PENTECOST

Abundance of the Holy Spirit

Father of all nations,
you gather your people
so that we may know the power
of the Holy Spirit,
alive in the driving wind
and the tongues of fire.
May we be filled
abundantly with your Spirit,
so that we can proclaim
your holy name to every
man, woman, and child
throughout the earth.
May all the world know
the mighty deeds of our God.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday, June 9, 2019

Our Soul's Most Welcome Guest

Today's Readings: Acts 2:1–11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 25–30, 31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13; John 20:19–23. The Easter season ends with the Solemnity of Pentecost, which marks the disciples going into the world. In today's reading from Acts, the disciples are gathered in the upper room, the place where they encountered the Risen Christ and where they received the gift of his Body and Blood. Here, they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and are empowered for the mission that Jesus has entrusted to them.

Crowds in the streets of Jerusalem understand when the disciples speak, even though the gathering consists of people from many nations. This group symbolizes the worldwide mission of the Church. The Spirit will guide and encourage the disciples as they journey beyond Jerusalem to share the Word of God with all people.

The work of the disciples continues today. In our lives, followers of Christ are to welcome and look to the Holy Spirit for guidance as they continue to make God known. Some may be astounded at this and others bewildered. Still, we need to speak "of the mighty works of God." Take some time in quiet and begin a prayer with "Come, Holy Spirit, come!" In your own words, request courage, strength, and a joyful spirit for carrying out your discipleship. Seek to make the Spirit a welcome guest in your prayer life.

THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Monday, June 10

Mary, Mother of the Church

A year ago, Pope Francis proclaimed that the day after Pentecost would be celebrated as the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. In the document in which this day was promulgated, the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments recalls Mary and John standing at the foot of the Cross. There, the document states, Mary welcomed "all people in the person of the beloved disciple as sons and daughters reborn unto eternal life." *Today's Readings: Genesis 3:9–15, 20 or Acts 1:12–14; Psalm 87:1–2, 3 and 5, 6–7; John 19:25–34.*

Tuesday, June 11

St. Barnabas

Barnabas was a companion of St. Paul, and the account of their journeys is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. This disciple was not one of the original Twelve Apostles, but tradition holds that he was a part of the seventy-two commissioned by Jesus to preach. He is, then, given the title of Apostle. Acting as a mediator, he is responsible for introducing Paul, who persecuted the early Christians, to the other Apostles. Barnabas is invoked as a peacemaker. *Today's Readings: Acts 11:21b–26; 13:1–3; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4, 5–6; Matthew 5:13–16.*

Thursday, June 13

St. Anthony of Padua

St. Anthony of Padua, a Franciscan friar, loved Sacred Scripture and had a gift for preaching. He especially valued his Book of Psalms that he had filled with notes and comments that he used to teach other friars. When a young novice stole Anthony's book while leaving the community, Anthony prayed that it would be found or returned to him. Soon after, both the book and the young man returned to the community. St. Anthony is invoked as the patron saint of lost articles. *Today's Readings: 2 Corinthians 3:15—4:1, 3–6; Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11–12, 13–14; Matthew 5:20–26.*

Monday, July 22

St. Mary Magdalene

In elevating the day when Mary Magdalene is honored from a memorial to a feast day, Pope Francis recognized her role as an evangelizer. Most saints are honored on the liturgical calendar with a day designated as a "memorial." Days of particular significance and the days honoring the Twelve Apostles are feast days. Mary Magdalene has long been called the apostle to the Apostles for proclaiming to them that Jesus had risen. *Today's Readings: Song of Songs 3:1–4b or 2 Corinthians 5:14–17; Psalm 63:2, 3–4, 5–6, 8–9; John 20:1–2, 11–18.*

Thursday, July 25

St. James the Apostle

James was among the first Apostles called by Jesus. He and his brother John were fishing with their father in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. Their response to Jesus' call was to immediately abandon their nets and follow. Along with Peter and John, James witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus' daughter, and was with the Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane. *Today's Readings: 2 Corinthians 4:7–15; Psalm 126:1bc–2ad, 2cd–3, 4–5, 6; Matthew 20:20–28.*

Wednesday, August 21

St. Pius X

Pope Pius X desired that the faithful receive Holy Communion frequently. His devotion to the Eucharist brought him to be called the "Pope of the Blessed Sacrament." He is the patron saint of first communicants and the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa. His motto was "Restore all things in Christ, so that Christ may be all in all." How does the Eucharist assist the Church and each of us to live Pope St. Pius X's motto? *Today's Readings: Judges 9:6–1; Psalm 9:2–3, 4–5, 21–22, 25 and 27; Matthew 20:1–16.*

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