



**May 23, 2021**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

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**MASS INTENTIONS:**

May 22nd Mike Pauk  
May 23rd 9:00 a.m. Margaret Briscoe  
11:30 a.m. Pro Populo  
May 25th Margaret Grindle  
May 26th Souls in Purgatory  
May 27th  
May 28th  
May 29th Chris Long  
May 30th 9:00 a.m. Deceased members of Bill &  
Geneva Nolan family  
11:30 a.m. Pro Populo

If you would like a Mass said for a special intention please contact the parish office.

**LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE:**

**SATURDAY: MAY 29TH**

Lector: Ann Snyder

**SUNDAY: MAY 30TH**

Servers: John & Jacob Nesler

Lector: Joe Accetta

Counters: Joe & Julie Accetta & Bobbi Lautzheiser

Mark Your Calendars:

**Vacation Bible School** is back for 2021!

When: Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup> to Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>

Who: Ages 5 to 12

Where: St. Roberts Catholic Church

This will be four days of "God's Olympic" themed fun, and we hope your children can join. We are also in need of volunteers, if you are interested, please let Christy Wendel know.

Please keep Mary Fleck and family in your thoughts and prayers. Bill passed away on Monday, May 17th.



**Please remember St. Robert's in your will.**

**AT THE PARISH THIS WEEK:**

**Tuesday, May 25th:**

Mass 6:00 p.m.  
Holy Hour & Benediction 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 26th:**

Adoration 5:00 p.m.  
Confession 5:30 p.m.  
Mass 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday, May 27th:**

Mass 8:00 a.m.

**Friday, May 28th:**

Mass 8:00 a.m.

**Saturday, May 29th:**

Confession 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Mass 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, May 30th: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**

Mass 9:00 a.m.  
Donuts & Coffee 10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study 10:15 a.m.  
Misa en español 11:30 a.m.



**Let Us Pray For:**



Edith Sands, Larry Harris, Josiah Abbott, Marco Martinez, Lucy Daugherty, Ashley Ervin, Richard Seagert, Thiago Lugo, Jeff Labas, Brie Ann Armstrong, Tim Shepherd, Tom Tatum, John Coonrod, Rex Tharp, Chad Alexander, Debby & Doug Hyde, Paul Nisbet, Bob Wagoner, Donna Labas, Jeanne Huser, Arlene Wring, Gary D., Jesus Diaz, Luke Donathon, Fernando Santaromita, Donna Zubowski, Shirley Williams, Brett Tracy, Carolyn Reed, Mike Drancik, Fred & Judy Geyer, Josephine Koontz, Margaret Grindle, Ray & Bobbie Elbertson, Paula Roemele, Chris Martin, Deanna Niccum, Bernie Bradley, Delores Hardy, Chris Long, Summer West, Tracey Myers, Hannah Eberly, Kasha Kastner, Winnie Lautzenheiser, Joanna Maxine & Evelyn Ruth Johnson, Mandy Lane, Gail Hayes, David & Kay Barnett, Brian Desrochers

Dear family,

Today Holy Mother Church celebrates the great Solemnity of Pentecost! For fifty days we have been celebrating the glorious Resurrection of Christ and now we rejoice at the descent of God the Holy Spirit upon Our Blessed Lady and the Apostles. I have a special love for this feast day because I was ordained on the vigil of Pentecost, thus it was the feast day of my first Mass. Until the Second Vatican Council Pentecost even had an octave (8 days of celebration) just like Easter and Christmas do. What is more, the Sundays of the year were not called Sundays of Ordinary Time but Sundays after Pentecost. These two elements of the traditional Roman Catholic liturgy teach us how important the Holy Spirit is. It makes me sad they were done away with. (It is said that Pope St. Paul VI cried when the day after Pentecost he went to the sacristy to get ready for Mass and the vestments were green instead of red. He did not realize he had authorized the reformers to take away the Octave of Pentecost).

