

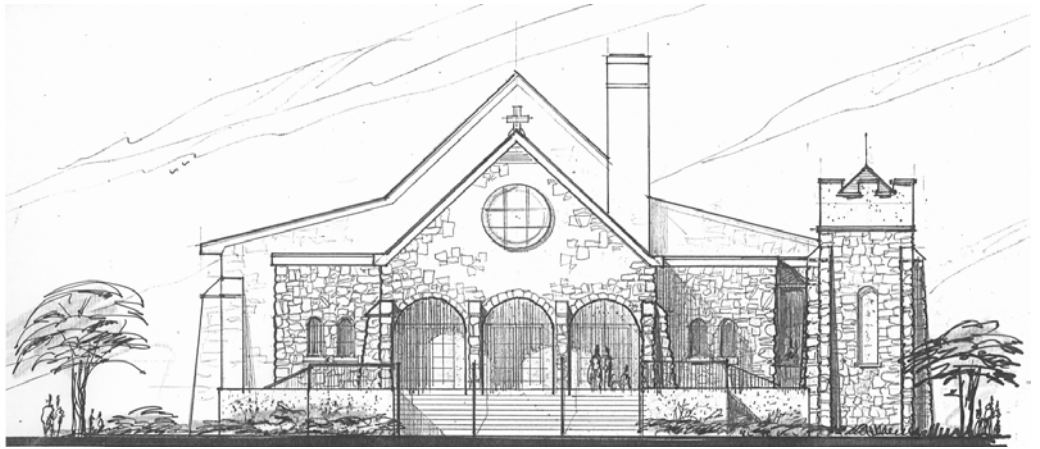
**HIS WORD TODAY**  
by Rev. William J. Reilly

**Pentecost Sunday**  
**May 31, 2020**

“Brothers and sisters: No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God which produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit...For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...and we were all given to drink of the one Spirit.”

We proclaim that Jesus is Lord, and everything that goes along with it. He is Savior, Teacher, Brother. Because the Spirit dwells in me, I do not hesitate to make this assertion.

Take a moment, to reflect upon the gifts I see in others. They too are signs that the Spirit dwells in that person. Do not hesitate to mention your respect for them because of the presence of the Spirit and the gifts they possess. It might be the special moment to awaken in them the need to continue to exercise these God given gifts. Do I find charity, kindness, humility, the spirit of evangelization, holiness in them? Pray for them, help awaken that presence of the Spirit in them.




# CHURCH OF ST. DENIS

MANASQUAN, NEW JERSEY

## STAFF

Reverend William J. P. Lago, Pastor  
Rev. Joseph Miele, Weekend Assistant  
Rev. Lewis Papera, Weekend Assistant  
Mr. George R. Kelder, Jr., Deacon  
Mr. George J. Pstrak, Deacon

Mrs. Eileen Ziesmer, Pastoral Associate  
Mr. Mark Mataranglo, Director of Music Ministry  
Sr. Mary Guyer, SSJ  
Mr. Denis Campbell, Trustee  
Mr. Gregory W. Boyle, Trustee

BEACH CHAPEL .....	554 East Main Street		
RECTORY .....	90 Union Avenue	732-223-0287 FAX .....	732-528-1901
CONVENT .....	117 Virginia Avenue		732-292-0772
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE .....	119 Virginia Avenue		732-223-1161
ST. DENIS CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY .....			732-223-1383
CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS .....		st.denis@verizon.net	
PASTOR'S E-MAIL ADDRESS .....		wlago@dioceseoftrenton.org	
WEB PAGE ADDRESS .....		http://www.churchofstdenis.org	

### MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekday Masses: 7:30 AM (Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Fri.) – St. Denis Church  
Saturday: 8:30 AM – St. Denis Church  
Saturday Evening: 4:30 PM (fulfills Sunday obligation)- St. Denis Church  
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM- St. Denis Church  
Sunday: 10:00 AM - Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel  
Holy Days: Evening before: 7:00 PM & day of: 7:30 AM & 7:00 PM-St. Denis Church

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Every Saturday from 3:30 until 4:15 PM - St. Denis Church. Also by appointment.

