

CLOSING PRAYER:

~ A Prayer to the Holy Spirit ~

**Spirit of God,
be here now
to heal and forgive,
to make me live
a radiant spoke in the wheel of life.**

**Take my hands
and guide them
in learning gestures of peace
and compassion.**

**Patiently tutor my heart
that seeks you in love's tabernacle.
Calm my fretful busyness;
soothe my weary brain.
Beckon to me
until I meet you
in the cave of my heart.
And there
teach me all things —
justice,
compassion,
love
until I walk in righteousness
and live in joy:
a witness to the presence of God
in the world.
Amen.**

CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE:

The Campus Ministry Office is located in **Our Lady Chapel**.
phone: [440] 473-3560 [office] or 216-570-9276 [cell].
e-mail: blazekj@gilmour.org

Our Lady Chapel



Our Lady Chapel is a Roman Catholic community founded in the love of the Father, centered in Christ, and rooted in the Holy Cross tenets of building family and embracing diversity. We are united in our journey of faith through prayer and sacrament, and we seek growth through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in liturgy and outreach, while responding to the needs of humanity.

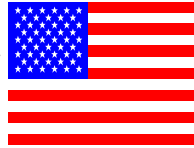
IMPORTANT SCHEDULE CHANGE COMING MAY 26: [one time only]:

Because of Graduation, we will have a change in the Mass time for the **Saturday, May 25th** and **Sunday, May 26th** Masses. Mass on **Saturday, May 25th** will be the **Baccalaureate Mass at 5:00 PM, and will take place in the Athletic Center. All are welcome. Mass on Sunday, May 26th** will be at **9:00 AM**. This is a one time change

because of graduation which takes place later that morning. Sorry for the inconvenience that this may cause you. It is the only time all year, that Mass times change.

MEMORIAL DAY:

Monday, May 27th, is the observance of **Memorial Day**. Holidays are always time for family and friends; the time off from the routine of the workday, offers us an opportunity to give attention to other important aspects of our lives. Let us take time this Memorial Day to celebrate the heritage of those who have gone before us, particularly those who have given their lives in the service of our nation. Please join us for **Mass at 9:30 AM** in our Chapel.

**PLAY BALL!**

Our Lady Chapel is going back to Classic Park to watch the Lake County Captains. Join us on **Friday, June 14th** as the Captains take on the Fort Wayne Tin Caps. Game time is **7:00 PM** and that's when our picnic dinner will be served. While our menu has not been determined yet, last year it included hamburgers, barbecued chicken, as well as side dishes, chips, cookies and beverages. The meal will be available until 8:30 PM. **Cost is \$35 per person and includes the buffet and a box seat ticket. The game will be followed by fireworks and a faith witness by members of the Captains team. The last day to sign up will be Sunday, May 26th.**

**OPEN YOURSELF TO GOD:**

To pray means to open your hands before God. It means slowly relaxing the tension that squeezes your hands together and accepting your existence with an increasing readiness, not as a possession to defend, but as a gift to receive. Above all, prayer is a way of life that allows you to find stillness in the midst of the world where you open your hands to God's promises and find hope for yourself, your neighbor, and your world. In prayer, you encounter God not only in the small voice and the soft breeze, but also in the midst of the turmoil of the world, in the distress and joy of your neighbor, and in the loneliness of your own heart.

Prayer leads you to see new paths and to hear new melodies in the air. Prayer is the breath of your life that gives you freedom to go and to stay where you wish, to find the many signs that point out the way to a new land. Praying is not simply some necessary compartment in the daily schedule of a Christian or a source of support in a time of need, nor is it restricted to Sunday mornings or mealtimes. Praying is living. It is eating and drinking, acting and resting, teaching and learning, playing and working. Praying pervades every aspect of our lives. It is the unceasing recognition that God is wherever we are, always inviting us to come closer and to celebrate the divine gift of being alive.

In the end, a life of prayer is a life with open hands—a life where we need not be ashamed of our weaknesses but realize that it is more perfect for us to be led by the Other than to try to hold everything in our own hands.

A TRUTH:

The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches but to reveal to him/her their own.

—Benjamin Disraeli

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED:

- For Chris DeVito
- For Robert McDermott, father of associate College Counselor, Patrick McDermott
- For Sister Julie Rose Keck, S.N.D.
- For Brett Chapman, grandfather of Riordan Sjovold ['25]
- For Thomas Hanson, father of Ashley ['08] and Nick ['11] Hanson, and father-in-law of Kyle Maggard ['06]
- For Beth Budaji, mother of Kate Budaji ['06].
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PRAYER REQUESTS:

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

- For an end to the war between Israel and Hamas.
- For an end to the war between Russia and Ukraine.
- For an end to violence as a means to resolve differences.
- For a greater respect for human life, from the moment of conception until natural death.
- For all caregivers.
- For all service men and women serving our country, and for their families.
- For a greater awareness of our call to create a more humane and just society.

ATTENDANCE:

If you attend Mass regularly here at Our Lady Chapel, it would be helpful if you filled out a Registration Form [name, address, phone number, children, etc.] indicating this fact, if you have not already done so. Such information not only helps us to know who is attending Our Lady Chapel; it also is of great assistance to us in record keeping [for our friend, the IRS] of any contributions which you may make.

ENVELOPES:

- When you need a **new supply** of envelopes, please feel free to take a supply of them from the table in the vestibule, or call Father John at the Campus Ministry Office [473-3560].
- When you **use** your envelope, please make sure that **your number** is on it. If you need to know your number, please call the Campus Ministry Office. Thanks.

