

Pentecost: The Transforming Energy

By Jimmy Akin

The original day of Pentecost saw dramatic events that are important to the life of the Church. But where did the feast of Pentecost come from? How can we understand what happened on it? And what does it mean for us today?

What does the name "Pentecost" mean?

It comes from the Greek word for "fiftieth" (*pentecoste*). The reason is that Pentecost is the fiftieth day (Greek, *pentecoste hemera*) after Easter Sunday (on the Christian calendar). This name came into use in the late Old Testament period and was inherited by the authors of the New Testament.

What kind of feast was Pentecost in the Old Testament?

It was a harvest festival, signifying the end of the grain harvest. Deuteronomy 16 states:

You shall count seven weeks; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you first put the sickle to the standing grain. Then you shall keep the feast of weeks to the Lord your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the Lord your God blesses you; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God [Dt. 16:9-11a].

What does Pentecost represent in the New Testament?

It represents the fulfillment of Christ's promise from the end of Luke's Gospel: "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high" [Lk. 24:46-49]. This "clothing with power" comes with the bestowal of the Holy Spirit upon the Church.

How is the Holy Spirit symbolized in the events of the day of Pentecost?

Acts 2 records: "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." This contains two notable symbols of the Holy Spirit and his activity: the elements of wind and fire. Wind is a basic symbol of the Holy Spirit, as the Greek word for "spirit" (*Pneuma*) also means "wind" and "breath." Although the term used for "wind" in this passage is *pnœ* (a term related to *pneuma*), the reader is meant to understand the connection between the mighty wind and the Holy Spirit.

Concerning the symbol of fire, the Catechism notes: "While water signifies birth and the fruitfulness of life given in the Holy Spirit, fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions. The prayer of the prophet Elijah, who "arose like fire" and whose "word burned like a torch," brought down fire from heaven on the sacrifice on Mount Carmel. This event was a "figure" of the fire of the Holy Spirit, who transforms what he touches. John the Baptist, who goes "before [the Lord] in the spirit and power of Elijah," proclaims Christ as the one who "will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Jesus will say of the Spirit: "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!" In the form of tongues "as of fire," the Holy Spirit rests on the disciples on the morning of Pentecost and fills them with himself. The spiritual tradition has retained this symbolism of fire as one of the most expressive images of the Holy Spirit's actions. "Do not quench the Spirit" [CCC 696].

Is there a connection between the "tongues" of fire and the speaking in other "tongues" in this passage?

Yes. In both cases, the Greek word for "tongues" is the same (*glossai*), and the reader is meant to understand the connection. The word "tongue" is used to signify both an individual flame and an individual language. The "tongues as of fire" i.e. individual flames are distributed to and rest on the disciples, thus empowering them to miraculously speak in "other tongues" i.e. languages. This is a result of the action of the Holy Spirit, signified by fire.

As one of the most important solemnities on the Church's calendar, Pentecost has a rich depth of meaning, but here is how Pope Benedict summarized it in 2012: "This Solemnity makes us remember and relive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and the other disciples gathered in prayer with the Virgin Mary in the Upper Room (cf. Acts 2:1-11). Jesus, risen and ascended into Heaven, sent his Spirit to the Church so that every Christian might participate in his own divine life and become his valid witness in the world. The Holy Spirit, breaking into history, defeats aridity, opens hearts to hope, stimulates and fosters in us an interior maturity in our relationship with God and with our neighbor."

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Reubens, *Descent of the Holy Spirit* (1619)

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MASSES & SERVICES

Saturday: 5pm
(Anticipated Mass)
Sunday: 9am, 11am & 5pm
Monday – Wednesday 8am
Thursday Mass/Novena:
8am & 7pm
Friday, Saturday, Holidays: 9am
(Fridays in July & August: 8am)
Children's Mass: 9am 1st
Sunday of the month Oct-June
Children's Liturgy: 11am
All Sundays except the 1st
Sunday from Sept- June
Reconciliation
Saturday: 4-4:45pm
Adoration
Saturday 9:30-10am
Library Hours
Sunday: 10-10:45am, 4:30-5pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm

