

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes
(902) 535-2053
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May 23, 2021

Pentecost Sunday

And when the days of Pentecost were drawing to a close, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a violent wind coming, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them parted tongues as of fire, which settled upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in foreign tongues, even as the Holy Spirit prompted them to speak (Acts 2, 1-4).

Pentecost Sunday marks the end of the [first novena](#).

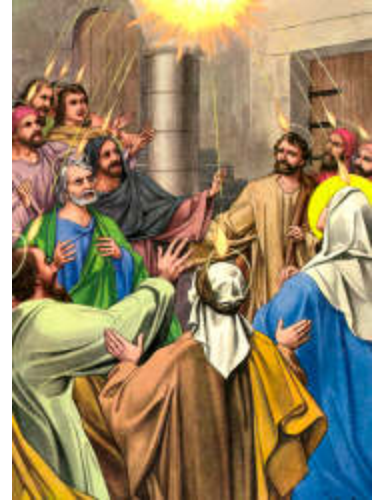
Pentecost (Whitsunday), with Christmas and Easter, ranks among the great feasts of Christianity. It commemorates not only the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and Disciples, but also the fruits and effects of that event: the completion of the work of redemption, the fullness of grace for the Church and its children, and the gift of faith for all nations.

Pentecost

After Jesus had ascended to heaven from Mt. Olivet, the apostles and disciples returned to the Holy City. They remained together in the Upper Room or Cenacle, the place where Jesus had appeared to them and which may well be called the first Christian church. About a hundred and twenty persons were assembled there. They chose Matthias as an apostle in place of the unhappy Judas; they prayed and waited for the Paraclete.

Ten days had passed, it was Sunday, the seventh Sunday after the resurrection. At about nine o'clock in the morning, as they were together praying fervently, the Holy Spirit descended upon them. Note how all the great theophanies in Christ's life occurred during the course of prayer. After His baptism, for instance, when Jesus was praying the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove; likewise, it was during prayer at night that the transfiguration took place on Tabor. Surely too it was while Mary was praying that Gabriel delivered his message, and the Holy Spirit overshadowed her. Pentecost followed precedent. The small community of Christians had prepared themselves through prayer for the coming of the Paraclete. The same is true at Mass today, every day; through prayer we ready our souls for the advent of the Spirit.

The descent upon the apostles was internal and invisible in nature although accompanied by certain visible phenomena. There came a mighty roar, like the onrush of a violent wind. It came suddenly, from heaven; but unlike storms that strike a structure from without, this one penetrated and filled the room where the disciples were gathered. Therefore it was not a natural wind, it was a miracle peculiar to the occasion. A second visible sign consisted in tongues of fire that descended upon each one present. These fiery tongues gave visible evidence that the Holy Spirit had descended upon them.



Today at Mass, particularly at holy Communion, the power of the Holy Spirit will come down upon us; fiery tongues will not be seen, but invisible tongues of fire will not be absent. There was still another external manifestation of the Holy Spirit; the apostles and disciples were enabled to speak various languages.

After the roar of the wind many of Jerusalem's pilgrims hurried to the Cenacle. Pentecost was one of the three festivals which obliged all Jews to be present in Jerusalem. Jews from distant lands, and Jewish converts from paganism too, attended these feasts. As a result, a colorful crowd speaking a variety of languages surrounded the house. Now the apostles, who so shortly before had hid in fear behind locked doors, came forth and courageously walked among the multitude speaking to each in his native tongue. It was indeed amazing! Galileans, and multilingual?



But the malicious too were present; they had the answer. Nothing marvelous at all! Those Galileans were simply drunk, and their drunken babble sounded like a foreign language! Peter showed no hesitation in answering the charge. None of their number, he said, were intoxicated; it was but nine o'clock in the morning, and at that hour men usually are sober. What the multitude saw was, in fact, the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy: In those days (of the Messiah), God will pour forth His Spirit upon men and they will prophesy. . . . Then the apostle pointed his words more directly against the accusers: they had killed Jesus, had nailed Him to the Cross; but God had awakened Him and after His departure to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit.

