

SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



Icon of Pentecost

04 JUNE 2017

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

PENTECOST 6/4/17

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) * Evelyn L. Kearney (req. by David G. Kearney)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) * Helen V. Senyo (req. by Paula & Larry Reinhart)

11:00 AM (E) * Arthur and * Suzanna Bihler (req. by daughter Maryann & granddaughter)

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS 6/11/17

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) * Msgr. William Biebel (req. by Jim Yurcan)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) * Francis Reinhart (req. by Paula & Larry Reinhart)

11:00 AM (E) For the Parish Family

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR PARISH

Please remember in your prayers all of the sick and homebound of our parish. *Those in their own homes are as follows:* Anna Lupichuk, Shirley Crisswell, Maureen Huzinec, Yvonne Gulick, Marion Pennock, Fred Koeberle, Betty Antolik, Ann Krajnik, & Karen Muryn Brown. *Those in nursing homes are as follows:* Elizabeth Kowal (LECOM Senior Living Center), Michael Bokoch (VA Hospital), Ed Bosak (Independence Court), Helen Bauman (Sarah Reed Senior Living Center) and Margaret Krivonak (St.Mary's West). If you know of anyone who should be on this list, please contact Fr. John

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL CELEBRATION

Celebrate 55 years of Catholic education at a final school event at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, 1531 East Grandview Blvd., Erie, on Thursday, June 8 from 6-10 PM. Food will be available at reasonable prices. Bring chairs and blankets. Enjoy a DJ, a bounce house, a 50/50 raffle and fireworks.

YOUTH CONFERENCE

Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH is hosting "Elevate!" – a summer high school youth conference July 14-16 on Steubenville's main campus. Spots are still available to teens who will be in high school this fall. Travel to the event is being coordinated by Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie. Registration deadline is July 1. To register contact Kathleen Peterson at 833-7701 or kathleen.peterson@olp.org.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things,
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell within us, cleanse of all stain,
and save our souls, O gracious One.*

FEAST OF PENTECOST

During Pentecost we commemorate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church and recall the importance of Jesus' final words to His disciples that His disciples must continue in His preaching and teaching ministry until He comes again. Thus, at Pentecost we are encouraged to once again reaffirm our baptismal calling to live according to the Word of God and proclaim it the best we can in both our words and our deeds as we are witnesses to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

This Feast of Pentecost which is celebrated fifty days after the feast of Pascha reminds us that we are living in the "end times" since we have the Holy Spirit poured out upon us. The end times refers to God's judgment as we affirm and confess in the creed, "and He will come to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end." This judgment is a powerful image since we are held accountable for our response to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Our Purpose in Life

The Christian's purpose in life is to acquire the Holy Spirit (St. Seraphim of Sarov), to be deified (St. Irenaeus), and to become "partakers of divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4), to become "god by grace and adoption" (St. Symeon the New Theologian). This purpose was fulfilled on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to abide in us in His fullness.

"I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams...." (Acts 2:17)

The Spirit was poured out upon the apostles at Pentecost. He continues to be poured out on us today through prayer, through the Epiclesis. It is after we have prayed the Epiclesis of the Liturgy that the Holy Spirit does indeed come upon us and permits us to sing: "We have seen the true light. We have received the Heavenly Spirit. We have found the true faith."

If the inner person is not filled with the Spirit of God, it will be filled with evil spirits – unholy spirits – that are just waiting to rush in and fill the emptiness. But as long as the emptiness is filled with the Spirit of God, there will be no room for evil spirits. The only way to expel demons is to crowd them out with the Spirit of God. It is either the Holy Spirit or evil spirits.

THINK ABOUT IT.....

Christ's parable of the mustard seed (Matt. 13:31-32) can be applied to the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The apostles, the small group of fishermen who are as insignificant as mustard seeds, will change the whole world. While John baptized with water, they are now baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5). The seed of faith planted by Christ is "watered" by the third person of the Holy Trinity. To this day the Church continues to spread across the earth. The Church welcomes all people, all "the birds of the air," to "come and nest in its branches."

JESUS PRAYER – Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner

St. Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

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The Work of the Holy Spirit

The Spirit is the source of holiness, a spiritual light, and He offers His own light to every mind to help it in its search for truth. By nature the Spirit is beyond the reach of our mind, but we can know Him by His goodness. The power of the Spirit fills the whole universe, but He gives Himself only to those who are worthy, acting in each according to the measure of his faith.

Simple in himself, the Spirit is manifold in His mighty works. The whole of His being is present to each individual; the whole of His being is present everywhere. Though shared in by many, He remains unchanged; His self-giving is no loss to Himself. Like the sunshine, which permeates all the atmosphere, spreading over land and sea, and yet is enjoyed by each person as though it were for him alone, so the Spirit pours forth His grace in full measure, sufficient for all, and yet is present as though exclusively to everyone who can receive Him. To all creatures that share in Him He gives

a delight limited only by their own nature, not by His ability to give.

The Spirit raises our hearts to heaven, guides the steps of the weak, and brings to perfection those who are making progress. He enlightens those who have been cleansed from every stain of sin and makes them spiritual by communion with Himself.

From the Spirit comes foreknowledge of the future, understanding of the mysteries of faith, insight into the hidden meaning of Scripture, and other special gifts. Through the Spirit we become citizens of heaven, we are admitted to the company of the angels, we enter into eternal happiness and abide in God. Through the Spirit we acquire a likeness to God; indeed, we attain what is beyond our most sublime aspirations - we become God.

St. Basil the Great

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