STAFF

Pastor

Babu Mathew, CSsR

Associate Pastor

Joseph Horo, CSsR

In Residence

William Comerford, CSsR

Office Manager

Virginia Fong

Pastoral Coordinator

Bertilla Watanabe

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Corinna Siy

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Theresa Barao

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Lora Clarke

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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

June 9, 2019

Pentecost Sunday

Parish AGM: We Are Living Out Our Mission

Dear Parishioners,

I was very pleased and encouraged with the reports presented at last week's Annual General Meeting. There were lots of positive things to talk about. This is not meant to be a full financial report. That will come in a few months' time. It is an overview of how things are going at the parish and the school. In summary:

1. This is a parish where the Redemptorist charism combines true devotion to Our Lady and to the Lord's living presence in the Blessed Sacrament with outreach and action.
2. It is a faith community with an outstanding school which is an essential ministry within our parish.
3. Our lay faithful are co-responsible for the life of the Church.

As part of the report, I presented the Centennial Vision. I am very happy with the positive feedback I have received so far. Everyone understands the challenges of housing and the proposal is seen as a step in the right direction for both the Redemptorists and the parish as a whole. We reiterated our Parish Mission which we strive to uphold faithfully and of which I will remind you again:

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish is a liturgical Catholic community of disciples of all ages, learning together the Gospel of Christ that we might serve those beyond ourselves through spiritual development, education, justice formation and prayer. Inspired and guided by our Redemptorist pastors and in the embrace of Mary, we welcome all. We thank God for our gifts and promise to use them well to follow in Christ's footsteps in all aspects of our life.

These are some of the key parish statistics for 2018

Baptisms	68
Marriages	2
Funerals	12

Number of families who joined the parish

in 2016	57
in 2017	63
in 2018	74

Current number of families in the parish 632

Mass Attendance (Average number of parishioners per Mass) 167

Let us ask the Lord to continue to bless our parish with all the good gifts, spiritual and temporal, which he wishes us to share. May our Blessed Mother of Perpetual Help assist us to stay true to our mission in the name of Jesus our Redeemer.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R

PROJECT ADVANCE Live gratefully, give generously.

You can make a donation to Project Advance by filling out the pledge form you received in the mail or using the detachable envelope on the leaflet. You can also go to www.rcav.org. Just indicate that your parish is OLPH.



Lord, send forth your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. - Psalm 104

NEWS & NOTICES

Weekly Collection: Sunday Mass Offering June 1 & 2: \$6,800.35. Catholic Missions: \$1,112. Pope's Pastoral Works: \$10. Offering for the Needy: \$30. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

Food Bank: Our next Food Bank Appeal is next weekend. Proceeds will go to Sancta Maria House. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

PREP Pre-Registration: The Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is for elementary school aged children who are not attending Catholic school. Pre-registration for the 2018/2019 school year is open till June 30. Please contact Elizabeth Towers at 604-440-8809 or email prep.olph@rcav.org for information.

PEC Service: Thank you to Ed Barnes and Michael Sanderson, (our St Patrick's Regional Secondary school rep on their Education Committee) who are both completing their term of service on the PEC.

Choir Members for 9am & 11am Masses: The OLPH choir is seeking new members: we especially need singers who can commit to the Sunday 9am and 11am Masses. Rehearsals are on Monday evening 7-8pm. Please contact Music Director Catherine Walsh for more information: catherine.organist@gmail.com.

Fleece Blankets Wanted: Sylvie Son, OLPH Youth choir member and student at Lord Byng Secondary, is seeking donations of portable fleece blankets in good condition for care packages for the Door is Open. Monetary donations for purchase of new blankets also welcome. She will be available to receive blankets and donations in the Church foyer this weekend after the Sunday 5pm Mass and at all Masses next weekend. Please email Sylvie at charityeventatdunbartheater123@gmail.com for info. Thank you!

