

REFLECTION by Larry Gillick, SJ—Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality

The Jews were gathered for their celebration of Pentecost, that is seven weeks after celebrating the Passover. It was an agricultural festival of giving thanks for the early crop. Some of those Jews had become followers of Jesus and of course, as Jews, they were to come to Jerusalem for the feast. What we hear in the First Reading is the surprising event of a Holy Wind and Fire Storm.

This Spirit's coming brings about great changes in the lives of those early "inspired" Jews. The ability to speak and understand different languages is only the first. They were enabled to understand and speak to the differences within the human community. As they were gathered together to give thanks to God for the abundance of the fields, these men and their followers were to spread the news "of the mighty acts of God." Through the Acts of the Apostles, we read of these "mighty acts of God" which present a new sense of Pentecost.

The earth brings forth harvested grain through the planting of human hands and the sun and rain from the skies. The new Pentecost is our celebrations of how God's Spirit sent from the skies, brings forth a harvest of good works through the cooperation of human hands. In a sense, the Church is a "Pentecost". It remains a gathering to give thanks for the abundance of "mighty acts of God" which are breathed into the human structure of the Church and into its members. We ponder, sing of, write about, and proclaim that God's Spirit is faithful to God's continuous creation.

The Second Reading holds a wonderful physical image expressing the work of the Holy Spirit. The human body has many parts. The human Church, the human race both have many aspects. The Church, like the human body, does many different things, but when guided by the spirit, it becomes the Body of Christ. As our face can reveal an aspect of our total person, so each of us reveals something of the Person and mystery of God. What a great way to really live!!

A great way not to live is hiding for fear. The Gospel pictures John's view of how the Pentecost took place. Locked in, not even a real gathering, the remnant-ten seem to be sitting in separation. Jesus rises in their midst and breathes the Spirit upon their fragmentation after the greeting of peace. His presence removes their absence and they rejoice to hear his words and see the signs of his glory.

As with all his encounters with the broken, lost and hurt, Jesus meets them with their pasts, in their now-times, but has a future-eye for their lives. Mission! Jesus meets them, the early Church and has a Reconciliation Service right on the spot. He then says, "I do not retain your sins, so whose sins are you going to retain?" He will tell them that as he has been *sent* to them, they are *sent* out and into and for this world he came to redeem. What a way to live!

The work of the Holy Spirit is to make holy flesh, incarnation, that is. We remember the story in the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel where he was taken out into a valley covered with bones. God's breath moved over this semi-cemetery—And flesh recovered the bones and the bodies recovered life.

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## ST. MONICA PARISH

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June 9, 2019  
**Pentecost Sunday**

The outpouring the Holy Spirit marks the birthday of the Church.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading from Acts, we hear the account of the Holy Spirit coming to rest upon the disciples and followers, enabling them to proclaim the Gospel in many languages. Paul writes to the Corinthians about the variety of gifts and service but one Spirit and Lord. In the Gospel, John gives an account of the disciples and their first experience of the risen Christ – Christ who breathes on them and tells them to *receive the Holy Spirit*.

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### Today's Readings:

*1st:*  
**Acts 2.1-11**  
*Psalm: 104*  
*2nd:* **1 Corinthians**  
**12.3b-7, 12-13**  
*Gospel:*  
**John 20.19-23**



Pentecost

PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

**9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

### MASS SCHEDULES

WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**

SATURDAYS: **9:30 am & 5:00 pm**

SUNDAYS: **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS: **4:30 pm – 4:55 pm**

CONFESSIONS: 10 MINUTES BEFORE DAILY

MASS OR BY REQUEST AT OTHER TIMES

### NOVENA TO

**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP**

WEDNESDAYS: **7:00 pm**

MASS FOLLOWED BY NOVENA

& BENEDICTION

### BAPTISM COURSE

EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT **6 pm**

### BAPTISMS

4<sup>th</sup> SATURDAY AFTER 9:30 am MASS

### HOUSE BLESSINGS

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

## PARISH UPDATES

**Kudos** – We are grateful to the ministry of Fr. Pat Davis, SJ. May the Lord bless him always!

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**Save a Date** – Our Parish Ministry Fair will be on September 21 and 22. Please mark it on your calendar.