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL DEVOTIONS:** Tuesday morning after the 7:30 AM Mass-St. Denis Church

**BAPTISM:** The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 12:15 pm at St. Denis Church. Parents must complete the required preparation with the priest or deacon and obtain godparent eligibility letters before a date for Baptism will be given. Please call the rectory for further details.

**MARRIAGE:** Please contact the rectory office for more information about weddings. All couples contemplating marriage are asked to give the priests one year prior notice in order that all the requirements for marriage can be satisfied. Do not reserve the reception hall before contacting the church; your requested date may not be available.

**CARE OF THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND:** We will gladly bring Holy Communion to anyone who is ill or otherwise unable to get to Mass. Please call the rectory to make arrangements. The priests and deacon make regular visits to the local hospitals. Please call the rectory if any loved one is hospitalized.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL:** At such times of deep pain and loss, we seek to offer our bereaved families comfort and hope as they commend their loved ones to God. Please note that, in accordance with Church regulations, eulogies are not permitted during Funeral Masses.

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:** Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. There are no office hours on Saturday & Sunday. Evenings are by appointment only.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Welcome! We encourage new families moving into the area to stop in or call the rectory to arrange for registration.

**CELIAC SPRUE PARISHIONERS** – Saint Denis provides a low gluten (<0.01% gluten content) host. Parishioners who are gluten-intolerant should see a deacon or priest prior to the start of Mass in order to be included in the reception of the Eucharist.

**VISIT US ON FACEBOOK-** Saint Denis Parish Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis](http://www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis). You don't need to have a Facebook account to read parish news and updates, but would need one to leave comments and feedback.



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, May 30, 2020

8:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 8:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
 8:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 4:30 pm Marilyn Pease by Thomas & Maureen Hughes & Family  
 4:30 pm Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 4:30 pm Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family

### Sunday, May 31, 2020

8:00 am Glenn Gillman by his Wife, Pat  
 8:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 8:00 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 9:30 am Edward F. Lyons (20th Anniversary)  
 by his Wife  
 9:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
 9:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 10:00 am For the People of the Parish  
 11:00 am Florence McCabe  
 by Thomas & Maureen Hughes & Family  
 11:00 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 11:00 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family

### Monday, June 1, 2020

8:30 am Josephine Crawford by the Sutor Family  
 8:30 am Richard Savage by Ken Kleinlein  
 8:30 am Florence Guippone by Tom & Pat Coyle

### Tuesday, June 2, 2020

7:30 am Rose Abitante by Fran & Paul Weeks  
 7:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 7:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family

### Wednesday, June 3, 2020

7:30 am Rita & Angelo Addeo by the Family  
 7:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
 7:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family

### Thursday, June 4, 2020

No Mass

### Friday, June 5, 2020

7:30 am Hildegard Caswell by Ellie & John Fox  
 7:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 7:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family

### Saturday, June 6, 2020

8:30 am Brad Liggett by the Family  
 8:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 8:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 4:30 pm Kimberly Mount by The Macho & Pilot Families  
 4:30 pm Jack Kobes (5th Anniversary) by Carol & Family  
 4:30 pm Anthony Baldino by Carolyn, Jacqui & Leigh Ellen

### Sunday, June 7, 2020

8:00 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
 8:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 8:00 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 9:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
 9:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 9:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family  
 10:00 am Marc Cosmo Esposito by Sean & Lucille Yanok  
 10:00 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family  
 10:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family  
 11:00 am For the People of the Parish

**MOVING?** Please inform the rectory office if you are moving out of the area or if you have a change of address, so the envelope company can be notified. Thank you!

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED** especially Anne Leddy, Adam N. Ginther, and Kevin Cooper.



**HOME DEVOTION**– Please visit [AscensionPress.com](http://AscensionPress.com) for special resources and events to help Catholics with home devotions throughout the coming weeks.

