

Pentecost, Sunday Mass (with a slight modification for the Vigil)

Today we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, one of the highest feasts of the Church. It commemorates the first great pouring out of the Holy Spirit. The image of pouring out is most naturally that of water or liquid being drained from one vessel, a pitcher, a cup, even a cloud, into another pitcher, cup or even the soil of the Earth.

Water quenches the thirst of the body as well as the parched land.

Each and every one of us knows what it is to be thirsty, don't we?

Hard works, physical exertion, hot weather all have a way of making us both hungry and thirsty. We can go a long time without food, but water.... without it, we die, and in fairly short time.

Thirst is a way that our bodies tell us that they need something **vital, something** that is, **essential for life**, and we need it much sooner than later.

I know that when I work hard, I most often reach for a cup long before I reach for a plate.

(Vigil Comment:

Jesus says in tonight's Gospel "Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. As Scripture says: Rivers of living water will flow from within him who believes in me." We are told that: "He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive".)

A sip is enough to quench our thirst, but God doesn't want us to just sip of this living water, this Holy Spirit. He wants to pour it out in buckets, in a flood, so that we might live and live completely.

But so often we keep our lips sealed tight, even as we look up in search of God.

Perhaps we are afraid we might drown if we took in too much Holy Spirit, too much God. Afraid that God might ask too much of us, afraid that we are not worthy, or capable, or strong enough, or smart enough, and so we continue to thirst, with life-giving water only a few words from our hearts away. "Come Holy Spirit"

At that first Christian Pentecost, when the Church was Born, the disciples were hidden away, afraid.

But they were also waiting, because at His Ascension, Jesus told them to wait for the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father and He would send.

And they were not disappointed.

Imagine the scene, rushing winds, tongues of flame, speaking in languages that they had not previously known, preaching boldly the Good News.....raising the dead.....

Scripture tells us that the disciples were so filled with the Holy Spirit that just the shadows of John and Peter were able to cure the incurable.

That is not being afraid..... that is LIVING!

We are tempted to think "that was then, but this is now"

Sisters and brothers.... if God is the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow,.... how could the Holy Spirit hold back it's mighty wind, it's rushing fire, it's endless gifts waiting to fill us?

Pentecost is not a one-time event. It happens over and over and over again.

In our Baptism, in our Confirmation and in our Sacrament of Reconciliation. Those are sentinel Holy Spirit events.

But once the Spirit has been given, it is not, cannot be limited. It knows no boundaries. It comes in our hurts and desperations when we do not know how, or simply cannot pray.

It comes in our conscience, in the conviction of our sinfulness.

The Holy Spirit is in every moment of holiness, in our prayer, our worship and in, if we allow it, our daily activities.

(Saturday Night)

*(In a short while, at her Baptism, **Isabel Mae** will receive, just as all the baptized have received the Gift of the Holy Spirit. As with the celebration of all Sacraments there is sensuality involved, in that God implores our senses through touch, sight and smell.*

The water from the font, the flame from the Easter Candle, the new white garment and the oil are meant to remind us of the new life in Christ of the Baptized. We baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There is power in those words, and healing in the balm of the Chrism Oil, which carries the sweet scent of the Holy Spirit.)

(Sunday)

In baptism , we receive the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

(Continue for all masses)

At Confirmation, we are Sealed with this same Holy Spirit.

I encourage us to live out our Baptism... to claim our Confirmation and all of the gifts, all the **life** that comes with them.....

How do I know if I am living in the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the Love of God and cannot produce what is not love. Anything in our lives that is not of love is not of the Holy Spirit.

Do I use my words to build up or to tear down another?

Do I treat others not just with politeness, but with respect, not falling into the trap of lust? Lust is treating another person as a means to my own satisfaction, sexually, financially or in any other way that lessens their dignity by making them an object.

What about our respect for life, freedom, truth?

The Holy Spirit is what we long for, deep down, at our very core..... and the honest, examined heart knows this.... for God has created us for

Himself, and we will never know rest, never know fulfillment, never know satisfaction....until we are rested, we are filled, we are satisfied in Him.

The Holy Spirit is alive and we are most fully alive when we cooperate in God's Gift.

And so I ask....What are **we** waiting for? Why drink from a "dixie-cup" when the whole well-spring is ours?

..... Come Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the Earth. Amen, Alleluia!

Prayers of the Faithful

Send forth your Spirit from the Father to cleanse and strengthen the Church so that we might spread the Good News throughout the world.
We pray to the Lord

For those who guide and govern us, that they may be servants of the common good in your name.
We pray to the Lord

That we your people may not be led by the spirit of the world, but gently guide us with the Spirit from you.
We pray to the Lord

For Ron Ridder and Mike Watovik who were ordained to the Diaconate for our diocese on May 25th, that they serve always in the power of the Holy Spirit.
We pray to the Lord

Pour out your Spirit, the protector of the poor, to help and lift up those in need.
We pray to the Lord

You live in the glory of the Father and the Holy Spirit, summon into your glory all of the faithful departed. We pray to the Lord