

## **Father Jim's Weekly Bulletin Article for June 4, 2017**

**Today and Next Week:** This is Pentecost Sunday, one of the holiest days of the Church Year. We celebrate the very founding of the Church in the reception of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit we could not be a Church. It is the Spirit that is our shared breath as one Body in Christ. We are also celebrating the parish festival at Queen of Peace. Although we do expect to raise funds at the festival, it is even more importantly an opportunity for us to work and play together. Next week we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Trinity. This is a continuation of today's celebration in that we are rejoicing in the family of Father and Son united in the Holy Spirit, a union and family into which we ourselves are being invited this day.

**Readings for next week:** Exodus 34:4-6,8-9; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; John 3:16-18

**Reflection:** Most of us have had the experience of blaming another person for an error or a misdeed. Sometimes we blame someone else for our own faults in an attempt to avoid responsibility. On other occasions the blame seems justified. It doesn't matter. No matter whose fault it may be, the placing of blame has the same effect. It separates us from each other. Notice how Moses speaks to the Father about the sins of the people. He doesn't speak of 'their' sin. He uses the word, 'our'. He identifies himself with the people, in their weakness, and wins for them all God's mercy. Jesus identifies himself with us in much the same way. Rather than condemning us, He accepts the sins of all humanity as his own. He becomes one of us, sharing in the responsibility for our faults, and offering us a full share in the limitless love of God.

1. Reflect upon John's statement, "God is Love". How does God's love flow through you?

2. Consider ways that we condemn ourselves. What part of yourself is the hardest to love?

**Prayer:** Father, just as we praise you for the gift of Your Son, we have come to praise Jesus for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Your gift of self completes the work of creation. All things have become signs of your love. May we, your children, be immersed and perfected in the experience of that love.