pagan father. Growing up he did not embrace the faith of his mother and pursued a career as an orator, something like a combination of a lawyer and a politician coupled with a gift of persuasion. His was a life of reason and intellect, and he thought Christianity was based on superstition and blind faith.. He was so far from the Christian faith of his mother that he fell into Manichaeism, a heresy that offered reason to his intellectual mind.

Augustine's mother, Saint Monica, prayed for him unceasingly and followed him from town to town praying for his salvation. At long last her prayers were heard and Augustine returned to the faith while he was in his thirties.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Augustine was converted from a life of hedonism and debauchery. As a Christian, he became a priest and then bishop. His contribution to our understand-

ing of the faith has earned him the title of Doctor of the Church, a title shared by only 35 others in the long history of the Church.

The Holy Spirit has been at work a very long time.

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

After the Ascension, the apostles hid in the darkness with the doors locked, wondering what they were to do next. They wondered how they were to fulfill this mission. The Spirit descended upon them and they broke out of their isolation. Rushing into the market square, they spoke openly of God in all the tongues of the world.

We should not huddle in the dark afraid to go out, afraid to expose ourselves to hostility. It doesn't matter if the congregation, the world, does not like us. It does not even matter if we do not like them.

We are the shepherds, the pastors. It is our job. The flock is in need and we are bearers of the Gospel, the announcers of salvation and forgiveness. We have to go. We have a mission. And we are not without help or resources. The Holy Spirit of God has been given to us to strengthen us and gives us the grace we need to accomplish the work that has been set before us.

There are souls at stake, and we should not be reticent in our efforts to save them.

Penn Jillette, the half of the magician's duo of *Penn and Teller* that speaks, is an avowed atheist. Nevertheless he respects Christians who live their faith and evangelize. What he does not respect is Christians who profess that faith but keep it to themselves.

In an interview he said, "I've always said, I

don't respect people who don't proselytize. I don't respect that at all. If you believe there is a heaven and hell, and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life or whatever, and you think it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward.

"How much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate someone to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?"

Jillette offers this example to make his point. "If I believed, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that a truck was coming at you, and you didn't believe it, that that truck was bearing down on you, there's a certain point that I tackle you, and this is more important than that."

If we truly believe that Our Lord has the words of eternal life, how can we not share that Good News? How can sit idly by while our brothers and sisters are dragged to Hell when we might have prevented it by saying something.

We do not have to be priests, bishops, or great Doctors of the Church. We just have to care enough to say something. God will do the rest, but He must have something to work with. Throughout the history of Christianity, God has shown us that He can work miracles with very little.

On that first day, five thousand were baptized into the Kingdom. And at every turn the Holy Spirit continues to surprise and heal and give us courage.

That first day was over two thousand years ago. Imagine what we are capable of now.

*mass intentions*

Date	Intention
<b>5/22 SATURDAY</b>	
4PM	St. Joseph parishioners
6PM	St. Mary parishioners

**5/23 SUNDAY**

9AM	Deceased Marinuch family members †
11:30AM	Lena Ferrare † by Carolina Ferrare

*council members*

**PARISH COUNCIL:**

Tonya Hylton, Frannie Minton, Ralph Shawver, Cindy Deskins, Barbara Jones, Donna Lambert

**FINANCE COUNCIL:**

Kathy & Bob Buchanan, Randy Bolling, Doug Vance, Anne Danko, Jim Talbert, Jackie Shawver, Janet McDonagh

*please pray for*

Louise Serreno*	Lucas Boyd
Margie Stutso *	Doug Tabor
Margaret Shawver	Ralph Heldreth
Billy Akers	Elizabeth Managan
Scotty McBride	Chris Jessie
Gerry Hankins	Leo Brown
Clarence Moore	May Anne Rynne
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Sarah Wall	Junior Aiken
Paris Whisher	Mary Spencer
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Frannie Minton	Philip & Pat Imel
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Christian Lambert	Virginia Shumate
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Tiffany Hladek	Doug Vance
Tom & Sandra Bost	Andrew Satmary
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Carolyn Wade	Lori Hale
Stacy Hall	Dee Gentile
Pete Belcher	Glenn Harrison
Willie Hylton	Chris Lester
Bryan Gunter	Donna Petro
Michael Beavers	Cathy Bolling
Rick Hall	

*stewardship of treasure*

Donations Received as of May 16 (Week 46)		
CHURCH	ATTENDANCE	RECEIVED
St. Joseph's	6	\$166
St. Elizabeth's	15	\$255
St. Mary's	8	\$500
St. Theresa's	35	\$1,170
Total Offertory	64	\$2,091
Outside Donations		\$658
Year to Date Received		\$107,634
Goal		\$99,519
Ahead/Behind Goal		+\$8,115

**OUTSIDE DONATIONS – THANK YOU!**

St. Francis, Staunton, VA: \$658

**BUILDING FUND**

St. Elizabeth's: \$70

St. Mary's: \$25

**ST. MARY'S BACKPACK PROGRAM DONATIONS**

St. Michael, Glen Allen, VA: \$1,000

Clinch Valley Medical Center: \$63

## HOLY FAMILY NEWS

Mass continues to be livestreamed Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10AM from St. Theresa's and the church will be open for anyone who wishes to attend in person. The 11:30AM Sunday Mass at St. Theresa's will also continue to be livestreamed for those who are not able to join us.

Have you checked out Fr. Eric's "**Cast into the Deep**" column on our Facebook page? Fr. Eric carefully crafts a reflection every day on the readings. Use it daily and grow your faith!

[facebook.com/holyfamilyswva](https://facebook.com/holyfamilyswva)

You are invited to participate in a **Holy Land Pilgrimage** in April of 2022. Watch for details in the bulletin and on our Facebook page!

## ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

It's been observed that people need a mission, a sense of purpose, in life. In fact, the sense of emptiness so many experience today is a byproduct of not "being on mission."

As Christians, we are always on mission. And we've been on mission ever since that first Pentecost. A mission of love, to share the Good News with a world in need. What a powerful source of purpose and meaning in our lives! To realize that we're part of the same mission that inspired the likes of St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Thomas Aquinas, all the saints throughout the ages, reaching all the way back to that Upper Room where the Risen Lord appeared to the disciples and first gave them the Holy Spirit.

That mission animates us today, and it's the reason why we're so intent on strengthening our parish through the Annual Diocesan Appeal. As we rejoice in our reception of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost, let us prayerfully consider how He might be prompting us to contribute to this mission, as important now as it was 2000 years ago.

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birthdays & anniversaries: **MAY**

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**BIRTHDAYS**—24: Harman Strong | 25: Jim St. Peter | 28: Matthew French

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