The pilgrims who had heard Peter give this first pentecostal sermon "were pierced to the heart and said: Brethren, what shall we do? But Peter said to them: Repent and be baptized; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Three thousand responded.

One final question: why the miracle of tongues? In answer, recall the story regarding the tower of Babel. Puffed up by pride, men attempted to build a tower that would touch the heavens. To punish their sin, God confused their speech. Sin causes confusion and division. Now Christ came to gather all men into His Church and thereby to unite them to Himself. This should result in creating but one family of nations again. To this blessed state the miracle of tongues points.

Yes, even we as individuals have a gift of tongues which all men can understand. It is the gift of love infused into us by the Holy Spirit. Love unites, love is a common language, by means of love we can speak to all nations.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

Sacrament of Baptism

please call:

Rev. John Yake, I.V. Dei
902-535-2231

Instructors for baptism:

Mary Fougere, SJB 902) 535-2699

Rose Pâté, SP (902) 302-7011

Vera Doucette, HGA (902) 785-4018

Sacrament of Matrimony

Please call Fr. Yake six months prior to the wedding date.

Pre-Marriage Program

May 29, 2021

Offered by Family Service of Eastern Nova Scotia, Glace Bay.

Register by phone: 902-849-4772

For more information, contact:

Tasia Boucher

EAP/Pre-Marriage Program Coordinator & Admin Support

tboucher@fsens.ns.ca

Website: <http://ensfamilyservice.ca/>

Weekday Liturgy

Please note: Mass intentions should be arranged with Mary at office.

May 16, 2021 receipts (HGA only)

Holy Guardian Angels

Envelopes & Loose	\$661.00
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<u>Total</u>	<u>\$661.00</u>
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Pentecost Pastoral Letter 2021

From Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick



My Dear People:

The feast of Pentecost dates back to the first century. It originated from the Jewish feast of Weeks, which occurs fifty days after Passover. Pentecost means fiftieth day. According to Jewish tradition, the Ten Commandments were given to Moses 50 days after the first Passover, which freed the Hebrews from their bondage in Egypt. As the Hebrews settled into the land of Canaan, the feast became a time to honour the Lord for blessing the fruits of their labours.

Described in Leviticus 23, the Feast of Weeks is the second of the three “solemn feasts” that all Jewish males were required to travel to Jerusalem to attend. All three of these feasts required that “first-fruit” offerings be made at the temple as a way of expressing thanksgiving for God’s provision. The Feast of Weeks was in celebration of the wheat harvest. To the Jews, this time of celebration is known as Shavuot, which is the Hebrew word meaning “weeks.” It normally occurs in late spring, either the last part of May or the beginning of June. It was a day of great thanksgiving, which explains why Jerusalem was filled with an international crowd of pilgrims who had come there to worship. On Pentecost day, a great transformation took place among the disciples. The reading from the Acts of Apostles gives us a graphic picture of Pentecost. The bewildered disciples were gathered together in the upper room; hiding behind locked doors when suddenly from heaven there came a sound like a rush of a violent wind that filled the entire house where they were sitting and then divided tongues of fire rested on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them ability. The Holy Spirit gifted them with a new power of speech in order to proclaim the gospel. It is most significant that tongues of fire appeared since it is by tongues that testimony is given. All were amazed and astonished. The transformation of the disciples was immediately evident. They were no longer afraid but they boldly went into the streets of Jerusalem openly proclaiming “the mighty acts of God.” This is why Pentecost is often referred to as of the birthday of the Church. Others would remind us that the fountain of the sacramental life of the Church came as water and blood flowed from the wounded side of Jesus hanging on the cross. Nevertheless, the Church was made manifest to the world on the day of Pentecost by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The gospel of John presents a similar but somewhat different story of Pentecost. The disciples were hiding behind locked doors in the Upper room when suddenly the risen Lord appeared in their midst. He calmed their fears when he said ‘Peace be with you’ and then he empowered

