

My Dear Parishioners,

Generally speaking everybody loves a birthday unless you are at the age when you rather want to forget another birthday. Birthdays are a time to celebrate one's life and to inaugurate a new year of blessings. So **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!** Happy Birthday to you and to me! Today we celebrate the great liturgical Feast of Pentecost which is often referred to as the birthday or the beginning of the Church. Jesus' mission and ministry takes on a new life as the Holy Spirit fills the faithful with gifts needed to continue His work in the world. As you know **WE** are the Church so it is **OUR** birthday. Therefore let us celebrate with enthusiasm and great joy. Let us also renew **our** commitment to be Jesus' presence in the world.

Originally Pentecost was a Jewish feast called Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks. In the Jewish tradition a week of weeks is forty-nine days but if you count both ends (as the Jews did) it comes to fifty days. So the Jews celebrated Shavuot on the fiftieth day after the Feast of Harvest and First-Fruits. This feast was one of thanksgiving to Yahweh both for the wheat harvest and for the gift of the Covenant on Mount Sinai. Shavuot was a major feast and a very popular one on which Jews came to Jerusalem from all over the world to celebrate.

In the Christian tradition Pentecost marks the point in history after Jesus' Resurrection when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles gathered in the upper room and empowered and emboldened them to take up Jesus' mission of going out to the ends of the world preaching the Gospel. For Christians the Feast of Pentecost is the conclusion of the fifty days of the Easter season. The feast is also the great solemnity which inaugurates the life of the Church in Jesus' name. It is the celebration of Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit to the Catholic Church and to each of the baptized.

We hear two accounts of the Christian Pentecost event today in our Scripture readings. One is from St. Luke's Acts of the Apostles and the other from St. John's Gospel. Both accounts use **creation** imagery to suggest that Pentecost involves a **new creation**. St. Luke initiates the **new creation** in the

same way in which he tends to highlight important events like the birth of Jesus (Lk. 2:6) and Jesus' resolute determination to go to Jerusalem to fulfill His mission and die (Lk.9:51). In his Pentecost account Luke introduces the dawning of the age of the **Holy Spirit** as the dominant reality in the life of humankind. Luke uses the word for "spirit" which is the same word for "breath" and for "life" in Hebrew, Greek and Latin.

Luke begins his Pentecost account with a special notice that the time was **fulfilled**. This detail makes it clear that a peak moment in God's plan of salvation has arrived. The apostles were gathered together in an upper room and were praying together. Suddenly there is a strong driving wind within the room. The **Holy Spirit** (driving wind) fills the apostles just as the breath of God entered the clay of the earth transforming it into the first living being (Adam) in Genesis 2:7. The apostles have been refashioned and refreshed by the power of God to proclaim the Gospel. Then the **Holy Spirit** rests upon them as tongues of fire anticipating the words they will speak through God's power.

The symbols of "the coming of the **Holy Spirit**" that Luke uses (wind, sound, fire and tongues) would be familiar to Jews who understood their Scripture. The Spirit of God blew over the waters at creation and rushed upon David on the occasion of his anointing as king (1Samuel 16:13). God appeared frequently in the Jewish Scriptures in the form of fire, the best symbol to the Jews of the brightness and intensity of God's activity. (For example God appearing to Moses in the burning bush and on Mt Sinai in the form of lightning.) The familiar symbol of tongues is easily grasped as communicating a heavenly gift. The phenomenon of the people from many nations understanding the Apostles is the countertype of confusion of tongues at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11).

Luke then points out that after the Apostles were filled with God's Spirit a large diverse crowd gathered around them attracted by the words the Apostles spoke. The crowd was amazed because the Apostles were all Galileans yet each member of the

crowd heard the message spoken to them in his/her own native language. To make this dramatic scene more powerful Luke includes the list of the different nationalities that made up the crowd (Parthians, Medes, Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya and Rome). Luke reminds us that language is no barrier when it comes to proclaiming “the mighty acts of God.”

Our second reading for today (Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians) reminds us that the **Holy Spirit** is given to the Church and to each individual Christian as well. Paul was writing to a divided community in Corinth. Factionalism, rather than unity predominated within the community. To offset this, Paul explained the role of the Spirit. The very ability to say “Jesus is Lord” is due to the dynamic role of the **Holy Spirit**. Where diversity is all too evident Paul insists on unity. For Paul a gift/talent is never a personal patrimony but rather it is a communal treasure. When multiplicity is all too apparent (Jew/Greek, slave/free) Paul emphasizes the Oneness of the Body of Christ. Therefore, by drinking of the One Spirit, the various members of a community proclaim their solidarity with Jesus and one another. And so all gifts, ministries, works are for the building of the Body of Christ bringing all into unity.