WEEKLY OFFERING:

Baskets are located on the pillars just inside the center door when you enter the chapel. Please place your offering in the basket. Baskets will not be passed during the offertory time. Your offering will help offset chapel daily operating expenses. When you choose to use the envelopes, you can request a printout of your offerings for the year to submit to the IRS. God bless you.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

- For John Zippay, family friend of Bernadette and Stephen Ritley, who is seriously ill.
- For Jill Thompson, who is undergoing treatment for mental health issues.
- For Nora Beach, wife of former Gilmour Religion Instructor, Bob Beach, mother of Hannah ['98] and Miriam ['99] Beach, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Chuck Campanella, father of Anthony Campanella, who is recovering from surgery.
- For Mike Heryak, husband of Janet, father of Lillian ['09], Rosa ['12] and Edwin ['17] Heryak, who is seriously ill.
- For John Roddy, brother of Tim Roddy ['87], and brother of Gilmour Marketing associate, Mary Roddy Stretar, uncle of Katie Stretar ['29], and cousin of Daniel ['83], Mike ['85], and Matt ['86] Roddy, who is undergoing treatment for a recurrence of cancer.
- For Richard DeBacco, father of Michelle Chiacchiari ['96], father-in-law of Mark Chiacchiari ['94], grandfather of Aurelia ['28] and Olivia ['30] Chiacchiari, who is undergoing treatment for lymphoma
- For Debbie Langer, friend of Cindy Frimel, who was diagnosed with brain cancer.
- For Denise Mardano, who is battling liver cancer.
- For Sheila Fitzpatrick, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Joseph Michael, father of former Gilmour LS religion teacher, Colleen Michael, who is undergoing treatment for ALS.
- For Father Ken Molinaro, C.S.C., who is under the care of hospice.
- For Sister Colette Livingston, O.S.U., who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Nada Kucmanic, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Patty Szaniszlo, Chapel Office Associate, who is undergoing medical treatment.
- For Bob Lisowski, father of Father Robert Lisowski, C.S.C., who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Father Tom Lemos, C.S.C., who is seriously ill.
- For Father Dick Potthast, C.S.C., who is undergoing medical testing.
- For Father Jim McDonald, C.S.C., who is undergoing rehab following multiple surgeries for a broken ankle.
- For Jackie and Dale Rusnik, aunt and uncle of Jakub Bennish ['30], who is undergoing treatment for various medical issues.
- For Crawford Mitchell, 3 year-old grandson of Debbie Moss Batt, who is preparing for a serious heart procedure.
- For Brother James Kozak, C.S.C., who is recovering from hip surgery.
- For Josephine Fernando, who is seriously ill.
- For Bob Willey, brother-in-law of Father John, who is undergoing medical testing.
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NEXT BIBLE STUDY — WEDNESDAY, MAY 29th:

Our next Virtual Bible Study will be on Wednesday, May 29th at 6:30 PM. Bible Study continues to meet bi-weekly. The Bible Study is open to everyone — all middle and high school students, college students, young adults, and all adults. We will all come together to be enriched by God’s word. It’s a great time, and a good witness of our faith to others. If you can’t come at 6:30, come when you can. Gather your favorite snack and/or drink, but be prepared to be nourished on God’s word.



Our topic: Getting to know the little-known Disciples of Jesus

Mark your calendars and be part of this wonderful activity that will deepen your spiritual journey. **We will meet every other week — topic to be decided at the end of the previous meeting.** Join us. You’ll have a blast, and celebrate your faith along the way..

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday, May 19: Pentecost Sunday	10:00 AM In Person & Live Stream
Monday, May 20: Blessed Virgin Mary	NO MASS
Tuesday, May 21:	NO MASS
Wednesday, May 22:	NO MASS
Thursday, May 23:	NO MASS
Friday, May 24:	NO MASS
Saturday, May 25: Most Holy Trinity	5:00 PM In Athletic Center
Sunday, May 26: Most Holy Trinity	9:00 AM In Person & Live Stream

SERVING THE LORD IN THE POOR — JUNE 15th:

Our Savior Lutheran Church — across the street from the Chapel — has a Food Pantry which distributes food to the community on the **third Saturday of each month.** They welcome volunteers. **On Saturday morning at 9 AM, they need help unloading the trailers and setting up items for distribution and preparing for the food pantry to open. It serves around 150 clients each time. The food pantry serves clients from 9:30 AM—1:30 PM on Saturday.**



Our Savior Lutheran’s Food Pantry was formed to serve those in emergency situations and/or with on-going need in the cities of Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Highland Heights and Gates Mills. The Food Pantry respects social and cultural diversity and upholds the worth and dignity of those it serves. All those in the area with need will be served equally, as supplies allow. The food pantry is a member of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Please join us for a great experience.

LET THE SPIRIT FLOW:

A poor European family was coming to the US early last century. On the ship, they had as food the bread and cheese they had purchased prior to sailing. After many days of cheese sandwiches, the son came to his father: “Dad, if I have to eat cheese sandwiches all the way across the Atlantic, I won’t make it.” The sympathetic father gave him his last nickel for ice cream. Hours later the child returned. The father noticed his wide smile. He asked what he had eaten. “Several plates of ice cream, dad, and then a steak dinner.” “For a nickel?” “No, dad, the food is free — it’s part of the passage ticket.” He returned the coin to his father.

The life of the Holy Spirit comes to us with the ticket of our Baptism and Confirmation. We have listened to Christ’s command: “Receive the Holy Spirit” [John 20:19-23]. Each of us received the Holy Spirit at Baptism and Confirmation. The Spirit’s gifts are awesome. Listen to them — wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. We must learn to use them. The Holy Spirit, says Daniel Durken, came to dispel the A,B,C, and D’s of our humdrum lives — apathy, boredom, coldness, and dullness.

When St Paul dropped in on the Church in Ephesus, he judged that they were lacking a “get up and go” spirit. So he asked point-blank: “Have you received the Holy Spirit?” [Acts 19:1-7]. Why would Paul have asked that question unless he observed a “power shortage” in their company? The Ephesian community was dragging themselves along on 60 volts when all the time they could have been charged with 120 volts. When they replied that they had not received the Spirit, Paul confirmed them — after Baptizing them in the name of Christ. They became supercharged people.

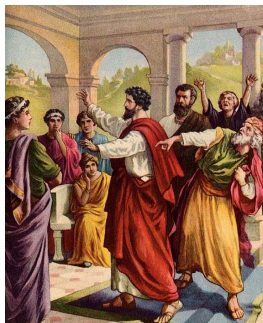
Why were the twelve — many of them illiterate — able to win a world for their Leader? And why are a billion Christians unable to repeat the same feat today? The answer is the Apostles used the Holy Spirit’s gifts to the full and we do not.

The Spirit’s gifts operate in our ordinary lives under extraordinary conditions. People blossom to levels of wisdom or fortitude they never dreamed possible. During the French Revolution, an informer notified the Mother Superior of a Carmelite convent that the following day all the sisters would be guillotined. The superior informed her sisters, saying that the convent gate would be left open for anyone who wished to flee. Only one ran away. The next morning the rest were brought to the guillotine. The sisters were about to place their heads on the block. Then they observed with pride that the nun who had run away stepped out of the crowd and joined her sisters. What had brought her back? — it was the gift of fortitude from the Holy Spirit.