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**Project Advance 2019 – Building our Future upon a Foundation of Faith** is theme. Our archdiocesan commitment is \$26,000. Our total parish goal maintains at \$75,000. Your participation in this annual appeal gives witness to our faith in action. We have met our commitment. Thank you!

We need our registered parishioners to pledge your gift for this year's appeal. May God bless you always!

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**New Hot Water Boilers (Our PA's response to 'Laudato Si')** – The work is now done. You can see the *before and after* pictures in the foyer. Our 2019 rebates from Project Advance have been earmarked for this important and necessary upgrade. Thank you for your on-going support.

Lord, send forth your Spirit,  
And renew the face of the earth.  
- Psalm 104 -

## ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

### **Pro-Life Sunday is June 16**

"Now I know I'm not alone and that there's a light towards my future," said one mother who received support because of the Pro-Life Sunday collection. Your support for local pro-life efforts has healed families and changed minds. With \$191,238 from the Pro-Life Sunday collection last year, thousands of lives were impacted thanks to your gifts. Can we raise more this year on Father's Day, June 16? Donate online at [rcav.org/prolife](http://rcav.org/prolife) or at our parish on June 16.

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### **Mass Wedding for Civilly Married Couples - Information Session**

If you got married civilly and would now like to have your marriage recognized by the Church, it will be on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Surrey. Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB will be celebrating a wedding Mass for a large number of civilly married couples. For more info., contact Deacon Greg Barcelon at 604-771-2975 or email [filipinoministry@rcav.org](mailto:filipinoministry@rcav.org)

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### **An Evening with Archbishop Miller**

Save the Date! The eighth annual Archbishop's Dinner will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver. This year, in partnership with Providence Health Care and with St. Mark's College, Archbishop Miller has designated the proceeds to help foster Catholic health-care ethics in the education of health-care providers and in the support of their day-to-day practice. There will be a reception at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. For more information or to reserve your table(s) please contact [development@rcav.org](mailto:development@rcav.org).

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This yearly celebration recalls the present, now-happening, breathing of God's Spirit among us. In our part of the northern hemisphere grass, flowers, trees, berries and the ever-present dandelions are all in bloom. The warming breezes, have brought our dead lands to life. It is this wonderful event of God's continually bringing us back- up- to more life which is nature's celebration. It is our celebration as well.

The Holy Spirit "overshadowed" the empty womb of Mary "and there was Light", but more, the Light Made Flesh. That same Spirit is sent to "overshadow" us and bring our flesh into that same "light" and "Life" and bring forth the Flesh of Jesus again and again. As our Jewish ancestors planted the crops and relied on God to give the increase, so do we, so does the Church in our times. The Spirit gives life through us to whom the Spirit has also given life. We plant the seeds and God's Spirit, like the warm breezes, brings forth a new abundance of life.

Jesus is still breathing his Spirit upon us and continually urges us to "Mission!" and give life by forgiving and then giving life through the holiness of the always-recovering, Spirit-charged holy flesh of our bodies.

**Love our Lady. And she will obtain abundant grace to help you conquer in your daily struggle.**  
- St. Josemaria Escriva

### **Stewardship Reflection**

One miracle of Pentecost was that, despite their diversity, each listener heard God's word in his or her own language. The meaning for stewardship is that, by sharing the gifts poured out on us by the Holy Spirit, we will be empowered to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters, whatever they may be.

### **Mass Intentions June 9 - 15, 2019**

Mon, Jun 10 - Maricar Coronel (RIP)  
Tue, Jun 11 - Pepita Mendoza (TG)  
Wed, Jun 12 - 9:00am, Yuen Lai Wong (TG)  
7:00pm, Hector/Cynthia Diangkinay (TG)  
Thu, Jun 13 - Joseph Laureta (RIP)  
Fri, Jun 14 - Marcelino Revita (RIP)  
Sat, Jun 15 - 9:30am, Pacita Santos (RIP)  
5:00pm, Vernon Saltchul (RIP)