

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 23, 2010

THIS WEEK'S READINGS, FOR YOUR PERSONAL PRAYER

Sunday	May 23	Acts 2:1-11	Psalm 104:1,24-34	1 Cor. 12:3-7,12-13	John 20:19-23
Monday	May 24	1 Peter 1:3-9	Psalm 111:1-2,5-6,9-10		Mark 10:17-27
Tuesday	May 25	1 Peter 1:10-16	Psalm 98:1-4		Mark 10:28-31
Wednesday	May 26	1 Peter 1:18-25	Psalm 147:12-15,19-20		Mark 10:32-45
Thursday	May 27	1 Peter 2:2-5,9-12	Psalm 100:2-5		Mark 10:46-52
Friday	May 28	1 Peter 4:7-13	Psalm 96:10-13		Mark 11:11-26
Saturday	May 29	Jude 17,20-25	Psalm 63:2-6		Mark 11:27-33
Sunday	May 30	Proverbs 8:22-31	Psalm 8:4-9	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Today we celebrate the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, the birthday of the Church. Jesus has poured forth the Holy Spirit upon the Church to lead us to the fullness of truth. We Catholics see the Church as tremendously important because it is from God and through the Church that we have the Bible and the Sacraments. According to Ronald Rolheiser, the account of St. Paul's conversion reveals the importance of the Church. After Saul - a good Jew who persecuted Christians because he thought they were straying from the truth - was knocked to the ground, he heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Paul had never even seen Jesus, but he was persecuting the Church, the body of Christ. The answer to Saul's question, "Who are you?" is, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting": Jesus identifies Himself with the body of believers - the Church. Then, rather than Paul's being given clear directions from heaven, he is told to allow himself to be led to the Christian community, where he is told what to do.

Rolheiser concludes: "As Christians, we seek guidance 'through Christ.' However, since Christ refers both to the historical Jesus, now exalted in heaven, and the concrete, historical body of believers here on earth, when we seek guidance in terms of discernment and decisions we need to look not just to God in heaven, but also to what is being pointed out to us by the Body of Christ on earth, namely, our family, our friends, our churches, and our communities" (*The Holy Longing*, p. 94-95). We experience this unity most completely in the celebration of the Eucharist. We gather as a community of believers - led by the ministers of the Church and united to Jesus, our Head - to praise God and offer ourselves and our worship to Him. In the Eucharist we fittingly celebrate our identity as the Church, the body of Christ.

M. J. Dick

Questions for Reflection: Next Sunday's Readings

(see box above)

1. From the First Reading: "the Lord possessed me, the beginning of his ways"; "from of old I was poured forth"; "then I was beside him as his craftsman, and I was his delight day by day, playing before him all the while, playing on the surface of the earth; and I found delight in the human race." How do these verses portray the relationships and intimacy within the Trinity?
2. The Psalm shows human primacy over creation "You have given him rule over the works of your hands, putting all things under his feet." Why should we be good stewards of God's creation? How would you rate your own stewardship? How can you improve it?
3. The Second Reading tells us that "the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." Can you share a time when you have truly experienced God's love for you, not merely "known" about it?
4. In the Gospel, we get another glimpse into the Trinity through Jesus' words: The Holy Spirit "will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming . . . because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you." What more do these verses tell us about the relationships between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
5. The Trinity is more than a model of togetherness: It gives us the power to live in unity! Jesus promises that as we deepen relationships with one another, we will start to reflect the very life of the Trinity—and that's how we can find the joy Christians are meant to have. How can you build or deepen your relationships with others in your parish?

LET US JOIN IN PRAYER THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN EMBRACED BY GOD IN A SPECIAL WAY:

In Marriage:

Blanca & Elvin Lopez, Validation
Leticia Crosa & Mario Pinto, Validation

In Their Passage to Eternal Life:

Fr. John "Jack" N. Fullen
Brenda Glennon
Margaret Bauermann, sister-in-law of Celeste Schley
James "Jamie" Craven Salvatore Musumeci
Joseph Feraco

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

WINE & CHEESE SOCIAL: The Hospitality/Fellowship Team is hosting a Wine & Cheese Social, this **Sunday, May 23rd, 6:00 PM**, at the home of Judi and Rod Atwell. Bring a bottle of your favorite drink and a sweet or savory dish to share. Join us for an evening of fun, music, and getting to know one another. Please call Judi, 301-473-4931, to RSVP and get directions.