The gifts of the Spirit are sewn into us like seeds — they remain in the desert of our souls waiting to be nourished and given life. The driest desert in the world is in Chile. One time the desert had not seen rain for sixteen years. Then the rains came; the result was that the desert was marked with tiny enamel-like flowers. They were there all the time just waiting for proper growth conditions. The same is true for the Spirit working in our own lives.

A young man in college was once asked by a student who knew that he was a devout Catholic at home: “Why don’t I see you at Sunday Mass?” The teen replied: “Would you want me to be the only one in my dorm to go?” The student had received the gift of fortitude from the Holy Spirit, but he was afraid to use it.

A five-year-old pre-Communion child watched her mother receive the Eucharist. She asked: “Will you share Jesus with me?” Will we, helped by the Spirit, share Jesus with our friends? Napoleon Bonaparte said: “There are two forces on this earth — the force of arms and the force of the Spirit. The force of the Spirit is stronger.” Why don’t we prove that by our lives?



THE HOLY SPIRIT’S FIRE TRANSFORMS US:

One of the most powerful symbols used to describe the Holy Spirit is fire. It is the reason why we wear red on Pentecost. By depicting the Holy Spirit as fire, the Scriptures teach us about the effects that he has on the lives of believers. Like fire, the Holy Spirit transforms us, purifies us, and sets us aflame with love of God.

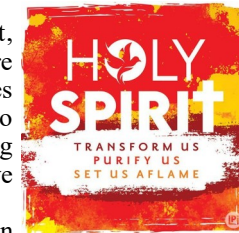
The Holy Spirit transforms us. Fire changes whatever it touches. Once something is burned, it cannot return to what it was. Just so, once we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit through baptism and confirmation, we are forever changed. We cannot undo baptism or confirmation. No matter how hard we may try to reject that gift of faith and grace, it is forever with us. Just as we write our names on the cover of a book we love, just so each of us has been marked by God as his special possession. So, we can go before God with confidence knowing that He will hear us. And if we find in our hearts something that must change, all we need to do is ask the Holy Spirit and there is no doubt we will be forever transformed by his fire.

The Holy Spirit purifies us. Just as we boil water to kill the bacteria in it, so the Holy Spirit’s presence in our souls burns away all that is not of God. The fire of God’s Spirit melts our sinful self away by giving us a love for God which makes anything that offends Him loathsome to us. This image of purifying fire also reminds us that our transformation involves some pain. We resist change and cling to our sinful habits. But as we surrender to the Holy Spirit’s purifying power, we discover the peace, joy, and love that emerge once our sin is burned away.

Finally, **the Holy Spirit sets us aflame with love for God.** When we have an intense love for someone, we sometimes say we are “on fire” for that person. Or if we want something badly enough, we will say we have a “burning desire” for it. Just so, the Holy Spirit gives us a love of God that is intense and all consuming. It is the love which empowered Jesus to hand his life over for our salvation. It is the love that compelled the apostles to witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is the love which today inspires people to leave their comfortable lives to serve the needy. If we are feeling dead inside, we need to give our hearts over to the presence and action of the Holy Spirit. We will find that our hearts are so engulfed with God and His love that there will not be enough hours in the day to proclaim His wonders and sing His praises.

God’s saving work is not finished with the cross and resurrection. Rather He invites us to enter into the mystery of Jesus’ death and resurrection by making our lives an offering to Him. He desires that each of us also share in the joy of bringing His saving word to others. The gift of the Holy Spirit which has forever marked us as God’s sons and daughters empowers us to do just that. He is continually at work within us to transform us, purify us and set us on fire with love. It is ours for the asking. But watch out — there is no telling what wonders the Lord will work in our lives.

—taken from the writings of Douglas Sousa, which appear on the internet



LIFE TEEN and EDGE:

Our Life Teen and EDGE youth group is meeting in-person again. We will meet for an hour beginning at 11:30 AM following our 10 AM Sunday Mass in the Chapel. If

you are unable to join us, there are many resources available for you on the Life Teen website — **lifeteen.com**. There are numerous blogs and videos for you to connect with. The Life Teen national office continues to release many new programs. Please contact Father John for more information. And please join us each Sunday for our Mass at 10 AM — in person or live-streamed, and then come to our Life Teen/EDGE gathering after Mass. And above all, let us continue to join each other in prayer. Father John is available for you. Please contact him.



THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT CONTINUES:

At the Last Supper, in his farewell address to his disciples, Jesus promises that he will send them the Advocate — the Spirit of Truth — who will testify to himself and will guide them to all truth [John 15:26-27]. On this Feast of Pentecost, we remember that Christ has kept his promise. He has not abandoned us, leaving us to make the journey of life on our own. He has sent us the Holy spirit — the Advocate — who guides us to an ever deeper understanding of Jesus and his message. During his earthly life, Jesus carried out his mission under the limitations of time and space. He reached only a tiny percentage of the total population, and did not succeed in fully forming his intimate circle of disciples. By sending the Advocate, Jesus extends his mission to the whole world, and empowers his disciples to grow in the understanding and practice of their faith.

We see the Advocate at work in the great missionaries who spread the Gospel around the world. For example, the Italian Jesuit, Matteo Ricci [1552-1610], who became fluent in Chinese, gained admittance into China, earned the respect of the Chinese scholars while adopting their dress and manners, won the favorable attention of the Emperor, demonstrated that Confucian thought was compatible with Christianity and could serve as a prelude for the Gospel, produced a Chinese Catechism, developed an indigenous Chinese Liturgy, and founded a thriving Christian community.

We can also think of more ordinary examples of Christians who have cooperated with the Advocate in becoming committed, effective disciples of Christ. Thousands of dedicated Catholics now serve as lay ecclesial ministers — for example, pastoral administrators and religious education directors — in parishes all over the world. Countless others, empowered by the Advocate, carry on the mission of Christ by following his example in their everyday lives. Prompted by the Spirit, a geology professor decided to read a book by a contemporary scripture scholar on the book of Genesis which assured him that there was no essential conflict between his religious beliefs and evolutionary science. After praying to the Holy Spirit for guidance, a mother found just the right approach to get her teenage son to see a counselor about his drug problem.

Can you recall times when the Advocate promised by Christ has guided or strengthen you?