**MASS INTENTIONS** for the weekend, as well as the coming week, can be found on our parish website [www.churchofstdenis.org](http://www.churchofstdenis.org) on Friday mornings.



especially Mary Moran, Steve Ford, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Peggy Andrich, Mary Damico, Eileen Byrne, Amanda Castro, Dolores Palmisano, Holly Boyd, Mary Conlon, Albert Wood, Maiya Andrews, Velma Andrews, Stella Thompson, Katie Holbrook, Claire Meachum, Mike Pierce, Thomas Hayes, Jr., Thomas Evans, Catherine O'Connor, Edith Bean, Phyllis Van Salders, Joanne Panzarella, Taryn Rotondi, Kathy Wicks, Michael McNulty, Mary Jane Schaaf, Lisa Pirrello, Joseph Bick, Mary Collins, Ken Kleinlein, Robert Kelleher, Stephen Byrne, Denise Frank, Lucy Falco, Marie Tashjian, Angeline Hart, Joan Tumbas, Cathleen Brenner, Nick Ljuljana, Patricia Blumenstock, Sue O'Connor, Baby Cayden Joseph, Thomas Fahey, Baby Kelly Grace, Nair Messias, Jennifer Noble, Scarlet Slotnick, Belle & Ashton, John Najar, Karen Brown, Elizabeth Morgan, Frank Lopez, Christina Roundtree, Eugene Karpinski, Charlotte Pentek, Phillip Graceffa, Christian Russo, Rose DeMarco, Dee Vulgaris, Michael McGonigle, Baby Evelyn Mizer, Herbert "Butch" Wolfe, Leanna Rawson, Nannette Forkan, Nicole Giambone, Lisa Dunfee, Albert J. Cifelli, Brian Alberse, Stanley Bevan, Windell Rainey, Sadie Svenson, Barbara Magda, Paul Tuyp, Nancy Murphy, Bernadette Bevan, George Leonard, Teresa Hayes, Jeanne Hayes, Irene Hayes, Ronnie Micciulla, Cindy Tomkins, Joseph Fiamingo, Baby Colton Gardella, Anita McCudden, Catherine Kelleher, Baby Siena Grace Pizzillo, Samara Pirrong, Donna Schwear, Helen McGowan, Karen Williams, Timothy Michal Przywara, Christopher Kurtanick, Wes Pal, Neil O'Callaghan, Siobhan Vuono, Linda Lowery, Tanner Koch, Linda Custode, Marty Pirrong, Bridget Korn, Vincent Azzollini, Scott Burdett, Joan Lipscomb, Baby Lucy, Stephen Whyte, Victoria Margadonna, Christine Fields, Chris Faraca, Kathy Larkin, Gordon Justin, John Jonason, Estelle Jonason, Jim Kazenmayer, Frank Meidenbauer, Sean Campbell, Joel Rivera, Jimi Hood, Al Ricciardi, Eileen Beesley, Beverly Heinz, Pauline Naturile, Haley Keating, John Fossani, Paul Borden, Mary Daidone, Donna Morgan, Jonathan Miller, Dennis Datillo, Bill Koch, Jennifer Pindar, Doris Abruzzo, Sandy Heitner, Randy Farmer, Joseph Pastore, Christine Coburn, Julianna Grusso, Frank Dugan, Lori Hurd, John Gondek, Lois Borton, Roddy Pilot, William Liao, the Bergias, the Pilots, the Nesbitts and the Campbells.



*Sanctuary  
Candle*

**WEEK OF MAY 31, 2020  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
ERNEST BADARACCO  
REQUESTED BY HIS WIFE, RITA & FAMILY**



walking with purpose  
THE MODERN WOMAN'S GUIDE TO THE BIBLE

Starting in October 2020, St. Denis Church is offering 2 bible study opportunities from Walking with Purpose (WWP). Our WWP community is comprised of women, just like you. We strive to learn more about our faith and understand how the teachings of Jesus Christ can strengthen us to be the women, wives, friends, mothers, grandmothers, we are meant to be. Together we create an authentic community that laughs, learns, grows, and loves one another.

*Opening Your Heart (OYH)*, our foundational study, is designed for women new to Walking with Purpose. Whether or not you have any Bible study experience, we welcome you to learn how the Scriptures apply to our everyday lives.

For those women who have completed *OYH*, our next study is *Keeping in Balance (KIB)*. This Bible study will take us on a journey throughout Scripture to discover the relevance of Old and New Testament wisdom in relation to our current life challenges. God wants to support and help us so that we can be our best in every season of our life.

