

PENTECOST SUNDAY



Fervor

O God, giver of good gifts,
you sent your Holy Spirit to renew
your people
and to enliven their fervor for
the Gospel.

Shine upon us the light of your face
and lead us to seek your truth and grace.
Fill us with your sevenfold gift;
warm the chill of our hearts;
grant us peace and heal our wounds;
revive our spirits and stir up a desire to
confess your name,
so that, renewed by your grace during
this Easter season,
we may avoid sin and grow in the fruits
of your Spirit.

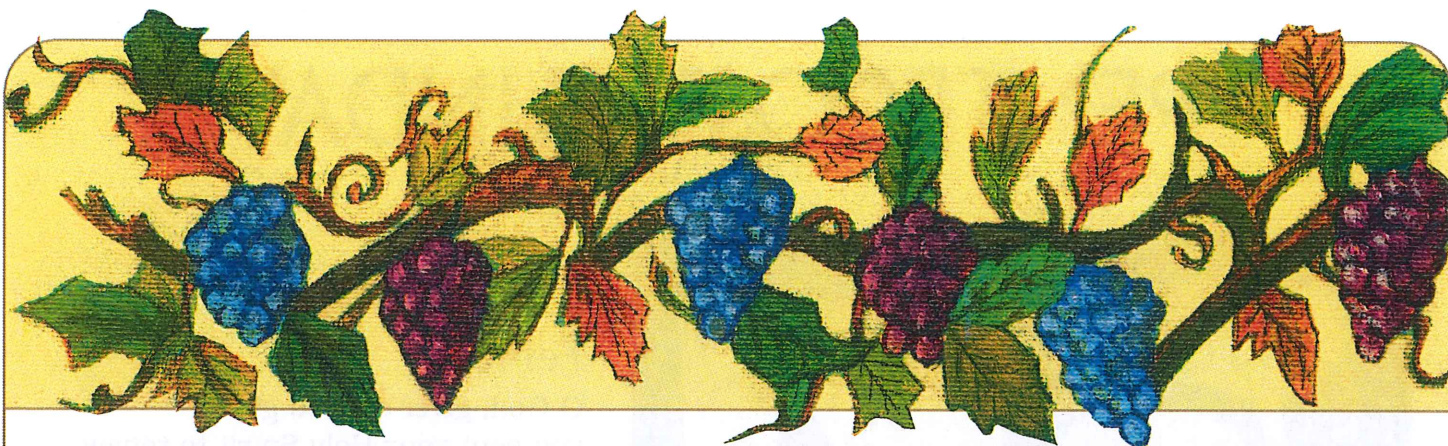
Shower us with your enduring love
and make us faithful witnesses of your
wondrous works.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 20, 2018
Excitement and Chaos

Today's Readings: Acts 2:1–11; Psalm 104:1–2, 24, 29–30, 31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13 or Galatians 5:16–25; John 20:19–23 or 15:26–27; 16:12–15. The scene we hear about in Acts 2 is filled with excitement and a bit of chaos. Imagine yourself gathered with the faithful disciples and suddenly you hear “a sound like the rush of a violent wind” and see tongues of fire appearing. What comes to your mind? The disciples were still processing the death and Resurrection of Christ and discerning their next move. Jesus promised them an Advocate that would send them to the ends of the earth. Jesus trained them to go out to tell of God’s mercy and love, but fear and uncertainty locked them away.

During Lent, the Church invited us to turn away from sin, and during these fifty days of Easter, we celebrated the gift of God’s redemption. Today, as we close our formal celebration of Easter, we reflect on the power of the Holy Spirit filling the hearts of disciples throughout the ages. At Baptism, we received the Holy Spirit, who sends us forth to share the Gospel. How have you been roused by the Holy Spirit to work within your community and to share the Good News? At dinner, discuss how you might use your gifts to help build up God’s kingdom.



THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Ordinary Time

After Pentecost, the Church enters the second period of Ordinary Time. During the summer and fall months, as the readings bring us to reflect on mission and discipleship, we celebrate solemnities, feasts, and memorials of women and men who dedicated their lives to the Gospel. Reading about some of these saints and contemplating their story and the Scriptures on their feast day may encourage you to live more genuinely in hard times and celebrate joyfully in good times. As you reflect on the lives of the saints over the next few months, consider concrete ways you and your family might serve your community. Think of the saints as your traveling companions and make time for a discussion of them while in the car together this summer.

Wednesday, June 13

St. Anthony of Padua

When St. Anthony of Padua was asked to preach at a gathering of Dominicans and Franciscans, he did so with reluctance. He lived a life of humility, waiting on others, and wished to continue to do so. However, once he began to preach, his gift was discovered. Soon crowds filled churches and marketplaces as he made theological issues relevant to them. He brought many to repentance. May we approach our gifts with such humility. *Today's Readings: 1 Kings 18:20–39; Psalm 16:1b–2ab, 4, 5ab and 8, 11; Matthew 5:17–19.*

Sunday, June 24

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

The birth of St. John the Baptist is celebrated in the liturgical calendar because of his relationship to Jesus as his forerunner. Filled with the Holy Spirit, John's father, Zechariah prophesied that his son would "go before the Lord to prepare his ways." The only other births that the Church observes are those of Mary and Jesus. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 49:1–6; Psalm 139:1–3, 13–14, 14–15; Acts of the Apostles 13:22–26; Luke 1:57–66, 80.*

Friday, June 29

Sts. Peter and Paul

Beginning today, through most of July, read a chapter of the Acts of the Apostles each day. After reading, write down information about these Apostles, keeping track of where they traveled, their time in prison, and how others regarded them. Once the Book of Acts is finished, mark on a map the places Sts. Peter and Paul traveled. *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 12:1–11; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 17–18; Matthew 16:13–19.*

Saturday, July 14

St. Kateri Tekakwitha

The first Native American to be canonized, St. Kateri Tekakwitha is known for persisting in her desire to follow Christianity. When family members and neighbors objected to her interest in Catholicism, she left them for a Christian Native American community. She is the patroness of ecology and the environment, people in exile, and Native Americans. *Today's Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:26–31; Psalm 23:1b–3a, 4, 5, 6; Matthew 13:44–26.*

Tuesday, November 13

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini dreamed of being a missionary in China, but Pope Leo XIII asked her to leave her native Italy to serve immigrants in the United States. In March 1889, Sr. Frances and other members of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart arrived in the United States, where she founded an orphanage. To care for the poor, and especially immigrants, Sr. Frances and her sisters founded more orphanages as well as schools and hospitals. She is the patron saint of immigrants. *Today's Readings: Titus 2:1–8, 11–14; Psalm 37:3–4, 18 and 23, 27 and 29; Luke 17:7–10.*