—taken from the writings of Father Jim Bacik which appear on the internet

NOVENA TO BLESSED BASILE MOREAU:

Blessed Basile Moreau was the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, to which Fr. John and the Brothers at Gilmour belong. We have two booklets with Novenas to Blessed Basile Moreau. One is used for a personal intention or healing; the other is used when praying for the intention or healing of someone other than yourself. The Novenas were composed by Father Thomas Looney, C.S.C. Many have received blessings and healings through the intercession of Blessed Basile Moreau, and now we want to extend this invitation to you and your family. Please see Father John and he will be glad to give you the booklets.



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

We are currently discerning a new group of Eucharistic Ministers who would undergo training within the next month. If you feel that the Lord is calling you to this ministry, we would be delighted to include you in that ministry here at Our Lady Chapel. Both adults and teens [must be a Senior in High School] are welcome to participate in this very special ministry. We are in need of ministers for both our Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. **Contact Father John or the chapel office [440-473-3560] if you feel called to this ministry.** We are always in need of Eucharistic Ministers.



NO COINCIDENCE IN THE SPIRIT:

I am not sure that many people here would recognize the name Edwin Booth. But if you were living in the United States during the Civil War, that name would be recognized in almost every household. Edwin Booth was recognized as one of the greatest actors that had ever lived. He was the Russell Crowe of the American stage. He did not, however, have an easy life. His father drank himself to death. His first wife died after two years of marriage. His second wife went insane. But perhaps the greatest cross that Edwin Booth had to bear was one of shame. Edwin Booth's younger brother, John Wilkes Booth, was the man who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln. So, despite all the fame and success that Edwin Booth had in his life, he always had to deal with the embarrassment that a member of his family killed one of the greatest figures of American history.

Then, one day later in his life, while Edwin Booth was waiting for a train in Jersey City, there was a disturbance on the platform. Booth saw that a tall, young man was being shoved by the crowd onto the train tracks just as a train was approaching. Booth dropped his suitcase and ran immediately and pulled the man out of the way of the approaching train — certainly saving his life. The young man recognized who Booth was at once and said simply: "Well that was a narrow escape, Mr. Booth." As the two men began to talk with one another, Booth found to his amazement that the young man whose life he had just saved was Robert Todd Lincoln — the eldest son of Abraham Lincoln.

Now how would we explain such a remarkable connection of events, that the brother of the man who assassinated Abraham Lincoln was the man who saved the life of Lincoln's eldest son? Is that a coincidence? Those who do not have faith in God have no other explanation. Despite the odds being a million to one, people without faith would have to explain an event such as Edwin Booth saving the life of Robert Lincoln as a remarkable convergence of random events. Those, however, who believe in God, who believe in Christ Jesus, have a different explanation. For we believe that there is a force — a power — that is active in our world. That force is the Holy Spirit.



You see, believing in Christ is more than accepting a list of propositions that are outlined in the Creed. It is more than believing that a certain number of events once happened to Jesus thousands of years ago. Saying that we believe in Christ means that we believe that the power of God's Spirit is active and moving in our world and in our lives. We believe that the Holy Spirit moves us towards reconciliation, towards life, towards salvation.

Jesus in John's Gospel breathes on the disciples, and says: "Receive the Holy Spirit" [John 20:19-23]. That is His way of saying that He will remain with us, that God's power will remain active in our lives and in our world. The action of God's Spirit often appears as a coincidence. Yet for believers there is no such thing as coincidence. For us what appears as coincidence is the action of God in our lives.

Think about it. Was it coincidence that Saturday night when you finally gave in to the demands of your friends and went out to a party even though you rather would have stayed at home and met that night the person you were going to marry? Was it coincidence that you were in an automobile accident and you walked away and then realized you would have to take steps to deal with your drinking problem? Was it coincidence that you met someone you had hurt in the produce aisle at Heinen's and found the courage of saying: "I'm sorry," and took a step towards healing and reconciliation? Any one of us can recall events in our life that look like coincidence. How we interpret them is up to us. All I can say is that on the deepest level, Christians don't believe in coincidence because we know that the spirit of God is active, shaping and directing our lives.

But if we accept that truth of God's active presence in our life through the Spirit, it changes us. It makes us see life differently. It makes us into different people. For people who recognize the action of God's Spirit in their life are more humble, more optimistic, and more generous.

A person who knows that God is active in the world tends to be a humble person because he or she recognizes that they are not the center of the universe — there is another power in the world working for good, for building the kingdom. Although our decisions are important, we recognize that our decisions are not absolute, that God is working around us and through us. Therefore, we watch humbly for signs of God's presence.

The person who sees the action of the Spirit in their life is an optimistic person. If God is active, there is always reason for hope. There is always reason to believe that things will turn out better than we had planned. There is always a reason to believe that as we get up each morning — something good will happen today. If God is active we can be optimistic.

A person who believes in the action of God's Spirit tends to be a generous person. Because once we see that God is active, we want to cooperate, we want to take part. Therefore, we tend to give of our time, of our resources, of our talents more freely without holding back, without counting the cost because we believe that whatever is freely given will be used by God for God's good purposes.

Those who recognize the action of the Spirit in the world tend to be a humble, optimistic, generous people. Conversely, those who look at the world and feel that whatever happens is totally up to them, have a tendency to be proud, pessimistic and stingy. What kind of person do you want to be? It depends on what you believe. Therefore, choose what you believe carefully.

The great feast of Pentecost that we celebrate proclaims to us that God is real and God is active in our world. Let us embrace this great truth. Let us believe in the presence of God working and directing our lives. Let that faith make us into humble, optimistic, generous people. It all depends on what you believe. Christians do not believe in coincidence — we believe in the Spirit of God.

—taken from the writings of Father George Smiga, which appear on the internet.

TOGETHER WE PRAY TO GOD:

Prayer is the language of the Christian community. In prayer the nature of the community becomes visible because in prayer we direct ourselves to the One who forms the community. We do not pray to each other, but together we pray to God, who calls us and makes us into a new people. Praying is not one of the many things the community does. Rather, it is its very being. Many discussions about prayer do not take this very seriously. Sometimes it seems as if the Christian community is "so busy" with its projects and plans that there is neither the time nor the mood to pray. But when prayer is no longer its primary concern, and when its many activities are no longer seen and experienced as part of prayer itself, the community quickly degenerates into a club with a common cause but no common vocation.

