

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST



Come, Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Pour out your wisdom so that we may
bring light
to the challenges of our world.
Fill us with understanding to untangle
our confusion.
Give us counsel to guide our choices
in Christian living.
Grant us courage, especially when our
efforts seem fruitless.

Empower us with knowledge to see the
truth with eyes of faith.
Teach us piety so that we may worship you
with respect and gratitude.
Infuse us with wonder and awe
in your presence.
Help us be conduits of your limitless love
through our thoughts, words, actions,
and relationships.
Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the faith
of the earth. Amen.

Sunday, May 28, 2023

Come Holy Spirit!



Today's readings: Acts 2:1–11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29–30, 31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13; Sequence: Veni Sancte Spiritus; John 20:19–23. With the celebration of Pentecost, we have traveled on a ninety-day journey since Ash Wednesday. Throughout Lent we watched for signposts in the Scriptures directing our hearts toward God. At Easter we committed (some of us for the first time and the rest of us once again) to our journey of faith in the risen Christ. As we journeyed through the weeks of Easter, Jesus continually beckoned us to remain close and promised to give us the Holy Spirit. The Spirit will bind us to one another and to God.

The promised gift of the Holy Spirit is affirmed on Pentecost. Before today's Gospel, we acclaim, "Come, Holy

Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love." The gifts of the Holy Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord—assure us that God is cultivating and nurturing us to life within him. We carry the Holy Spirit within us and radiate that Spirit to all we meet. With the Spirit dwelling within us, we are always close to God. Today this truth of our faith is celebrated!

Take time this week to note the gifts of the Holy Spirit that you depend upon the most. Pray for a strengthening of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help you on your daily walk as a disciple of the risen Christ. Come Holy Spirit!



THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Monday, May 29

Mary, Mother of the Church

In 2018, Pope Francis added the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, to the liturgical calendar, placing it on the Monday after Pentecost. This memorial honors Mary in the role that she assumed at the foot of the cross with Jesus' final words to her, "Woman, behold your Son." Venerate Mary today by praying the glorious mysteries of the Rosary. *Today's readings: Genesis 3:9–15, 20 or Acts 1:12–14; Psalm 87:1–2, 3, 5, 6–7; John 19:25–34.*

Tuesday, May 30

Keep Calm, It's Ordinary Time

With the end of our ninety-day journey from Ash Wednesday to Pentecost Sunday, the Church enters the season of Ordinary Time. Do not mistake this season for being *ordinary* as in *routine*. In this season, *ordinary* refers to *ordered* or *counted* time. The Church is now in the Eighth Week in Ordinary Time. Change your prayer space colors to green and reflect on how you can grow spiritually as you decipher God in your life in the graced weeks ahead. *Today's readings: Sirach 35:1–12; Psalm 50:5–6, 7–8, 14 and 23; Mark 10:28–31.*

Wednesday, May 31

The Visitation

The Church devotes May to the devotion of Mary, so it is fitting that the last day of the month in the West is a feast day in her honor. In today's Gospel, we hear Mary proclaim the words of the Magnificat, which the Church prays as part of the Liturgy of the Hours every evening. Pray the Magnificat as part of your grace before meals or at the close of your day. *Today's readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a or Romans 12:9–16; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6; Luke 1:39–56.*

Thursday, June 1

St. Justin, Martyr

Justin converted to Christianity in the second century after years of study, prayer, and reflection. A lover of philosophy and vocal defender of the faith, Justin was martyred for his steadfast adherence to Christianity. During your prayer time, remember all who received the initiation sacraments at the Easter Vigil and pray that they have the resilience to remain steadfast in their faith. *Today's readings: Sirach 42:15–25; Psalm 33:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; Mark 10:46–52.*

Friday, June 2

Growth during Ordinary Time

Ultimately, our Christian mission is to help others grow in an authentic and meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. Each of us must be able to confidently answer Jesus' inquiry, "Who do you say that I am," with a conviction of faith. Take some time to look back over your spiritual journey since Ash Wednesday and then look forward to the coming weeks in Ordinary Time. How have you grown in your relationship with Christ through your daily attention to the Gospel and how do you hope to deepen your faith in the days and weeks ahead? *Today's readings: Sirach 44:1, 9–13; Psalm 149:1b–2, 3–4, 5–6a and 9b; Mark 11:11–26.*

Saturday, June 3

Triune Unity

Tomorrow the Church commemorates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. This observance is a reminder that God desires to be close to us. God's ecstatic love for the world overflows in the gift of the Son and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We explicitly unite ourselves with the mystery of the holy Trinity every time we mark our bodies with the sign of the cross. Try to make the sign of the cross with more intentionality. Allow this gesture that we repeat so often to be a poignant reminder of our unbreakable unity with God. May your faith journey through Ordinary Time be abundantly blessed. *Today's readings: Sirach 51:12cd–20; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mark 11:27–33.*