**We don't actually exercise—we "walk" on a faith journey together. Walking with Purpose leads hearts to Christ. For more info, visit [www.wwpnjshore.com](http://www.wwpnjshore.com)**

**MANASQUAN COMMUNITY COMMENCEMENT BELLS 2020-** We are all asked to take part in ringing bells on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm for all the Manasquan School District and Sending District graduates who will be walking outside at that time, in celebration for the Class of 2020. Our parish church will be taking part!!! Hope you will too!!!



our military, especially Navy Lt. Rachael M. Honrath, Navy MIDN Nora N. Honrath, Army Captain Christopher Cauda, Army Captain Matthew Cauda, Navy LL. Edward P. Windas, Marine Lance Corporal Laura Licata, Contractor Benjamin Ostrow, Air Force Captain David Smith, Army Major Sean Fessenden, Army Lt. Nikkole Crosson, Navy Captain Colin S. Walsh, Army Captain Dr. Justin Eisenman, Army Lt. Brian Quinn, Navy E4 Patrick Moynihan, Army Major Michael Potoczniak, Air Force 1st Lt. Dominic Celiano, Air Force Academy Cadet 2nd Class Slade Kelling, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Petty Officer Joseph Beattie, Navy CM Taylor Nesbitt, Airman Devon Webster, Army Private 1st Class Cody Svenson, Lt. Jg. Mary T. Herman, Matthew Van Pelt, Army, USMC 2nd Lt. Philip Cahill, USMC 2nd Lt. Joanna Smith-Cahill, Navy MIDN Michael Zimmerman U.S. Naval Academy, Air Force 2nd Lt. Jason Trischitta, Allison M. Ingraham at West Point Academy, Lt. Col. Ivan Ingraham USMC, PFC Joseph J. Foley, Jr. USMC, Airman Andrew Halmi, Robert Halmi, U.S. Army, Corporal Jordan Basile USMC, PFC Neil Horenburg USMC.

**A Message from Father Bill**

Happy Pentecost! My prayer is that we may all experience renewal by the grace of the Holy Spirit, the Lord the Giver of Life, renewing us inwardly with the seven-fold gifts the Spirit gives at Baptism/Confirmation.

At the time of this typing, there are still no particulars regarding the opening of the Church for celebration of the Sacraments. The Church is still open for private prayer on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (10am-2pm and Mon. 5-7pm). Our office is still open from 9am-4:30pm. We ask you call ahead and if we can help over the phone, so much the better. If you come over, please ring the bell, wear a mask, keep 6 ft. apart, and realize we can only help two people at a time. We are also still open to any donations for the food pantry; you can just drop off the food to the front of the rectory. I am still open to setting up any meetings for Confession or spiritual direction or pastoral counseling.

I do hope that you are open to a few opportunities upcoming. I ask that you look for the information, elsewhere in the bulletin, regarding the Lutheran/Catholic dialogue on Psalm 23, utilizing Rabbi Harold Kushner's book: "The Lord is My Shephard." Also we will be soon starting our Father's Day Triduum of Masses in honor of our fathers, both living and deceased. We have cards in the office, should you like to send a card, and there will be further information shared in the bulletin next week. Until then...

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
And kindle in them the fire of your love.*

*Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And you will renew the face of the earth.*

*Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit  
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.*

*In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right  
and always rejoice in your consolation.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

**SAVE THE DATE-**June 11, 2020 at 7:00 pm- Collier Youth Services Virtual Gala. Every spring, Collier hosts its Annual Gala. This year in lieu of a night out, we are asking you to stay close to home for a mission that is close to your heart. Settle into a comfy seat, pour your favorite beverage, and tune in to our event at [www.collieryouthservices.org](http://www.collieryouthservices.org). Learn how Collier's programs have adapted during COVID-19 and watch wonderful performances by Collier's youth and staff. Make a Donation to Collier Youth Services! Everyone who makes a donation will be entered to win great prizes! This event closes Monday, June 15. Raffles will be drawn and winners notified on Friday, June 19.

**ONLINE GIVING-** To help support our parish more easily we offer **Online Giving!** For additional information or to sign up, go to our parish Website [www.churchofstdenis.org](http://www.churchofstdenis.org) and click on "Online Giving". For those who wish to use the online giving service but do not have Internet access, please contact the Parish Office at 732-223-0287 for assistance.