By prayer, community is created as well as expressed. Prayer is first of all the realization of the community itself. Most clear and most noticeable are the words, the gestures, and the silence through which the community is formed. When we listen to the word, we not only receive insight into God's saving work, but we also experience a new mutual bond. When we stand around the altar, eat bread and drink wine, kneel in meditation, or walk in procession, we not only remember God's work in human history, but we also become aware of God's creative presence here and now. When we sit together in silent prayer, we create a space where we sense that the One we are waiting for is already touching us, as he touched Elijah in front of the cave [see 1 Kings 19:13]. Prayer is ultimately what community is all about.

—taken from the writings of Henri Nouwen, which appear on the internet



IT ISN'T A MATTER OF JEALOUSY:

On this great feast of Pentecost, when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, St. Paul — in his letter to the Church at Corinth — concentrates on various manifestations of the Spirit in the gifts, ministries, and works of the Christian community [1 Corinthians 12:3-13]. It seems there were some disputes among the Corinthian Christians about the character, prominence and function of some of the gifts. Attempting to heal these divisions in the church he founded, Paul writes: "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit." He goes on: "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit," suggesting that all the various gifts, ministries and works are not for personal gain but are for the good of the whole community. The Apostle then indicates that the Church, which is the body of Christ, should function harmoniously — like the human body, which has many parts all working together as one body. He concludes: "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit."

As Christians initiated into the life of the Church, we all have received gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are not earned or merited, nor should they be a source of pride or personal reward. On the contrary, we should be grateful for them, develop them as best we can, and use them to serve the good of the community. With respect for the unique gifts and roles of others, we should look for ways to cooperate in the great work of building up the Body of Christ and spreading the reign of God in the world.

Eyes of faith can detect the Holy Spirit at work among members of vibrant parishes today. Religious educators who use their knowledge of theology to help parishioners, young and old, to gain a deeper understanding of their faith; deacons who lead the effort to serve the needs of the poor in their parishes and the surrounding neighborhood; members of parish councils who provide good leadership because they care about the parish and spend time understanding the desires and needs of the various segments of the congregation; music ministers who engage the assembly in lively, theologically sound and liturgically appropriate singing at Mass; parishioners who provide free meals after funeral Masses for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones; liturgical ministers who pray regularly to meet their responsibilities to greet the people, proclaim the scriptures and distribute communion at Mass; co-chairs of the prolife and the social justice committees who meet periodically to make sure they are contributing to the good of the parish; members of the finance committee who use their expertise to help the parish remain solvent and use resources wisely in carrying out the parish mission; the secretaries who use their interpersonal skills to create a welcoming atmosphere for visitors as well as regular parishioners; pastoral administrators who use their practical know-how to keep the parish running smoothly; parishioners who contribute financially to support the parish; pastors who identify the talents of their parishioners, help develop them and coordinate them for the good of the parish.

How can you better use your gifts to enhance the life of your parish?

—taken from the writings of Father James Bacik which appear on the internet

PRAYER:

Prayer that leads to the beauty of the image within is difficult for it requires honesty and humility. It requires freedom from expectations, projections, false hopes and self-centeredness. It means to be able to say, I am who I am with my strengths and weaknesses, gifts and failings.

—Ilia Delio, OSF



One of the things that happened at Pentecost was that the Apostles went out into the street and preached the truths of the Gospel in the various languages of those gathered there. There are two aspects to this miraculous event that deserve some comment.

Firstly **it enabled their listeners to hear the Gospel in their own language.** We should never underestimate the importance of this — the Gospel is far more likely to be believed if it is first heard in our own language, for these are truths which speak to the very deepest level of our being, and so must be communicated in words which we know and understand.

It is a case of removing every barrier which could prevent understanding. This highlights the role of each and every person in the work of evangelization. The Gospel is more likely to be accepted if the one who communicates it to us speaks the same language, comes from the same background, and shares the same customs and outlook.

The second aspect is **the clear Biblical allusion to the Tower of Babel.** When we compare the two accounts, we see that Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit had the opposite effect to when people tried to build the Tower of Babel — here the lack of understanding of each other's language caused the break up and fragmentation of the human race. The gift of the Spirit is the gift of mutual understanding — and hence of unity and of peace in the human family. Sin separates; grace unites.

We all know that the work of the Spirit did not begin and end on the Day of Pentecost — it continues in the Church in all kinds of different ways right down to today.

We should be pleased to acknowledge that the Spirit is alive and well in our community here at Our Lady Chapel. We know this because we see his hand at work in our community. We see how flourishing our chapel community is; we see many people striving for holiness; we see many children being brought up properly in wholesome, faith-filled families. We recognize the work of healing and reconciliation that goes on here; we acknowledge the work of catechesis and religious instruction; we see the wonderful spirit and outreach of our LifeTeen and Edge groups. And this list goes on and on.

The Spirit is alive and well, and as a result, so is this community of faith — it too is alive and well and flourishing. It is a community focused on its two-fold task of worship and evangelization. These two areas of worship and evangelization each have aspects which are centered on the person, the family, and the world.

As regards the individual person, each of us needs to make our own hearts places where we worship and honor God — making it a place where the life of prayer goes on each moment of the day. We also must accept responsibility for the evangelization of ourselves — this is an area which often needs work, through attentively listening to the word of God, and feeding our minds with knowledge and critical reflection on the truths of our faith.

The family too is a place where worship and evangelization goes on. We make our homes places of prayer with religious pictures and icons and of family prayer — especially at mealtimes. The home too is a place of teaching the faith — especially when there are children in the family.

And then in the external forum we worship together as a parish community, offering our united prayer and praise of the living God here in this Church, making it a place where we offer the Sacrifice of the Mass in a truly worthy and fitting manner.

A lot of the work of evangelization goes on in this Church through our sacramental programs. But this is a task that also needs to go on in the workplace, and in the social sphere, where the individual parishioners are the most competent to exercise their ministry of making Christ known to the world.

There is much to celebrate in this Feast of Pentecost — much to celebrate, but also much to do, and much to think about.

—taken from the writings of Father Alex McAllister, S.D.S., which appear on the internet.



PASSING ON THE SPIRIT:

Years ago, I walked out of our family home to begin life on my own. Minutes before I left, my dad blessed Me. It was short and simple. I doubt it took 30 seconds. He made me kneel on the stark and faded tiled floor of our simple living room, and, placing his hands on my head, blessed me. My father was a fairly articulate man, and might has said a lot. He chose not to. The gesture of blessing needs few words. Of itself, it says what is important, and imparts something beyond words — a person's spirit. I was 17 at the time — an anomalous mixture of cockiness and piety — and the blessing meant little to me then.