Today’s Gospel is sometimes referred to as the “Johannine Pentecost.” It consists of the following elements. First Jesus appears to the community of frightened disciples and offers them His **peace**. Secondly, Jesus bestows upon His disciples an **apostolic commissioning** and sends them out to continue His ministry in the world. Finally, He ratifies His commissioning upon the disciples by breathing upon them the **Holy Spirit**.

According to John on the evening of the same day that Jesus rose from the dead (Easter) Jesus passes through the locked doors and appears to His disciples. The disciples are very skeptical of Jesus’ identity. The first thing Jesus does is to offer His disciples His **peace**. Jesus’ **peace** is not just a simple greeting or the absence of conflict and strife. His **peace** conjures up the divine presence which will become permanent in the bestowal of the **Holy**

Spirit. Jesus’ peace includes a wholeness and completion that will calm the disciple’s fear. By showing the disciples the wounds in His hands and feet Jesus indicates and shows the continuation between crucifixion and resurrection. The disciple’s reaction is one of faith as they rejoice recognizing Jesus as their “Lord.”

Beginning with vs. 21 Jesus makes His relationship with the Father the model for His disciple’s mission. The disciples receive Jesus’ **apostolic commission** to continue His mission and work by offering life to all believers. By breathing upon His disciples the **Holy Spirit** Jesus **commissions** them to continue His ministry. Breathing symbolizes a new creation. Moreover, the presence of the **Holy Spirit** resolves the problem of Jesus’ absence. The faith community is empowered to carry on the work of Jesus in the world by bearing witness to the reality of God’s presence in the revelation of Jesus. However, not everyone will accept the revelation of God in the person of Jesus. In John’s Gospel this non-acceptance is referred to as sin (a theological failing). Jesus grants to the faith community the power to forgive/bind sins, forcing people to judge themselves. This power is not the more restricted forgiveness of sins granted to the limited number of Apostles in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). This is all part of the gift of peace bestowed upon the community by Jesus.

So what does the Feast of Pentecost mean for us today? First of all Pentecost reminds us that the gift of the **Holy Spirit** is not limited to Old Testament prophets and New Testament saints. The **Holy Spirit** is given to everyone in the Sacrament of Baptism and is strengthened in Confirmation. Secondly, today’s feast reminds us that the **Holy Spirit** is present not just in dramatic moments (strong winds and tongues of fire) but whenever we manifest courage in living the Gospel, when we make wise and good choices, when we appreciate the magnificence of God’s presence, when we open our heart in prayer, when we deepen our knowledge of God and when we reach out in love and service to one another. And lastly, today’s feast proves that the **Holy Spirit** is for every life and every age a source of renewal and re-creation. When we find our lives in a rut or at a dead end we should turn to the **Holy Spirit**

as the Spirit will provide new avenues for us, restore our vision, encourage us to start again and renew our selves in the Lord.

The same **Holy Spirit** that Saints Luke, Paul and John talked about in today's Scriptures is truly present in our midst here and now. Part of our task is to discover how the **Holy Spirit** has gifted us as individuals and as a Church. Therefore let us all become aware of our call to bring to completion the work the Spirit began on the first Pentecost with the words of Jesus: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." As members of Christ's Body-the Church let us continue to spread the good news of the Gospel. And finally let us discover our gifts and use them freely and generously to better ourselves and our community. May our love and service of others make God's love known to them and help them better know, love and serve God. Together we pray: "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit upon us and we will be re-created. Come **Holy Spirit** and renew the face of the earth!" Have a blessed and a **Holy Spirit**-filled week.

Love & prayers,

Fr. John

PENTECOST COLLECTION

Today's Second Collection will be taken up for the Education and Formation of future priests in our Diocese and for the care of our Diocesan infirmed and elderly priests. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, June 5, St. Boniface

- 7:00 †D & J Killen
9:00 †Robert Pennell

Tuesday, June 6

- 7:00 †Frances Levine
9:00 †Nina Tolis

Wednesday, June 7

- 7:00 †Joe & Anna Hoholick
9:00 †Beverly Nadu

Thursday, June 8

- 7:00 †Charles & Lucy Marrone
9:00 †Beverly Nadu

Friday, June 9, St. Ephrem, Deacon-Doctor of the Church

- 7:00 †Harold Lacefield
9:00 Diocesan Diaconate Formation Program

Saturday, June 10

- 9:00 †Mary Rocca
5:00 †John & Helen Phillips

Sunday, June , 11, Most Holy Trinity Sunday

- 7:30 For the Parishioners
9:00 †Regina Puschauer
11:00 †Regina Puschauer

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

We will be publishing the names of your dear loved ones who are seriously ill or injured. *We will keep them in the bulletin for one month.* After the period of one month their names will be removed. For example, names announced in the bulletin the third week of the month will be removed the third week of the following month. If at that time prayers are still needed, please feel free to contact the parish

office, and we will be more than happy to re-publish your loved one's name.