**May 17, 2020**

**Regular Collection- \$6,439.00**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !**



## INVOCATION OF THE HOLY HELPERS

As we are St. Denis Parish, we have the honor and privilege of having St. Denis as our patron saint and intercessor. St. Denis was invoked along with thirteen other saints during the period of the Black Death that devastated Europe from 1346-1349 they later would be known as the Fourteen Holy Helpers. Let us pray, asking the Holy Helpers to intercede for all people at this time:

FOURTEEN HOLY HELPERS, who served God in humility and confidence on earth and are now in the enjoyment of His beatific vision in Heaven; because thou persevered till death thou gained the crown of eternal life. Remember the dangers that surround us in this vale of tears, and intercede for us in all our needs and adversities. *Amen*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**– Due to the conditions at the time of this bulletin, please check our parish website regularly for updates. **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:** First Communions, Confirmation interviews, and Confirmation will be rescheduled.

### **THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD ONLINE BIBLE STUDY:**

Rabbi Harold Kushner's book is entitled *The Lord Is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-Third Psalm*. Rabbi Kushner asks the question, "Can fifteen beautiful lines from a single page of the Bible change your life?" (p. 5) You guessed it: his answer is "Yes!" Many of us are already familiar with Psalm 23 from lifelong exposure. When has the world's need for healing ever been greater? Please join this "remote" opportunity for Lutheran/Roman Catholic Bible study/book discussion. Join us either on-line or over the phone on Tuesday, June 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. Pastor Mary and Father Bill will be leading the discussion. Stay tuned for log-on and dial-in info. Reading the book ahead of time will enrich our conversation, though it is not required. (*The Lord Is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-Third Psalm*, by: Harold S. Kushner, Anchor Books: NY, 2003. 175 pages. ISBN 1-4000-3335-7).

## Do You Know Your Church?

### **(Answers to last week's quiz)**

The focal point in every Catholic Church is the Predella, where the Altar is located and Liturgy celebrated.

The Chalice/Cup is the vessel that holds the Precious Blood.

The Ciborium is the vessel holding the Eucharist when being distributed by the Priest, Deacon, and Eucharistic Minister.

The Roman Missal is the Book used by the Priest at his chair and on the altar.

The Lectionary is the Book that contains a collection of readings, important to our faith.

The Tabernacle is where the Blessed Sacrament is held in reserve.

As Catholics, we believe that the Altar represents Jesus. There are Five (5) different vestment colors: which are Purple, Rose, White, Red, Green.

There are Five (5) Liturgical Seasons.

The Liturgical Seasons are Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time.

Easter is the current Liturgical Season

During the current Liturgical Season, the Priest and Deacon are wearing the Color White.

There are Fourteen (14) Stations of the Cross

We light the Paschal Candle during Easter Season, Baptisms, and Funerals.

The Ambo/Pulpit is the place where the Readings and the Gospel are proclaimed.

Who is St. Denis? Bishop of Paris

Who is our Pastor? Father Bill Lago

What Diocese do we belong to? Diocese of Trenton

Who is our Bishop? His Excellency David O'Connell

Who is our Pope? His Holiness Pope Francis



### **St. Vincent De Paul Society's Food Pantry**

**At St. Denis Church  
Manasquan, NJ 08736  
Phone: 732-223-1383**

Location: Msgr. O'Connor Hall  
(lower level of church)

Until further notice: There will be curbside pick-up of prepackaged food with appropriate social distancing.

Questions or special food needs?

Please call our hotline number at 732-223-1383

Please note adjusted pantry hours:

Tuesdays: 1PM – 3PM and  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays from 10AM – 12noon

At this time, donations may be dropped off curbside by the pantry during regular pantry hours or on the rectory front porch, under the overhang.

There has been an overwhelming response to our food pantry donation requests. The shelves are very well stocked. Thank you! The items listed below are the most needed items as these are items most requested by our needy neighbors. Please know they are being received with sincere gratitude!

**Items requested for food pantry donation:**  
**female shampoo/conditioner, flour & pepper**

### **THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**



In the Gospel, Jesus once asked, "Who are you looking for?" It could be asked, "What are you looking for?" Perhaps it is happiness we seek, but sometimes we are looking for happiness in selfish ways. However, we also find that when we look for ways to make others happy or a bit more secure, it is then that we become truly happy and witness God's love. The Vincentian Society witnesses God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes. As you give your gift or your time to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them reason to believe and trust.