Five years later, my dad died. I had seen him in those interim years — on vacations, and during some of his own brief visits to the seminary — and we had talked, perhaps more deeply than ever before since he now considered me an adult, and related to me in a new way. But, unlike the time previous to me leaving home, he no longer tried to instruct and admonish me, or run an audit on my values and prayer life. What he had wanted to say to me had already been said — many times. I knew how he felt, what he thought, and what his values were. There was no need to say it again. He had given me his blessing.

What had he given me? What is a blessing? What is implied in it? What is its power? Why is it important? Part of our current cultural and spiritual poverty stems from the fact that blessing each other is both a lost ritual and a lost reality. For most of us, a blessing is little more than a pious goodbye — a quasi-superstitious gesture. We are poorer for that misconception.

A blessing is a way of remaining permanently present to someone. It is a way of giving someone our love, our insight, our strength, our presence — in a word, our spirit, in our physical absence. It is always based upon a prior relationship. We can only authentically bless someone we have shared something with, and, the deeper and more profound the prior sharing, the deeper and more profound the blessing.

This is best illustrated by an example. Imagine a mother and a father raising a child. For years they try to love that child into ever fuller life, coaxing, encouraging, admonishing, trying to give their own strength, values, vision, and spirit to that child. The process is fraught with pain and setbacks on both sides. There is a constant hopping back and forth between presence and absence, acceptance and rejection, learning and falling away, loving and hating. It is a long process. Everything needs to be said again and again — repeated — and there is the paramount need for physical presence — for parents and the child to be together, talking, arguing, sharing, hammering-things-out.

However, at a point — always — the need for more words, more admonition, more physical presence stops. Symbolically, it is time for the ascension. Enough has been said. There has been enough physical presence. Symbolically put, the child is grown. This is true of all relationships — not just of those that exist between parents and a child. What is called for now is a blessing — and a concomitant backing away which leaves the child both free and empowered. Further words and physical presence can now be suffocating and counter-productive. Values and love have been spoken, gestured, and shown sufficiently. We need to give the other our blessing through whatever gesture or symbol we might choose. Then we need to back away, and continue to live our values, and love that “other”, and let that “other” be free.

That is the mystery of the Ascension and Pentecost — of letting go and imparting the spirit. Jesus



left us with his blessing. His spirit — the Holy Spirit — is received by all who receive that blessing. Through that spirit, Jesus is present to us in a way that is far deeper than he was ever present to his disciples when he was physically with them.

Today we badly need to bless each other. The disease of our age is that nothing seems to last — love, friendship, what we accomplish — all these inevitably break down. Given physical separation, what we have shared with each other in friendship and in other ways invariably crumples and falls apart. The vision, the values, the shared spirit — in a word, the love — we have so painstakingly arrived at, crumples, and we go our separate ways. Why? We haven't blessed each other. There has been no Ascension, and, accordingly, there can be no Pentecost.

We have shared each other's physical presence, but we have never received each other's spirits — for, if we had, no amount of time or distance — not even death itself — could crumple the shared vision — the shared values — the shared love.

—taken from the writings of Father Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I., which appear on the internet

THE SPIRIT AS THE HEART OF THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH:

St. Paul's letter to the Church at Corinth emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the early Christian community. Paul presupposes that one is familiar with the events of Pentecost [Acts 2:1-11] which describes the Holy Spirit descending on the apostles in the form of "tongues as of fire". Paul also bases his teaching on the fact that Jesus himself breathed the Holy Spirit on the disciples on Easter Sunday evening [John 20: 19-23]

The apostle Paul begins by describing the fundamental function of the Holy Spirit — "No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit" [1 Corinthians 12:3-13]. Our English word "Lord" translates the Greek word "kyrios" which was used for God in the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures and was commonly used as the official title of the Roman Emperor. In other words, the Holy Spirit enables us to recognize Jesus as sharing the divine nature and reminds us that he is our true king above any earthly ruler.

Paul goes on to describe the role of the Holy Spirit as the source of the unity in diversity which characterizes the Christian community at its best. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts — such as speaking in tongues and prophesying — but also gifts for those performing tasks such as serving at table and attending to finances. All the gifts of the Spirit are given not for personal benefit but for the common good.

To explain his notion of unity in diversity found in the ideal Christian community, Paul uses the image of the human body, which is "one though it has many parts and all the parts though many are one body." This metaphor suggests that the Christian community should celebrate individual contributions which promote the common good and should foster constructive cooperation which avoids a dull uniformity and destructive competition.

Paul concludes by reminding us that "in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons — and we were all given to drink of one Spirit."

We can hear Paul's letter as an invitation to be more attentive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, who gives all the baptized special gifts to build up the Body of Christ. An authoritarian pastor could become far more effective functioning as a servant leader charged with identifying, encouraging, and coordinating the gifts and talents of his parishioners. A parish social justice committee could gain new energy by adding some social activists to their more moderate membership. An all-male parish finance council could be more productive by adding women to the group. A parish could improve its liturgies by consulting with a liturgical expert.

How can you use your gifts to enrich parish life?

—taken from the writings of Father James Bacik which appear on the internet

loving than they could imagine. An older couple meticulously plan for their retirement. There will be travel, and golf, and a home near the beach. But sickness changes everything before it has even begun. Money for travel goes to the doctors. The care giver spouse does not regret one second of the direction he or she has been called to. Golf and travel are not important — love is important. And in the fortieth, fiftieth, or even sixtieth year of marriage, they give witness to the overwhelming Presence of the Lord in their marriage.

God calls us out of our Upper Rooms. But He does far more — infinitely more — than that. He doesn't just call us to proclaim the Good News. He gives us the ability to proclaim the Gospel. He gives us His Spirit — the Spirit that forms us into Church, the Spirit that is itself the Third Person of the Trinity being poured into us. That Spirit allows us to speak with our lives the language of the Love of God. That Spirit allows others to hear God in every one of us.

The strength that the young couple has to care for their special child is an empowerment of the Spirit. The strength that the elderly husband or wife has to care for their sick spouse in an empowerment of the Spirit. The strength that we have to step away from relationships that are stifling our growth is an empowerment of the Spirit. The strength of the Holy Spirit is given to us so that our lives might be proclamations of the Gospel.

This weekend, we celebrate the Spirit that empowers us to leave our comfort zone — to leave our places of safety, to leave our security — and to leap into the challenge of the Gospel. And we pray that we might have the courage of our convictions — we pray that we will be people of Pentecost.