May 28: Ramon Stief, Robert Christian, Byron Gift,
Jack McGowan

May 7: Melissa Kurtz, Janet Tomko Alex Masluk,
Elizabeth Farnquist

April 30: Anthony Tassa, John Griffis, Jean Givler,
Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Richard Warner, Brendan
Holbriiter.

SANCTUARY LAMP

You may have the Sanctuary Lamp burn for a sick or deceased loved one for a donation of \$5 to defray the cost of the candles. This week the candle burns for Thomas Sikie.



Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
5-28-17	\$	\$14,326.00	(\$)
YTD	Amount	YTD Need	Difference
5-28-17	\$	\$.00	(\$)

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT
COME HOLY SPIRIT**

Think about it: without the Spirit's inspiration, Christian men and women would not have handed down the gospel message from generation to generation until it reached you. But the Holy Spirit doesn't just live in great saints; He is also in you, helping you live a holy life. Have you ever felt inspired to reach out to someone in need? Have you ever tried to share your faith with someone? Have you ever fought hard against temptation and won? That is the Holy Spirit! So thank him! Think of some small way you can celebrate what he has done and what he is still doing today. Maybe spend a few extra minutes in prayer reading about the gifts of the Spirit. Or maybe treat yourself and your loved ones to a special dessert. After all, it is a birthday!



Religious Education Corner:

RE Re-Registration Forms For The 2017/2018 RE Year Were Mailed Out The Week Of The Feast Of The Ascension Of The Lord.

Thanks!

**The Religious Education Program Would
Like Congratulate All 2017 Graduates!**

**Please Remember Summer Break
Still Includes Attending Mass On
Sundays And Holy Days Of Obligation.**

**Please Visit <http://masstimes.org/>
To Locate Parishes With Mass Times
Both Here In The US And Worldwide.**



Don't forget to **SAVE THE DATE** for OMPH VBS! Join us at Maker Fun Factory **July 9 – 13** from 5:45 to 8:20 PM. Look for volunteer sign up in the hallway in the upcoming weeks. Call Carolyn at 799-8222 with any questions. See you there

HERSHEY PARK TICKETS

You may pick up your Hershey Park tickets in the parish office **Monday-Friday, from 9-4 PM.**

LAST CALL

On Sunday, July 9 at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill, Bishop Ronald Gainer will celebrate Mass to honor the love and commitment of couples married in 1967. After Mass couples are invited to attend a reception with Bishop Gainer, along with their families, and to receive a commemorative certificate for their 50th Anniversary. Please RSVP for this event by mailing in your pre-addressed card to the Family Life Office at the diocese. If you did not receive an RSVP card, please contact the parish office.



RESPECT LIFE

Do you want teens to hear the truth about abortion and the freedom of chastity? www.teenbreaks.com is a project of Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation and contains accounts in teens own words of how abortion affects them, as well as practical ways to live chastely.

Hear the bitter regrets of the girls who were pushed into abortion by parents or boyfriends. Abortion haunts these girls daily with sorrow, grief, and anger. Their advice to pregnant teens is a resounding "No!" to abortion and "Yes!" to life.

Teens are given strategies to deal with peer pressure,

ways to live authentic love and the vision that their bodies are sacred and worthy of respect.

This is a great resource! Pass this website on. Post it for teens to get the real facts about unexpected pregnancy.

Pray for one teen who is faced with a crisis pregnancy. Pray for one teen to choose chastity and freedom. Our prayers have power! www.teenbreaks.com **Andrea Ostrowski**



SOME FOOD BANK NEEDS



We are looking for some volunteers for our distributions. We have four groups of volunteers, one group for the first Wednesday, another for the second, etc.... If you can commit to attending our distribution the same week each month from 4:50 PM to 6:30 PM--we need you! Please email Bonnie Brown at bbjnb@ptd.net.

Also, it seems that we have an abundance of a certain food item one week and the next week, it is empty! The OMPH benevolent society food bank is currently in need of: **instant potatoes corn and mac & cheese**. Thanks in advance; we are graciously humbled by your continued generosity.