Youth Ministry Helpers: If you are interested in helping out at the Sunday 5pm Youth Mass or joining OLPH Youth Ministry, please contact Theresa Barao: olphyouthmin@gmail.com.

Pro-Life Sunday is June 16: Your support for local pro-life efforts has healed families and changed minds. With \$191,238 from the Pro-Life Sunday collection last year, thousands of lives were impacted thanks to your gifts. Can we raise more this year on Father's Day, June 16? Donate online at rcav.org/prolife or at your parish on June 16.

Rosary Rally Change of Location: The location of the Rosary rally on Saturday, June 15 at 10 a.m. has been changed to Holy Rosary Cathedral. The reason for the change is a pro-abortion rally and march will now be taking place, starting from the Art Gallery, at that time; let us pray for them. Come to pray the Rosary in honour of Our Lady, to make reparation to her for sins committed against her Immaculate Heart, and to beg graces from her Divine Son through her, with a public witness to the faith. Future rallies will be held at the South Plaza on July 13 and Aug. 10. Oct. 19 will be at the North Plaza.

Taizé Prayer Service: Please join us for an contemplative prayer in the tradition of the Taizé community. The evening will feature candlelight, music, and time for quiet in the midst of our busy lives. All are welcome. Takes place on Wednesday, June 19 at 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. at Immaculate Conception School in Vancouver.

OLPH GALA 2019 – A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE PEC

The Parish Education Committee (PEC) would like to thank all who came out to attend, support and volunteer at this year's OLPH School Gala on April 13 at the Four Seasons Hotel. Over 240 tickets were sold – an amazing turn-out – for a fun and entertaining evening emceed by Nat and Drew.

The final tally is in – over \$103,000 was raised! The bulk of these funds will go toward renovating the school washrooms over the summer while gaming proceeds from the evening will go toward bursaries. Special thanks to Gala Chair, Carrie Hughes-Grant and dedicated volunteers, Erin Davis, Lucy Fletcher, Suzie Hawrish, Matena Kravariotis, Tanya Krpan, Ingrid Lodewyk, Millie Lou, Tracey Marajh, Janine Mendes, Heidi Rahn, Karen Van Pykstra, Sandie Weitz, and Brooke Wozny.

– The OLPH Parish Education Committee

Stewardship Reflection

“The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.” (John 14:26)

The materialism of our society lures us to concentrate more on what we want than on what God wants for us. The relativism of our world tells us that we should be tolerant of all things and that there is no absolute truth. To counter this, let us pray to the Holy Spirit to help us discern the truths of our faith and guide our thoughts, words and actions every day.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

JUNE

Pentecost Barbecue

Join us for the Pentecost Sunday Barbeque after the 11am Mass.

OLPH Golf Fundraiser



Info and registration forms for this event are available in the church foyer.

OLPH Novena/Triduum & Feast

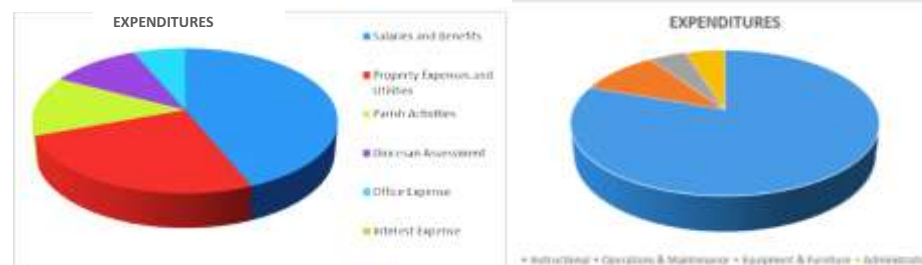


Bishop Jon Hansen, CSsR of the Diocese of MacKenzie-Fort Smith and Northwest Territories is our guest speaker at this year's Triduum Novena & Talks. This will climax with a special Mass to celebrate our feast day at 5pm on Sunday June 23 to be followed by a reception and potluck dessert from parishioners. All are invited.

