

Welcome...my Brothers & Sisters!

Pentecost.YrC.2025

I am sure that walking into Church today
you marveled (maybe even gasped) at the beauty of the big red banner
running from the baptismal font to the altar.

How exciting and I'll bet your first question was...what is going on?

The answer... It's Pentecost Sunday...
one of the most special days of our Church year. It's our birthday.
Christianity and the Church have been around for over 2000 years.
Now that's reason to celebrate.

We did have our beginning as Church
with the life and death of Jesus 2000 Years ago.

Pentecost. What does that mean?

The word Pentecost means *fiftieth* day after Easter.

Why do we celebrate Pentecost?

It is because on that day over 2000 years ago
the Church of Jesus was made known to the world
by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

We just heard in our First Reading,

"The apostles and the faithful were in one place together.

And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving
wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were.

Then there appeared to them tongues of fire.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and they began to proclaim."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it this way.
It says..."You are the people of God, the Church,
and you are now filled with the Holy Spirit
in order to make God known to all the world. So go forth and do it!
We all are called to be Church and to proclaim the Good News
just like the apostles were told to do it 2000 years ago."

We, you and I, are called today to be
active participants in this liturgy
because we have been given the help of an Advocate, a helper...
and we call that helper the Holy Spirit.
Today's Gospel tells us that Jesus made a promise...
"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate...
the Holy Spirit...who will teach you everything."

The Holy Spirit is not just a force.
The Holy Spirit is a person...
the very love between the Father and the Son...
sent to earth to live within us.

He teaches...reminds...guides...comforts...and strengthens.

Page 3

But the condition is clear:

"If you love Me, keep My Commandments."

The Spirit works best in a human heart

open to obedience...humility...and love.

The Spirit is not an accessory to our faith. The Spirit is essential.

Without the Spirit, Scripture is a dead letter...

prayer is dry...and mission is impossible.

But with the Holy Spirit, even the weakest of us can be saints.

Jesus ascended to the Father.

So, it is up to all of us who are present here and now

as Church to spread the Word...to Preach the Gospel.

We the Church have to be a mouth to speak for Jesus...

feet to run his errands...hands to do his work.

The Church needs Jesus.

Without Jesus the Church has no message.

The sending out of the Church (that's you and me) by Jesus

is parallel to the sending out of Jesus by God.

The Father sent his Son. His Son sends us.

Today is a call to recognize and use your spiritual gifts—

not for personal glory...but to serve...to heal...

to teach...to unite...to love.

When we as Church...as part of the body of Christ...
show our love for God in sincere prayer
and show our love for neighbor in acts of kindness...
we demonstrate the presence of the Holy Spirit within us
and Jesus present among us.

How can we build the Kingdom of God here on Earth?
We do well as Church here at St. Pius X
but I would like to challenge everyone to take a step further.
Go meet the people you feed and clothe.
Talk to the neighbor you have never met.
Do something uncomfortable with the help of the Holy Spirit.

When we do this, we can then pray with the entire Church,
"Come Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your faithful.
Kindle in us the fire of your love and we will be created
and we and you will renew the face of the earth." Amen

(I am going to let you sort the rest out, I don't think you need it.)

Our 1st Reading has a few Scriptural symbols I think we should note. First there is the sound of a great wind from heaven...filling the whole house. *Pneuma* is the Greek word for wind...that indicates the Spirit of God is present. In Exodus Moses stretched out his hands and a strong wind divided the sea.

A 2nd Scriptural symbol is that tongues of fire appeared above the heads of each disciple. This is another symbol of God's presence. Remember God spoke to Moses through a burning bush.

One last Scriptural symbol is Jesus' breathing on the disciples. Breath symbolizes life. In the Creation story God breathed onto clay from the ground to create the 1st human being.

The Spirit is not given for our own sake, but for the mission of the Church—to proclaim the Gospel...to heal the broken...to serve the poor...to reconcile sinners. How are you using the Spirit's gifts? What is your role in the Body of Christ? Pentecost is not just a feast to

remember. It is a call to renewal. The Spirit is alive in the Church...in the sacraments...in the Word of God...and in your heart. Today let us open ourselves anew to the Holy Spirit.

How can I build the Kingdom of God on Earth? We do well as Church here at St. Pius X but I would like to challenge everyone to take a step further. Go meet the people you feed and clothe. Talk to the neighbor you have never met. Do something uncomfortable with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Today we pray for ourselves and the entire Church.

Come, Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of the faithful
and kindle in us the fire of your Love...
and you shall renew the face of the earth.