them to carry on his mission by breathing on them saying receive the Holy Spirit. In many ways, we find ourselves in a similar situation as the disciples did on that first Pentecost Sunday. We are under stay-at-home orders and so we gather behind closed doors, or we are working under restrictions, wearing masks and keeping our distance from each other. We have not been able to attend Mass and our homes have become places of intense prayer. Not able to gather with our parish community, we watch the Mass on television or through social media or we listen on the radio. We long for the day when we will be able to gather again and celebrate the Eucharist together with our friends and neighbours. Like Mary, Mother of the Church who gathered and prayed with the disciples, we too gather together with Mary our Mother and pray that we might be strengthened with gift of the Holy Spirit.

The image of the Holy Spirit presented in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles is that of wind and fire which are symbols of the divine presence. The purifying power of fire is complemented by that of the mighty rushing wind recalling the theme of creation by the breath of God that gives life.

We know all too well that breath is life. If we cannot breathe, we die. COVID-19 causes a respiratory type of infection in the lungs marked by a shortness of breath with difficulty in breathing. In the Bible, breath is a symbol for the Holy Spirit. The Hebrew word for spirit “ruah” occurs over 300 times in the Old Testament, from the very first chapter of Genesis. “Ruah” means “breath.” The beginning of Genesis tells us, God’s Spirit was “sweeping over the waters of chaos and darkness. God forms the first human from the soil and breathes life into it and the human begins to breathe. We began through the “life-giving” breath of God and each breath we take is an ongoing gift. We breathe in, we breathe out. We are alive because of God’s breath in us.

The Spirit is manifested in a variety of ways. God is not restricted to one way of doing things; wind, fire, and the gentle breath are all manifestations of the one Spirit. Whatever way the Spirit is manifested in our lives; it is gift, and these gifts are given for the good of the church. At Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit that was poured out upon the first disciples but that first Pentecost was not a one-time event, that the same Spirit is given to each of us today. The coming of the Holy Spirit continues in our own day; the Holy Spirit is always present and active in our hearts and in the life of the church.

Each one of us is part of the Church; each one of us has a different role to play always with the power of the same Spirit. That is why Paul says, there are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit, there are a variety of services, but the same Lord; there are a variety of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good for the building up of the one Body of Christ.

With a new Apostolic Letter last week entitled **ANTIQUUM MINISTERIUM** Pope Francis established the lay ministry of catechist. This new ministry has ancient origins, going back to the New Testament. With his Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis is responding to an urgent need for the evangelisation of our world. “The ministry of Catechist in the Church is an ancient one (#1).” “From the beginning, the Christian community was characterized by many different forms of ministry carried out by men and women who, obedient to the working of the Holy

Spirit, devoted their lives to the building up of the Church (#2).” “The history of evangelization over the past two millennia clearly shows the effectiveness of the mission of catechists (#3).” The Pope hopes there will be an “Awakening personal enthusiasm on the part of all the baptized and reviving the awareness of their call to carry out a proper mission in the community demands attentiveness to the voice of the Spirit, who is unfailingly present and fruitful (#5).” “In their daily life, interwoven with family and social relationships, the laity come to realize that they “are given this special vocation: to make the Church present and fruitful in those places and circumstances (#6).” We are blessed to have this ministry of catechist already actively engaged in our diocese but it needs to expand to every parish and engage everyone.

Scripture scholar, Patricia Sanchez once told this story in her commentary on the feast of Pentecost. A teacher at a Catholic University asked her students if they thought their faith was worth sharing. One student’s response struck the teacher, “If you love someone, or something, enough you want to share it. If you are in love, you cannot wait to tell others. So, if you love what it means to be a Christian, it makes all the difference in the world that you give this gift to someone you love.”

People who breathe with the breath of the Spirit are not bystanders in life. They do not live behind locked doors in fear. When an opportunity to share their faith arises, they speak up. When an injustice has been done, they act on it. When someone is grieving, they will sit with him or her in consolation. When a classmate is bullied, they stand alongside them. When new workers show up on the job, they help them get oriented. When a wrong is done them, they forgive, even before being asked. When they have important choices to make, they choose the most loving one.