ATTENTION MUSICIANS

The OMPH Music Ministry invites you to share your musical talents with our parish family. We always welcome new singers, guitarists, pianists, organists, etc. The music ministry is a great way to meet other parishioners and to become more involved in our faith community. If you are interested in learning more about the many different opportunities we have available, I'd be happy to discuss details with you. Just email me, Jill McGowan, at jmcgowan333@yahoo.com

Please Save The Date

Attention All Families Of Students

Entering 6th Grade This Fall:

On Sunday, October 15th Lancaster Catholic High School Will Host The 5th Annual I AM Rally.

All OMPH 6th Grade Students Will Be Expected

To Attend The Rally Including RE Students, OMPH School Students, And Home School Students. There Will Be No 6th Grade RE Classes That Week So That All 6th Grade RE Students Can Attend The Rally.

SENIORS 55 AND OLDER

Would you enjoy a 5% discount on your car insurance for the next three years? Who wouldn't! Well, in Pennsylvania it is mandatory that if you take the AARP Smart Driving Course, the insurance company must give you a 5% discount. To get the discount, all you have to do is show up at the course, spend two four hour sessions and at the end you will get a completion certificate to give to your insurance company. **There are no tests. You cannot fail.** It is all in the classroom - **NO** on the road driving. The cost per person is \$15 for AARP Members and \$20 for non-members. If both husband and wife are on the insurance policy, both must take the course. For example, if your insurance cost for the year is \$1000 you would get a \$50 Discount for each of the next three years. So, for an investment of \$15 or \$20 you would save \$150. If you are interested in saving some money and learning about ongoing changes in yourself, vehicles, the roads, the driving laws and refreshing your memory on some safety strategies you might have forgotten, call the number below to register. We are holding a 4 hour Refresher Course on **June 3 from 8- 12** noon and if we get enough people interested, we will hold an Eight-Hour course at OMPH for those taking the course for the first

time. Please call the following phone number to register. Charlotte and Bob Galgon at 733-4369.

OMPH SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2017-18



WE ARE ENROLLING! Registration is now open to all parish families for Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2017-2018 school year. The Preschool program, for children who are 3 and 4 years old by September 1st, provides developmentally appropriate activities in a Catholic environment and offers an after-care program. Our full day Kindergarten program, for children who are 5 years old by September 1st, provides daily Religion class along with skill development in Language Arts and Math and special classes in computer, library, physical education, art, and music. Students in grades 1 through 8 experience an education noted for academic excellence in an environment which reinforces our Catholic identity. An on-site after school program is also available.

Come see why so many families choose OMPH Catholic School for their children! Personal tours can be scheduled by calling the Development Office at 738-2414.

To learn more about our school, please **visit our website** at www.omph.org or call the school office at 738-2414 for further information. **Find us on Facebook** at OMPH Ephrata!

OMPH ALUMNI



We will be having a school reunion Saturday, September 16 in the gym for anyone in the classes of 1960-2009. This is a 21 and over event. Flyers are available in the narthex. More information can be found on our Facebook page: OMPH Reunion or by calling Lauren (DePaul) Caramenico (Class of '94) at 314-1806.

**BISHOP'S ANNUAL LENTEN APPEAL
UPDATE**

"I GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE"

John 13:15

We began our Annual Diocesan Lenten Appeal on March 12th. Our Parish assessment figure for this year is **\$104,900**. As of May 22nd **375** families/households have pledged **\$101,469.76** and we have collected **\$76,388.43**. I want to express my appreciation and gratitude and say **Thank you** to all those who have already made pledges and have given to this year's appeal.

As you can see we are **\$3,430.24** short of our goal. According to our recent Parish Census there are approximately 1200 families/households in our community. I humbly ask and pray that those who have **not** made a pledge as of yet will kindly consider doing so. This way we will be able to make our assessment. You do **not** have to pay off your pledge all at once. You can pay it off weekly or monthly. If you need a Pledge Envelop you may pick one up in the Parish Office or in the Church narthex.

The funds collected for the Lenten Appeal help support the numerous Pastoral, Charitable, Educational, and Spiritual Programs in our diocese. Please note that funds collected during this year's Appeal that surpass our Parish assessment figure will be returned to us and placed in our Parish Saving's Account. Likewise, if we do not meet our assessment figure, funds will be taken out of our Savings Account to make up the difference. May God bless you and your loved ones for your kindness, generosity and support of this year's appeal.

Gratefully,
Fr. John