



May 28, 2023 | Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2: 1-11 | 1 Cor 12: 3b-7, 12-13 | Jn 20: 19-23

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

GROW: As a college student, I found myself sitting near the information desk during a layover at a German airport. This was in the days before mobile phones and Google Translate. I remember being so impressed that the two young women behind the desk were able to answer questions in so many languages without missing a beat. Whether it was Spanish, French, German or English, each traveler heard an answer in their own language. I often think that must have been what it was like for the travelers to Jerusalem during Pentecost. They were in an unfamiliar place and yet God spoke to them in a way they could understand. And the beautiful thing about the Pentecost story is that it is not just relating one single moment in time. Instead, it is the start of the Holy Spirit’s ministry here on earth, and in our baptism, we, too, receive the same gift of the Holy Spirit. Confirmation completes the grace we receive at baptism, since we receive a **“special strength of the Holy Spirit.”** (CCC 1285) We, too, are given the tools to go forth and speak to others even when we are afraid they may not understand. Let us remember St. Paul’s words from the second reading: **“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”** And then let us go out and use those gifts for the greater glory of God.

GO EVANGELIZE | PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

GO: The idea of evangelizing is uncomfortable for many people. Sure, it was fine for the disciples to go out and start talking to strangers, but us? No way. However, evangelization doesn’t have to mean starting conversations on the street (although it can!). Instead, it might be making the sign of the cross before a meal in a restaurant, mentioning Mass when a co-worker asks what you did over the weekend, or displaying a crucifix in your home where visitors will see it. In these small ways, we can encourage others to open the door for God to **“shine with grace in our heart’s most secret place,”** as today’s Gospel Sequence says.

PRAY: St. Paul reminds us today that we are all **“baptized into one body”** and **“we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”** In today’s divisive world, it can be difficult to remember that. Let us pray for one another knowing that all Christians – even those who may annoy us – are joined together in the same body of Christ. Specifically, have as your at-the-ready prayer this week for all circumstances, the following: ***Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.***



ST. MONICA PARISH

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PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**
DEACON: **Wilbur Victoria**

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 SCHEDULES
SATURDAYS: **4:30 pm—4:55 pm**
10 minutes before Daily Mass

**BAPTISM, WEDDING, FUNERAL,
HOUSE BLESSING, SICK CALL**
Please call the Parish Office

May 28, 2023
Pentecost Sunday

Liturgy of the Word

Easter isn’t just about Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, but our rising to new life.

In the first reading, we hear about the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the first followers of Jesus who begin speaking in different tongues. Saint Paul says that there are *varieties of gifts and of services*, but the same *God who activates all of them in everyone*. In the Gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples, saying *peace be with you* and showing them his hands and his side.

Today’s Readings:

1st: Acts 2.1-11

Psalm: 104

2nd: 1 Corinthians 12.3b-7, 12-13

Gospel: John 20.19-23



MANY GIFTS, ONE SPIRIT

PROJECT ADVANCE 2023

“Empowering Our Parish Vision” is this year’s appeal. The vision for our parish is doing our share in energy consumption by retrofitting the lighting system to LED. Our archdiocesan goal is \$23,400 and plus administrative expenses. Our parish goal is \$35,000 which goes toward the LED lighting in the Upper Room, the Parish Centre and Office. Our volunteers are available to receive your pledge beginning this weekend. Thank you for your participation in PA2023!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to our First Holy Communion PREP 2 candidates! A special *Thank You* to their parents and our PREP teachers who have been preparing them for this important sacrament.

CONFIRMATION

On Saturday, June 3, 11:30am Mass, our PREP 7 will receive their confirmation. Your prayers are welcome!

MOMents of Grace: Moms Retreat

This retreat is tailored to give moms some quiet time to pray, reflect and connect. Gather with other moms as Catherine M. Kelly, M.Div. offers inspiring insights on how to find and celebrate unique moments of grace in the busyness of motherhood. The morning retreat engages scripture, poetry, art, music, plus quiet time for personal prayer, and spiritual small group conversation. Moms of all ages and stages are welcome! Childcare available with advance registration. Sliding scale registration fees apply. On Saturday, May 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at St. Mark’s Parish in Vancouver. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events.

Man's Destiny: Catholic Men's Conference 2023

Every man, father and son is invited and encouraged to attend *Man's Destiny*, an annual men's conference that provides an opportunity to step deeper into our faith, discerning the reality around us and affirming a faith-based approach to dealing with the chaos we witness daily in our world. With the theme *Finding Light in the Darkness*, the conference will feature Mass, keynote speakers, interactive group activities and time for Adoration and Confession. On Saturday, June 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at St. Matthew's Parish Centre in Surrey. Cost is \$25. Fee covers breakfast, hot lunch and snacks/refreshments throughout the day. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events.

Mass Intentions | May 28—Jun 3, 2023

Mon, May 29 - Rev Robert Wong, SJ (INT)

Tue, May 30 - Rev Peter Chiang (+)

Wed, May 31 - Po Kwong Poon (+)

Thu, Jun 1 - Francisca Fanio (+)

Fri, Jun 2 - Edgardo Lualhati (+)

Sat, Jun 3 - Jun/Vicky Mijares (INT)

A Stewardship Moment

This weekend we celebrate the feast of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit among the believers of the early Church. Saint Paul reminds us of the special power the Holy Spirit has bestowed upon us and how that power gives us the potential to live extraordinary lives of faith. Good stewards recognize this power and use their gifts, through God’s channel of grace, to transform their lives and the lives of others, and thus hasten God’s Kingdom. Good stewards know that it is through the Holy Spirit that they can proclaim: “Jesus is Lord.” Do we believe that Jesus is Our Lord? If so, how do we show it?

Fruits of the Holy Spirit Fruits of the Holy Spirit | Loyola Press

“Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them.” (Matthew 7:17-20)



This passage in Matthew's Gospel helps us to understand the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are the observable behaviors of people who have allowed the grace of the Holy Spirit to be effective in them. The tradition of the Church lists 12 fruits: **charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, & chastity.** (adapted from CCC1832)

Symbols of the Holy Spirit

In our liturgical prayers and art, we use several symbols to represent the Holy Spirit, all of them with biblical backgrounds. The **fire** that appeared on Pentecost was reminiscent of the fire in the burning bush on Mount Sinai from which God spoke to Moses. Fire calls attention to the strength and force of the Holy Spirit.

The **wind** that appeared on Pentecost was reminiscent of the wind that blew over the waters at the beginning of Creation. The wind calls attention to the Holy Spirit breathing life into the Church. **Water** represents the cleansing and life-giving action of the Holy Spirit at Baptism. The **cloud** is used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit because clouds provide life-giving water. **Anointing with oil** is a symbol of the Holy Spirit's uniting us with Jesus, the Messiah, the Anointed One.

Official documents carry a seal on them, so the **seal** is a symbol of the permanent effect of the Holy Spirit on the lives of those who are filled with the Spirit. The **dove** is a symbol of the Holy Spirit that comes to us from the story of Jesus' baptism, when Jesus saw "the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him" (Mark 1:10).