

Father Jim's Weekly Bulletin Article for May 28, 2017

Heading Into Summer: Next Sunday's celebration of Pentecost concludes the Easter Season. With Easter having been late this year, this roughly coincides with graduations and the end of the school year cycle. Our minds begin, if they haven't already, to turn to vacations and less hectic times. There is a sense in which the Church also winds down. We do have two more important feasts, the Holy Trinity and the Holy Body and Blood of Christ, to celebrate over the next two weeks. Then it's on to ordinary time. It is OK, and even good to relax. I hope that we all have some opportunity for rest and excitement over the Summer. It is not time to separate ourselves from God or the Church. Take your faith with you, whatever you are doing and wherever you go. I encourage everyone to continue in their prayer and worship. Come to Sunday Mass. If you travel, look ahead to the location and times for Mass. Everything we do is better when done with friends and those we love. Enjoy the Summer with the One who loves you the most.

Readings for next week: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

Reflection: Pentecost is often referred to as the birth of the Church. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to spread the Good News of Christ and the love of God. Our work, as a Church, begins with the reception of the Spirit. Each of us receives a plethora of different gifts. We have the opportunity and the challenge to use and develop them for the good of all. The Spirit is an internal guide for the actions of the Church and its members. The Spirit leads us to choose the gifts that are most important for our personal growth and for the growth of the Church. The gifts of the Spirit ultimately form the bond that unites us as One Church and One Body, as one people in loving service to each other. Without the Spirit working among us, there could be no Church.

1. Consider your own gifts. How have they brought you closer to the Church and other people?

2. Write a thank you note to the Spirit expressing your gratitude for the gifts you have received.

Prayer: Lord, we pray for the coming of your Holy Spirit. We are ready to dedicate ourselves to the challenges She offers. Send the Spirit into the depths of our hearts, and into the heart of the Church. Renew us, Lord. Give us the Spirit to renew the face of the Earth. Amen! Alleluia!