If you have an interest in learning more about helping those in need, come to one of the Society's meetings when they resume. The meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 pm in Msgr. O'Connor Hall (lower level of the church).

If you need assistance, please call the St. Vincent de Paul hotline at 732-223-1383.



### **“Opening Up” to the Holy Spirit – By Fr. Bill**

A current common phrase in the news is “opening up.” As we move forward in this pandemic, businesses and our churches will be “opening up.” It is a positive phrase for sure. This phrase can also be used to call to mind our celebration of Pentecost and our relationship with the Holy Spirit. “Opening up” is a deep spiritual disposition. As the saying goes, a closed hand cannot receive anything, it must be open. Adam and Eve began their relationship with God, in a constant state of “opening up” to God, as it is meant to be between a creature and its creator. Adam and Eve’s openness is symbolized in their being naked before God. They walked with God in a spiritual state of “openness”; a state of vulnerability – which was fine because they could trust God and God’s Will and God’s Goodness. Opening up to God means being able to receive God’s friendship and receive God’s sharing/revelation.

But then, pride led Adam and Eve to choose “closing down” their relationship with God and to stop trusting in God as the sole source (the soul’s source) of truth and revelation. Instead they chose to receive the lies and false promises of the devil, who led them to believe that friendship with God is weakness, and that only through pride, apart from God, can you have strength and control. This is so wrong.

The spiritual disposition of openness – of vulnerability - only seems like weakness, because we are not centered in our self, but God. The world is self-centered, prideful, and this shows itself in a disordered desire to be (or appear to be) in control. The world teaches if you are not in self-centered control you are weak. But this is not the case. Self-centered, prideful control gives a false sense of power. The pandemic, and many other things, reminds us that we are ultimately not in control. (Certainly I am talking of cosmic control, not the use of “free will” to control what happens in our response to what happens in the universe; our free will lets us order our life by freely choosing life centered on God, otherwise it is a prideful self-centered choice where I do not love the Lord with *all* my heart, *all* my soul, *all* my mind and *all* my strength.) God still knows best. God’s Will and God’s friendship are absolutely worthy of our trust, and obedience. Openness to God’s Will does give us power – God’s power. By trusting in God and being open to God in each moment, by living the phrase “Thy Kingdom come” we really do grow in control by actually giving our control to God, who deserves it in the first place.

In the New Covenant, our Lord Jesus teaches us about “opening up.” He teaches us the Our Father and fully lives “Thy Kingdom come.” He prays in the garden, “Your Will be done”, unlike Adam and Eve in the garden who chose “my will, and not God’s Will, be done” and disobeyed God. Jesus lives openness and vulnerability to God in all His interactions, even to the point of being crucified and asking His Father to forgive those who crucified Him. Note that Jesus’ cloths are stripped from Him before He is crucified, as a symbol of His vulnerability, and thus reversing Adam and Eve’s sin. Jesus is vulnerable to the Father even in His agony, and still perseveres in His relationship with the Father– open and honest with His feelings and maintaining His relationship as Son and Savior.

After the Resurrection, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, would come upon us, to unite us as One in Christ, so to “[teach you everything and remind you of all that \[I\] told](#) you so that you may be witnesses. (John 14:26) In “opening up” to the Holy Spirit, we receive the seven gifts the Spirit brings to empower us to witness Christ by living a Christ-life centered on the coming of the Father’s Kingdom in my life today. It is only in an open disposition, depending on our Creator’s relationship and Divine-Life sharing, that we can then receive God’s gifts to be strong in our life of Christian discipleship. Living this discipleship is the witness we are called to give. It is in “opening up” to the Holy Spirit that we can receive the relationship of “Oneness” of “Communion” with God (more than Adam and Eve had in Eden) and we can receive the sharing/revelation of the gifts that the Holy Spirit infuses into us.

An author wrote: “When I hear “Gifts and Fruits” of the Spirit, I always think of the catechism class and the flutter of hands going up when we were asked who knew them...we soon forget all about them. Now, however, because they are our urgent need, we begin to remember them and to realize that Christ is born into the world in lives that have received these qualities. Were it not so, I think that there would be no hope for us.”

