

PENTECOST SUNDAY



Renew Us

Lord our God,
send down your Spirit upon us,
and fill us with your love,
as you filled those gathered in the
Upper Room.

Renew our hearts and renew the face
of the earth,
as your Spirit calls us forth to be witnesses
of your love.

Empower us to do your will,
to fulfill the life of the Church in the world,
and grace the lives of those we serve.
Filled with your Holy Spirit,
may our lives proclaim your love and mercy
and our service show forth your
varied graces

as we seek to be Christ present as the
one Body
and we drink of the one Spirit.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

June 4, 2017

Send Out Your 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. “Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth,” we sing as the refrain for the Responsorial Psalm today. The Spirit sent and received at Pentecost is a spirit of renewal, unity, empowerment, and clarity. The description of being filled with the Spirit, and its lasting effects, is powerful. Those filled with the Holy Spirit can change the hearts of those they encounter. However, even in unity, there is a great array of spiritual gifts, as we hear from St. Paul in the Second Reading. The Spirit calls us to be one in Christ, but to participate in our different ministries and “activities.” The beauty of the Holy Spirit is described in the Sequence from today’s liturgy, in which we

call forth the Spirit to fill our inmost being, and to shed all seven gifts upon us.

Where are the Spirit’s gifts found in you? Are you called to serve others at prayer, or to teach? Perhaps you are given insight and understanding. On this Pentecost day, name your gift of the Spirit, and celebrate the manifestation of the Spirit and the benefit you are called to confer. We who are part of the one body are given the same Spirit, and joyfully unite in proclaiming—each in our own language and expression—that Jesus is Lord. May we take to heart the words of today’s Sequence, *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*, as we sing, “Give them virtue’s sure reward; / Give them your salvation, Lord; / Give them joys that never end. Amen. / Alleluia!”



THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

June 9

St. Ephrem

Called the “Harp of the Spirit,” Ephrem was a hymn writer and quite a poet for fourth-century Syria. He not only taught through his hymn texts, he created poetic phrases that captured beautiful meanings for the sacraments, the Church, Christ, and Mary. Find a favorite hymn today, and notice each text, each verse, and each image. What captures your religious imagination in that hymn? *Today’s Readings: Colossians 3:12–17; Psalm 37:3–4, 5–6, 30–31; Luke 6:43–45.*

June 24

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

With humility, John understood his role as the forerunner of Christ. Anticipating the coming of Christ, he states, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). The date that we celebrate John’s birth coincides with John’s statement. After the birth of Jesus, which is near the winter solstice, the days lengthen. With the celebration of John’s birth on June 24, close to the summer solstice, the days become shorter. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 49:1–6; Psalm 139:1b–3, 13–14ab, 14c–15; Acts 13:22–26; Luke 1:57–66, 80.*

July 14

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

The first Native American saint, Kateri Tekakwitha survived the loss of her parents, disfigurement by small pox, and ridicule and bullying from two tribes. Her faith was her solace. She would walk through the woods, picking up twigs and binding them together as a small cross, and then stick them in the ground. When she returned, she would stop at each twig cross to say a prayer. Make twig crosses and use them to mark prayer stations in your home or on your property. *Today’s Readings: Hosea 2:16bc, 17cd, 21–22; Psalm 148:1bc–2, 11–12, 13, 14; Luke 10:38–42.*

July 18

St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest

Dedicated to caring for the sick, Camillus de Lellis (d. 1614) not only built hospitals and cared for the ill himself, he founded his own congregation, the Ministers of the Sick, whom he trained and inspired to care for those who are ill, and to treat them with great care and love. *Today’s Readings: 1 John 3:14–18; Psalm 112:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8, 9; John 15:9–17.*

July 25

St. James, Apostle

Often referred to as St. James the Greater, and brother of John the evangelist, this Apostle is considered to have been part of Jesus’ inner circle. In Spain, his name has become well known as people travel the Camino de Santiago, also known as the Way of St. James, to the Shrine of St. James the Great in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Pilgrims worldwide claim St. James as their patron. *Today’s Readings: 2 Corinthians 4:7–15; Psalm 126:1bc–2ab, 2cd–3, 4–5, 6; Matthew 20:20–28.*

August 6

Transfiguration of the Lord

The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord unites the Old and New Testaments in a particular way. Not only is Jesus truly transfigured but Moses and Elijah, the Law and the Prophets, are also transfigured. It is not lost on us that Jesus has given new meaning to all that Moses and the Law, or Elijah and all prophets, have supplied up to that time. We can be transfigured as well, as we find new meaning through Jesus Christ in what we say, learn, do, and offer today. *Today’s Readings: Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14; Psalm 97:1–2, 5–6, 9; 2 Peter 1:16–19; Matthew 17:1–9.*