CUB SCOUT PACK 274: Join *Scouting Night for Cub Scouts*, **May 25th, 7:00 PM**, in the cafeteria at the Community Center. This is an opportunity to meet Scout leaders and learn about the Cub Scout program here at the parish. All boys in grades K-4 are eligible to join! For more information, please contact Nelson Spessard, 301-846-4217, or email nspessard@yahoo.com.

MOM'S GROUP will meet **Wednesday, May 26th, 9:00 AM**, at the Third Street Park. In case of rain, we will meet at the Nursery. Please RSVP to Lynn at 240-285-2036 or crocscan@comcast.net. All ages welcome!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Adult volunteers are needed or we are going to have to cancel!! Please contact Julie St. Croix if you are able to help the week of **June 28th-July 2nd**, 301-662-8288 x1103.

MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

STAND CERTIFICATION FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS: The Archdiocese of Baltimore and St. John's Parish are committed to providing a safe environment for children at our parish. **All volunteer ministers** who work with or around families and children must be STAND certified. STAND training is available on line. Please visit www.stjohn-frederick.org and click on STAND Training. Contact Julie St. Croix, 301-662-8288 x1103 for more info.

PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

May 2010

"The more we strive to secure a common good corresponding to the real needs of our neighbors, the more effectively we love them. Every Christian is called to practice this charity . . . This is the institutional path – we might also call it the political path – of charity, no less excellent and effective than the kind of charity which encounters the neighbor directly." Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth), Encyclical Letter of Pope Benedict XVI, 2009.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER:

A Message From Project Rachel: *"Once you choose hope, anything's possible."* Choose hope! Forgiveness and healing are awaiting you on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for healing after abortion, **June 25-27**, Marriottsville, MD. Call 410-625-8491. Visit www.project-rachel.net for more details.

Are You Pregnant and in need of help? Call the Gabriel Network, 1-800-ANGEL-OK or Birthright, 301-663-0111.

SCOUTING:

Are You Interested in having your child in a Catholic Scouting Unit? St. John's has Catholic Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts (Elementary boys), and Boy Scouts (Middle & High School). For more info, contact Julie St. Croix, 301-662-8288 x1103 (Girl Scouts), Bill Desmond, 301-662-4151 (Cub Scouts), or Nelson Spessard, 301-846-4217 (Boy Scouts).

HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU to serve your parish this year? Catechist, Eucharistic Minister, Usher, Welcome Committee, Sponsor Couples for the Engaged, Office Volunteer, Cantor, Bell Ringer, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Nursery, Youth Minister, and Money Counters: There's a call that matches your gifts. Amy Spessard, 301-662-8288 x1102, will help you find a ministry to fit your talents.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: Today as we celebrate Pentecost, the Holy Spirit wants to make us advocates of God's presence to bring new life to others, especially those who do not know the love of God in their lives. Through your gifts, the Society is able to bring the love of God to the poor by assisting families and individuals with their basic needs. Please join us **Monday, May 24th, 7:00 PM**, in the Notre Dame Room at the Parish Office. Hear about the Society's *Voice of the Poor* initiative presented by Michael Collins, VOP Liaison. Members are urged to attend.

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

REGISTRATION FORMS FOR 2010-2011: Faith Formation and Youth Ministry forms were mailed to homes last week. Forms may also be picked up at the Parish Office or downloaded from our website. Registration is open from May 1st through July 31st.

HSYM CELEBRATES WITH JOE! This Sunday, May 23rd, 6:30-8:00 PM, in the Hall, HSYM will celebrate the years of service Joe Mele has dedicated to our High School Youth Ministry program. All teens who have participated in the program are encouraged to attend (parents, too!). Joe will continue to serve the parish through the upcoming Peer Ministry Retreat in June, but this will be a time for the entire HSYM community to celebrate with Joe as our year of Faith Formation comes to close.

PEER MINISTRY RETREAT will be on **June 19th, 9:00 AM-7:00 PM**, here at St. John's. Mass is at 5:00 PM and a potluck dinner follows in the Community Center. New permission slips have been emailed to students who have applied and new applicants may get an application/permission slip on line at the parish website or by seeing Erica May in the Youth Ministry Office.

SUMMER EVENTS: High School students interested in Steubenville or ND Vision, please contact the Youth Ministry Office. We are working to coordinate a volunteer-chaperoned delegation to either event, or referrals to other parishes in the Archdiocese.

SPANISH COMMUNITY

Legion de Maria Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz. Junta semanal todos los Miércoles a las 7:00 PM. Necesitamos mas miembros que se quieran unir al grupo. Trabajemos juntos en union a nuestra Madre Maria. Para mas informacion contactar a: Nitza Rivas - 240-409-1998, Myriam Rullan 240-422-1718.