As we celebrate Pentecost, we call to mind our Blessed Mother and the Apostles in a constant disposition of “opening themselves up” to the gift that Jesus promised. The gift *is* the Holy Spirit in my life. We are called to have the same disposition as Mary and the Apostles, not just on the day of our Confirmation, not just on Pentecost Sunday, but constantly. We are to be in a continual state of choosing to be “opening up” before God. It is in this disposition that the gifts, the power, of God come into our life, real power, not of our own weak-making, but of God’s creative power. We must be always looking to God with open hands, trusting in God and God’s Will. In being open to the Holy Spirit, we are receiving the gifts to be able to live Christ’s life and for Christ to live our lives. In-so-doing, we bear Christ in ourselves and bear Christ into the world – the purpose that gives us true purpose and true strength – by being part of God’s Life here on earth – realizing, as someone wrote, “Only Christ-bearers can restore the world to life and give humanity back the vitality of love.”

### **Pentecost 2020 Is there a vaccine to save us from dying? – By Fr. Lew**

Even with the best of medical treatments, there is no escaping physical death; however, there is a vaccine to save us from “spiritual death” that entered the world in the virus of Original Sin. This spiritual dysfunction has contaminated every person ever born of woman except for Mary. This Lenten/Easter Season has been all about God’s plan to save us from this “spiritual death”, not by a vaccine found in a vial, but in a person, Jesus Christ. Today, Feast of Pentecost, is about the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” that injects us with the saving life of Jesus. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were gathered in the upper room, where “the doors were locked...for fear of the Jews”. The Holy Spirit came upon them “like a mighty wind...and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” In power Peter preached to the crowd: “Save yourselves from this crooked generation”. The people “were cut to the heart”, and asked him, “What must we do” to receive what you have? And Peter answered, “Repent and be baptized” into the Holy Spirit. That day three thousand people responded by dying to the patterns of sin in their lives and rising with Christ.

My brothers and sisters, our baptism was not a “thing” or a “dead event” that happened on to us, but a “living” encounter, in which Jesus Christ made a home in us. And Jesus continues to come alive in us to the degree that we die each day to our will and live the ways of Jesus. “You were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead”. (Col.2:12), “I died, and behold I am alive evermore.” (Rev. 1:18)

At a time in which there is an inordinate fear of death, how fortunate we are to be a people of faith as we work out in our own lives the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In closing, I would like to quote an online headline that captured my attention: “Live in such a way that when you die, you don’t die.” On this Pentecost 2020 may your baptism be released in a deeper way.

## **John 20:19-23, Finding Courage By Deacon George**

Let us envision ourselves on that Pentecost Day in the upper room with the disciples hiding behind closed doors, from a hostile and terrifying world - cowering in absolute fear for their lives, something oddly familiar today. Imagine a wind so loud that it sounds like a tornado or hurricane, then what appears to be intense light or flames appear from the rafters that descend upon all gathered - our senses become overwhelmed and numbed.

Completely overloaded we experience nothing but absolute love. The creator of life is close, and no one can deny it.

Crowds gather due to the sounds and sights - they too are filled with nothing but passion for all - and their thoughts, words and actions are understood fully by everyone.

Today's Pentecost gospel is a shortened version of the gospel of the Sunday after Easter. It is John's telling of the first appearance of our risen Lord to the apostles - the formation of the Church born out of the side of Christ on Calvary - going public.

In the story of creation, with no other fashioned form described as having received the breath of life than humankind, only man and woman are singled out for this divine gift. And, in breathing on the disciples, Jesus mirrors God's creation of man and woman in this contemporary narrative of the Genesis story.

I, like many of you have witnessed the birth of my children.

In each birth there were the pains and sounds of labor, then silence, a gasp of breath, a cry, a new person announcing their arrival with a distinct voice - an entire future of unending possibility - and a rebirth into a new role of parenting.

In today's gospel the Spirit is exhaled onto and breathed into people. They may have been a pathetic, unwashed, marginal, suspect, and ordinary group of individuals but they were real people.

This breath immediately replaced their fear and confusion with; peace, understanding, joy and enthusiasm, gluing them together by; their baptism, the breaking of the bread and by the witnessing of what had happened.

A frightened, cowardly group had been transformed by the Spirit into the presence of the risen Christ.

And this is how we began - through these common frightened cowards turned into saints - it was the hour the Church found its courage.