—taken from the writings for Monsignor Joseph Pellegrino, which appear on the internet.

PENTECOST AND EACH OF US:

When most people think of the Feast of Pentecost, they think about the day of great outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and how this impelled them out into the street to proclaim the Gospel to people of every nation. But in a very real sense, the events of the first Pentecost continue in the Church right down to today. The Church cannot be some group of cowering, inward looking people which takes refuge from the world. Rather, like those Apostles, the Church is a body of men and women filled with the Spirit who launch themselves out into the world courageously proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel.

Do you remember the time when you received the Sacrament of Confirmation? [If you missed receiving this Sacrament, this might be a good time to consider it. Talk with Father John]. In the Sacrament, the Bishop called down the Holy Spirit upon you and anointed you with the Oil of Chrism. By this sacrament you became a full member of the Church having all the rights of a Christian of full stature, but also accepting the responsibility of being a true witness to Christ in the world of today. Being a Christian is not passive — we are all called to realize that to be true to one's faith means to actively share it with others. And in fact, to share one's faith is in fact to strengthen it.

Often people talk to priests about their doubts. Many people are not sure what they believe any more; and they feel guilty because there is a gap in their lives where faith once was. Others have difficulty with one or other doctrine of the Church. One way to help when people feel this way about their faith is to talk about their faith with other believers. Often it is in talking about our faith that we are able to clarify what it is we believe and invariably find our faith strengthened as a result. This is something that many Catholics are not particularly good at, but it should be something that is part and parcel of our lives.



CALLED FROM SAFETY INTO LOVE:

The doors were locked. The bar was firmly in place. The Temple police who had hunted Jesus down Thursday evening would not so easily get into the Upper Room on Sunday. The disciples really didn't know what they should do now that Jesus was dead. What they did know was that for the time being they were in a safe place. They were there on Easter Sunday. Perhaps they were there for those fifty days after that fateful Passover. The Book of Acts of the Apostles [Acts 2:1-11] has them there for those fifty days — thus the name Pentecost. The Gospel of John doesn't mention how long they were there [John 20:9-13]. But it also points out that the disciples were in a safe place.

Safe, that is, until the Lord called them out of their safety. In John's Gospel, Jesus breathed on them — He gave them life just as His Father had breathed on Adam and gave him life. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you," Jesus said — and in those words they were called out of comfort, out of safety, and into the dangerous life of proclaiming Jesus Christ.

According to Luke, the apostles received the Holy Spirit in the symbols of fire and wind, and immediately left the safety of the Upper Room to proclaim the Good News. The apostles were doing exactly what Jesus did before He was put to death — they were risking their lives, losing their lives, for the Kingdom of God. They gave up their safe place, for the safety of the Kingdom.

It is easy to stay in a safe place. It is easy to cling to our comfort level. But Christ continually calls us out of the Upper Rooms of our lives. He continually calls us to embrace the challenges of the Gospel.

We all have our group — our safe place. Perhaps our safe place is populated by the popular crowd in school, at work, or in the neighborhood. Perhaps the goal of so many of their lives is nothing more than to live for themselves. They embrace and glorify the pagan values of a material world. And we are comfortable being with them. Why should we be the one who is different? Why should we be the one who is going to challenge values? And then Jesus calls us out of the Upper Room. He calls us to be different — to be holy. He calls us to be the one who embraces virtue. He calls us into the insecurity of proclamation.

Or perhaps our safe place is a relationship with a person that we have grown accustomed to. We can't say that we really love him or her, but if we are honest with ourselves, we have to admit that we would rather have a relationship going nowhere than no relationship at all. As a result, we are not growing — we are merely existing. And then Christ calls us out of this Upper Room to seek His Presence in others, and to bring His Presence to others. It is scary. It is frightening venturing out alone in the world. But we cannot be true to ourselves and hide in a flawed relationship. So we take a leap of faith into the arms of the Lord. His call, His message, His Gospel is infinitely more important than our comfort.

Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta said: "If you want to give God a good laugh, tell Him your plans." That is because He has plans for each of us beyond our imaginations, our plans, or our ways that we can bring His love to others.

A young couple learns that the baby coming will be a special needs child. They give the child the



WE ARE TEMPLES OF GOD:

Saint Paul gives us a basis for loving all others as Christ has loved us. Paul offers a theological and solid foundation for human dignity and human flourishing that is inherent, universal, and indestructible by any evaluation — whether it be race, religion, gender, nationality, class, education, or social position. We now believe the reason this one man enjoyed such immense success in such a short time is that he gave human dignity back to a world that had largely lost it. One more god in Greece and Asia Minor would have meant little, but when Paul told shamed populations they were temples of the divine, this made hearts burn with desire and hope [see 1 Corinthians 3:16].

The account of Pentecost in Acts 2:1–11 emphasizes that people from all over the world heard the Galileans speaking in the pilgrims' individual languages after the descent of heavenly fire and wind. The theological message is clear: God loves everyone! God's love and favor are both totally democratic and unmerited. This was meant to be the end of all exclusive and elitist religion. Sadly, it did not last long.

One of the reasons Paul's teachings had so much influence in Asia Minor was that he restored human dignity at a time when the region was a key source of enslaved people — women were considered the property of men, temple prostitution was a form of worship, and oppression and injustice toward poor and marginalized people were universal norms. Most of the world was not yet aware that human rights even existed. Paul shouts into this corrupt and corrupting empire: "One and the same Spirit was given to us all to drink!" [1 Corinthians 12:13]. He utterly levels the playing field: "You, all of you, are sons and daughters of God in Christ Jesus, where there is no distinction between male or female, Greek or Jew, slave or free, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus" [Galatians 3:26–28].

This is quite amazing, considering the divided world at the time! In Paul's estimation, the old world was forever gone, and a new world was born. This was surely impossible and frightening to some people, but utterly attractive and hopeful to the majority who had been given no dignity whatsoever. Who does not want to be told they are worthy and good? Who does not want their social shame taken away? No longer was the human body a cheap thing, degraded by slavery, or sexual, verbal, and physical abuse. Paul is saying: "You are the very temple of God." Scholars now believe this is Paul's supreme and organizing idea. Such an unexpected affirmation of human dignity began to turn the whole Roman Empire around.