No one image can capture the Holy Spirit. Today the Holy Spirit is described as a life-giving breath. As we are facing issues these days that are testing our faith, draining our energy, and leaving us short of breath, then there is a prayer we can say. As we breathe in and breathe out, we pray this ancient prayer:

Come Holy Spirit come, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RAFFLE

The Knights of Columbus is happy to announce that all tickets for May 31, 2021 raffle have been sold. Thank you to everyone.

Please call the office when covid-19 restrictions are lifted to reschedule Masses that were missed during closure.

Facebook Live with Fr Patrick O’Neill and John Ratchford **Sundays at 7 pm**

Fr. Patrick and John will host a 30-minute presentation of spirituality, talks and taking questions

from viewers. Fr. Patrick is pastor of Our Lady of Fatima, Sydney River, as well as producer of Mass for Shut-Ins and chaplain for the Canadian Armed Forces and CBRM police. John Ratchford is a renowned photographer from North Sydney who has shared his personal experiences of faith and mental illness as part of our Youth Ministry Let's Talk events in 2020 and 2021.

To view the livestream:

<https://www.facebook.com/frpatrick.oneill>

From EWTN

Given all that we face in the world today, do you believe it's possible to live a saintly life?

Meet Blessed Carlo Acutis. Born in 1991, he is the first Millennial to be named "Blessed" in the Church.

We invite you to watch *I Am With You* – an EWTN Original Documentary that will introduce you to his amazing life and help you to better understand, live, and share your own faith.

From May 1–31, we are making this available Free and On Demand. Simply [sign up](#). In addition to sending you access to the documentary, which you can view at your convenience, we will also send you the eBook bundle: *Seven Lessons in Holiness from Blessed Carlo Acutis* and *The Twelve Stations of the Most Holy Eucharist*. The Eucharist was central to Carlo's life and gave him the strength to live the life of a saint.

To watch the documentary, *I Am With You*, free On Demand and to receive these two free eBooks, visit ewtn.com/carloacutis. Hurry because this offer ends on May 31.

May God bless you.

In Christ,

Your EWTN Family

Year of 'Amoris Laetitia Family'

March 19, 2021 - June 22, 2022

March 19 was the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the joy and beauty of family love and the start of the year 'Amoris Laetitia Family', a 15-month journey leading to the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome, June 2022.

Read *Amoris Laetitia* on Our Bookshelf:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/bookshelf/>

"The gift shop at the Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine in Mabou will open on Saturday May 1st. The hours and days are as follows: We look forward to opening the gift shop at Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine on Saturday, May 1st. Hours are from 1:00 to 4:00 pm daily. On Saturday, May 22nd the hours will be 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Saturday and 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on

Sunday. The Shrine is open daily for visitation as it has been all winter. There is public health protocol in place in both the Shrine and the gift shop. If you have any inquiries, please call 902-945-2221.”

Thank-you Betty Ann

**Pray the Rosary Daily in May
For An End To The Pandemic**

Pope Francis is requesting that during this month of May, particularly dedicated to Our Lady, the entire Church invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the end of the pandemic. Thirty Marian Shrines will take turns leading this prayer throughout the Church while offering the faithful a series of prayer moments for them to participate throughout the entire day. Among the Marian shrines chosen is that of Notre-Dame-du-Cap, in Trois-Rivières (Québec). Daily prayers will be live broadcast through the official online channels of the Holy See. Further details are available on the Pontifical Council's website:
<http://www.pcpne.va/content/pcpne/en.html>

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Bless me with the KNOWLEDGE to know right from wrong,
FORTITUDE to stand up and be strong,
UNDERSTANDING to follow God's way,
PIETY to worship and pray,
COUNSEL to enlighten and guide me,
WISDOM to feel your presence beside me,
and FEAR OF THE LORD to be always awed
by the mighty wonders of God.