And since that time, we have gathered in South American prison cells, German detention bunkers and under Asian house arrest to celebrate Eucharist in secret.

We have hidden in Roman catacombs, Irish barns and haystacks and Communist alleys to baptize our children.

We too simply and quietly have been called to be bearers of witness in our; offices, homes, and schools, and that my friends connects us together as Church, even though we physically remain separated at this time.

We are male and female, young and old, abled, and disabled. We are the baptized, we break bread together and we witness.

This is our faith, this is who we are, and this is both our story and identity, defined and formed since that Pentecost when our Lord breathed His Spirit into a room of human oddities that he himself baptized and broke bread with and gave witness.

Everything else, Rome, Trenton, Canon Law, titles, vestments, appointments, our church, and chapel are all helpful but ancillary to the identity of us as a Christian people and our personal connection to Jesus Christ as "Church."

This community may not always be what we want it to be - being too slow to change or too quick to respond. Our clergy may be too liberal or conservative, too worldly, or out of touch, saints, or a sinner.

Our gathering together may be too cold or more hospitable than some would prefer.

Our preaching may be pedestrian, some cantors hard on the ear, the fifty minutes spent together more than some are willing to bear.

But here is the Pentecost rub - nowhere in the gospel is there a suggestion that Christianity can be lived alone and nowhere are we urged to go and seek out only like-minded people.

Each of us are witnessing the potential for a new Pentecost of shared responsibility of the entire Church during these most unprecedented of times.

Church is messy, Church can be annoying, but Church with a capital "C" is absolutely necessary for our Christian life.

Like that first Pentecost, our locked doors should never hold captive the love of God, the presence of the Son or the breath of the Holy Spirit.

Today we celebrate the creation and sustenance of this most unlikely collection of individuals - you and me - the Church - the truest essential workers - the Body of Christ.

## **Pentecost Reflection By Deacon Gary**

This weekend, we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost. It is the official end of the Easter Season and when the Holy Spirit descends upon the Disciples. It is also known as the Birthday of our Church. Pentecost, in Greek, means 50. It is 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead. The Priest and Deacon wear red when celebrating Pentecost. All during the Easter Season, we wore white symbolizing the Resurrection of our Lord.

Here's a little piece of trivia for you. I bet you never knew that the Jewish people celebrated Pentecost for centuries before the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. The Jewish Pentecost was a celebration of the fiftieth day of Passover, a feast requiring every Jewish man, woman, and child to come to the Temple at Jerusalem. This explains the large crowd present there who heard the disciples speak in different languages. The Jews used this time to commemorate the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses on the Top of Mt. Sinai. At Sinai, God revealed himself in wind and fire. And, remember how the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, through Wind and Tongues of Fire?

So, it's 50 days since the Resurrection of our Lord and let's remember what happened. After Jesus' Crucifixion, the disciples were despondent, in grief, and in fear. They knew the Jews hated Jesus and they believed they were next to be killed. So they all gathered together in the Upper Room, locked the door, and began to pray. Even though the room was secure, the Risen Christ came and stood amongst them, showing us there are no locks capable of hindering the presence of Christ. We can lock ourselves away from God's influence in any way we choose but none of these choices can ever exclude the Divine Presence. You can be angry at God, ignore Him, and look the other way. But sooner or later, God makes His presence known and you feel it.

So, Jesus breaths on them and they receive the Holy Spirit which gives them the wisdom and strength to begin their mission. The same mission that you and I have today, to tell everybody the Good News of Jesus Christ.

You may ask, what can I do to tell everybody the Good News, I'm only a single individual. What difference can I make? Well let me tell you a little story that might help. In the forest, a squirrel asked a wise owl, what was the weight of a single snowflake? "Why, nothing more than nothing," the owl answered. The squirrel then went on to tell the owl about a time when he was resting on a branch of a maple tree during a snow-storm. He started counting each snowflake that came to rest on the branch. And when he reached the number 1,345,798, with the settling of that snowflake, he heard a loud crack! The branch suddenly snapped, throwing the squirrel and the snow to the ground. "That was surely a whole lot of nothing," said the squirrel.

So, our daily personal efforts to spread the love of God may be as lightweight as a snowflake. But, by heaping all our snowflakes together, we will be fulfilling our mission to tell everybody the Good News of Jesus Christ.



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