Perhaps due to this de-emphasizing of Pentecost the Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to as the forgotten Person of the Most Holy Trinity. I think all of us can relate to God the Son (Who is Jesus) and maybe we even have a relationship with God the Father. But Who is the Holy Spirit and how can one relate to Him? Because He is spirit we don't have a very concrete image of Him and therefore we depict the Holy Spirit in art as a dove, fire, or wind. It's hard to have a personal relationship with these images but we must remember that the Holy Spirit is indeed a divine person just like God the Father and God the Son and He is equal to and consubstantial with Them as we profess each Sunday in the Nicene Creed. (Consubstantial literally means "of the same substance with." In philosophy substance is what something actually is. The substance we are talking about in regards to the Holy Spirit is God).

In recent decades many Catholics have developed a deeper devotion to the Holy Spirit through the Charismatic Renewal. Clearly many graces have been experienced by individuals who participate in this movement which has been approved by the Church. However, before Catholics became involved in the Renewal it was primarily a Pentecostal Protestant phenomenon. Therefore it requires a great deal of discernment and intellectual work to differentiate between what is an authentically Catholic experience of the Holy Spirit and what is not.

It is common when people think of the Charismatic Renewal to focus only on extraordinary gifts such as speaking in tongues or being "slain in the Spirit." Perhaps these are authentic experiences but I think it is always best to go back to the Scriptures. In the Bible when Pentecost is described we do not see Mary and the Apostles falling to the ground when the Holy Spirit descended upon them. We do hear about them speaking in tongues but the tongues they spoke were actual languages such as Latin, Greek, Coptic, and Arabic. This was so that those foreigners listening to them could clearly understand the Gospel message. We see in this miracle a reversal of the Tower of Babel when God confused the tongues of men so that they could no longer understand each other.

In my opinion it is more important to focus on the "ordinary" gifts of the Holy Spirit that each one of us has a result of our Baptism, namely Wisdom, Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude, Understanding, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. These gifts aren't as flashy or dramatic as the extraordinary ones but I believe we are in even greater need of them. Another extraordinary occurrence often associated with the Holy Spirit and charismatic prayer is physical healing. I have zero doubt that people can be instantaneously healed if that is what God desires for them. I believe I have even experienced such healing myself on a smaller level when I have been prayed over for the lower back pain I used to have. But there have been many times I was prayed over for other ailments which did NOT go away. Should this cause me to question my faith? Absolutely not! We have to realize that it is often the case that God allows us to suffer so that we can grow closer to Him as a result. The only characteristic that every single saint of the Church has in common is that each one of them suffered greatly, either physically, emotionally, or more often both. Suffering is not a good thing in and of itself, so there is nothing wrong with asking God to take it away. But I do believe sometimes it is possible to become fixated on being relieved of suffering, attending healing night after healing night in hopes that God will finally take away our pain. What the lives of the saints teach us is how to find joy and peace even in the midst of our sufferings. To me that is an even greater miracle than an instantaneous healing.

This Pentecost let us renew our devotion to and worship of the Holy Spirit, asking Him to come into our lives in the way that we need Him most, which is not necessarily the way we think we need Him. At Pentecost He descended upon Holy Mary and the Apostles in tongues of fire accompanied by a rushing wind. In our lives it is more often the case that He comes to us as a still, small voice that is barely perceptible if we don't take time to listen for Him in silent and contemplative prayer. It is certain that God wants to be with us in the midst of our lives. Let us never forget that the manner in which He comes to us is His choice and that He often prefers to descend upon us in ordinary and unassuming ways. Veni Sancte Spiritus! Come Holy Spirit!

In Christ,

Father Dennis



### **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION:**

Envelopes \$2438.00	Pentecost (Seminary) \$40.00
Loose \$1060.00	Catholic Charities \$125.00
Votive \$27.00	Over Bishop's Appeal Goal \$1040.00
Ascension \$155.00	

Monthly Budget \$13,200.00

*\$100 every month will go to R.E.A.C.H.*



### **Next Sunday's Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 28 16-20**



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