Friday June 14 – Wed June 19: Novena after morning Mass
 -Thurs Novena & Talk June 20: 7pm
 -Fri Novena & Talk June 21: 7pm
 -Sat Novena & Talk June 22: 6pm
 -Sun June 23: Mass at 5pm
 Reception to follow. Please bring a dessert to share!



AGM Summary: Taken from Presentation



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish
 Receipts and Disbursements
 For the period ending Dec. 31, 2018

OLPH School
 Receipts & Disbursements
 For the period ending Dec 31, 2018

	2018	2017
Receipts	\$	\$
Collections	560,629	482,683
Interest Income	5,157	8,204
School North Wing Donations	46,612	87,614
Project advance rebate	13,415	35,651
Recovery of water utilities from the school		
	625,813	614,153
Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	253,883	272,441
Property Expenses and Utilities	148,005	171,797
Parish Activities	77,076	84,760
Diocesan Assessment	63,567	58,201
Office Expense	36,823	56,572
Interest Expense	0	1,187
	579,354	644,958
(Deficit) / Surplus	46,459	(30,805)

Note:

(1) Results include only parish-related financial activities. Jr Kindergarten operations, donations to the school, and charitable activities which flow through the parish accounts are not included.

(2) In 2018, results include \$46,612 in donations towards the construction of the school's north wing. Without these donations, the 2018 receipts would roughly be equal to expenses. In 2017, results include \$87,614 in donations towards the school's north wing construction. Without these donations, the 2017 receipts the deficit would have been roughly \$118,419.

School Financial Overview

School is a \$5 million per year operation and is a non-profit organization.

About 92% of our revenue comes from tuition fees and government grants.

About 81% of our expenses are for instructional purposes.

Forecasting a positive \$290K surplus variance due to non-recurring factors:

Lower than expected salaries primarily due to VP on medical leave (\$115K)

Lower than expected operations & maintenance due to delays and timing of projects (\$97K)

Higher tuition fees and government grants (\$52K)

Final 2018/19 surplus will be reserved for future operations & maintenance projects.

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

St. Alphonsus' Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

In the following pray from St. Alphonsus de' Liguori, we ask the Holy Spirit to grant us His seven gifts. The seven gifts are first enumerated in the Old Testament book of Isaiah (11: 1-3), and they appear in many Christian devotional works, including this prayer:

The Prayer

Holy Spirit, divine Consoler, I adore You as my true God, with God the Father and God the Son. I adore You and unite myself to the adoration You receive from the angels and saints. I give You my heart and I offer my ardent thanksgiving for all the grace which You never cease to bestow on me.

O Giver of all supernatural gifts, who filled the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with such immense favors, I beg You to visit me with Your grace and Your love and to grant me the **gift of holy fear**, so that it may act on me as a check to prevent me from falling back into my past sins, for which I beg pardon.

Grant me the **gift of piety**, so that I may serve You for the future with increased fervor, follow with more promptness Your holy inspirations, and observe Your divine precepts with greater fidelity.

Grant me the **gift of knowledge**, so that I may know the things of God and, enlightened by Your holy teaching, may walk, without deviation, in the path of eternal salvation.

Grant me the **gift of fortitude**, so that I may overcome courageously all the assaults of the devil, and all the dangers of this world which threaten the salvation of my soul.

Grant me the **gift of counsel**, so that I may choose what is more conducive to my spiritual advancement and may discover the wiles and snares of the tempter.

Grant me the **gift of understanding**, so that I may apprehend the divine mysteries and by contemplation of heavenly things detach my thoughts and affections from the vain things of this miserable world.

Grant me the **gift of wisdom**, so that I may rightly direct all my actions, referring them to God as my last end; so that, having loved Him and served Him in this life, I may have the happiness of possessing Him eternally in the next. Amen.

Family Mass Breaks for the Summer

Last Sunday we celebrated our last family Mass in the school year. The next Family Mass will be in October. If you would like to volunteer to help with this Mass, when we resume, please email Agata: kroondyk@aquinas.org or Heather: hleachsage@gmail.com for coffee/food and hospitality, Melina: melinaivanovic@gmail.com for choir.