—taken from the writings of Father Richard Rohr, O.F.M., which appears on the internet



READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

We list the Scripture readings for the week, with the hope that you will take some time in your busy day to reflect on God's word in your homes. We hope you can make good use of it.

Monday: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14, John 19:25-34

Tuesday: James 4:1-10, Mark 9:30-37

Wednesday: James 4:13-17, Mark 9:38-40

Thursday: James 5:1-6, Mark 9:41-50

Friday: James 5:9-12, Mark 10:1-12

Saturday: James 5:13-20, Mark 10:13-16

Most Holy Trinity: Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40, Romans 8:14-17, Matthew 28:16-20

HOW TO STAY BALANCED DURING FINALS:

Do you ever have days so jam-packed that you feel like you hardly have time to stop and breath? The alarm clock goes off; you shoot out of bed, inhale a pop-tart, peel out of the neighborhood, and make record time to school — just to lunge into your seat as the bell is ringing. And the day is only just beginning. When life gets crazy, it can be difficult to prioritize. During finals, this is especially true. After a while of this, it's easy to get exhausted, and start to believe you don't have what it takes to succeed. And then being healthy and feeling whole on top of all that is pretty challenging in the midst of a crazy schedule.

How are you going to manage everything? How do you remain healthy, whole, and holy during this crazy time?

Don't stop praying. Maintaining a good rhythm of prayer is key. Daily mass, rosary, liturgy of the hours — however you pray, keep at it! We can't sacrifice our dialogue and communication with our Heavenly Father. It's our very breath as Christians.

Breathing doesn't become less important as our physical tasks get more difficult — it becomes more important. It's the same with prayer. It will most likely seem impossible to find time for a lot of prayer during finals week. But know that you can make it work.

It doesn't have to be a rosary before each class — that might literally be impossible. But you're never too busy to stop and ask for God's blessing and worship Him for His goodness. He loves you no matter what grade you get. It can be simple. St. Therese said: "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; a simple glance turned towards Heaven."

Rest and be Real. Getting to bed on time, being responsible during the day, studying hard, and being honest will do wonders for you. If you fail on the first three, being honest will be much harder to do. Cheating is very popular these days, and we've all been tempted to do it. In the past, I've rationalized cheating in school. I failed to prepare properly, and was "forced" to cheat. It's easy to brush it off and convince ourselves there's nothing wrong with it.

Ultimately, cheating is dishonest. It's claiming to know the answers you actually don't, and you could get in a lot of trouble. And you don't feel good or accomplished after cheating — two signs that you shouldn't be doing it.

You don't have to be perfect. Staying whole, holy, and healthy in the midst of your final exams won't be easy. It will seem overwhelming. Sometimes wholeness challenges me because it seems to require so much. It's like spiritual multi-tasking. The truth is, wholeness is much simpler than that. Wholeness isn't about doing everything perfectly — it's about doing everything you do for the Perfect one. To be whole is to have God at the center of your life.

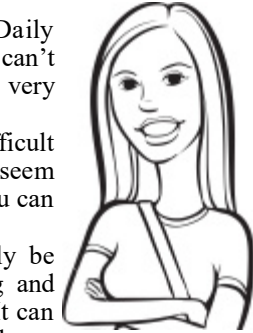
Our work will be more fruitful if we put Christ first. Our hearts will be more whole if we put Christ first. Remember Matthew 6:33 — seek God and seek the good that will build His kingdom. The rest will fall into place. Remember you are the beloved. Be loved.

—written by Dom Quaglia, an associate of the Bible Geek.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Father John is available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with you.

Please call him [440-473-3560] to arrange for this experience. All social distancing will remain in place. Always remember the Lord's invitation: "I will give them a heart with which to understand that I am the Lord. They shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart" [Jeremiah 24:7].



THE POWER OF PENTECOST

In the Holy Spirit, God dwells not just among us but within us. Known as the Wonderful Counselor, Advocate, and Paraclete, it is the Holy Spirit who is "called to one's side" [CCC, #692]. The Holy Spirit fulfills the Lord's promise to "never forsake you or abandon you" [see Hebrews 13:5]. The Spirit of Truth is with us forever. He is the one of whom Jesus said: "it is better for you that I go," [see John 16:7] because he will come, the one from whom we receive consolation, guidance, and who teaches us everything.

An advocate supports those who feel they are not being heard. In his letter to the Church at Rome, St. Paul teaches one of the incredible truths of how the Spirit works as a support in assuring that God hears our prayers — "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words" [Romans 8:26]. Even when we are at a loss on how to pray, the Holy Spirit perfects those fears, doubts, and desires nestled so deep in our soul we have no words and brings them to the Father for us. How many groanings has your heart murmured that the Spirit perfected and brought before the Lord?

An advocate ensures a person has the tools to make an informed decision. In our Confirmations, we receive an outpouring of gifts to guide our Christian life. The gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord each provide the guidance we need to be responsive to the will of God in our lives. The grace from living in the Spirit opens our hearts to choose good, desire what the Father desires for us, even if not done perfectly, the devoted Advocate adequately equips us.

Jesus lays clear the Advocates work in our world — "And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me; righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; condemnation, because the ruler of this world has been condemned" [see John 16:8]. How often has the Holy Spirit convicted our behavior, thoughts, or even our lack of action? How we respond indicates how willing we are to allow this Wonderful Counselor into our hearts.

Do you wonder how to measure the magnitude to which you've allowed the Holy Spirit into your life? St. Paul tells us the fruit of living in the Spirit is seen in the extent our lives are filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control [Galatians 5:22-23]. This incredible life Jesus promises with the Advocate, is just a simple prayer away — "Come, Holy Spirit."

On Pentecost, we celebrate the birthday of the Church — that glorious moment the Holy Spirit "appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them [see Acts 2:3]. They heard and understood, more importantly, empowered by the Spirit, they proclaimed! With the Advocate at our side, let us go forth this Pentecost Sunday as ambassadors for Christ.

PAINTING THE POOR:

You might've seen it hanging in some grandma's living room. This little painting, *The Angelus*, shows a couple stopping to pray during their farm chores in the evening. It's got the stuff grandmas tend to love — farming, warmth, soft colors, and praying. When it was first displayed in Paris in 1857, though, this painting really upset people. Like many paintings by Jean-Francois Millet, this one angered wealthy art types who objected to the way it glorified poor peasants. Art was for depicting dignified things, like lords and ladies and historical events and Greek myths and things like that. It was not for poor people.

— Nathan Beacom

