

Living the Gospel



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PENTECOST SUNDAY

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost. With this feast, we reach the fulfillment of the Easter Season with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The event of the Resurrection is lived out by the disciples when they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, gives us the account of what happened on the feast of Pentecost. The disciples were gathered with the Virgin Mary in the Upper Room and suddenly they received the power of the Holy Spirit. It came as a rushing wind, which refers to God's powerful presence and the fact that their hearts are completely transformed and renewed. Tongues of fire came upon each of the disciples, which means that the fullness of the Holy Spirit came upon each of them and now they were able to fulfill God's commandments in their lives. This episode connects with the giving of the law on Mount Sinai. Now, the disciples received God's commandments inscribed in their hearts. From that moment onwards, they can fulfil the commandment of love without any effort. They can live lives to the fullest. We are also called to participate in this great mystery by receiving the fullness of God's life in our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, presents the effects of the Holy Spirit in the Christian community. First, the Spirit brings about unity and communion. Whoever has the Spirit of God is united and cares for the members of the community. Second, each person receives a different gift or charism for the upbuilding of the community. It is for the good of the community and not for their own good. The Spirit of God manifests itself in unity and diversity. We are also called to live this unity in the community of St. John's by which we are all guided by the same Holy Spirit. At the same time, each person has a different gift that put together, makes our parish grow in a marvellous way. The Gospel, from St. John, brings us the passage of the manifestation of the Risen Christ to the disciples on Easter Sunday. When they are full of fears and in anguish, Christ tells them not to be afraid but to receive the peace that comes from the wounds of the Risen Christ. He also gives them the Holy Spirit, which enables them to share in His Risen Life and makes them witnesses of His Resurrection in all corners of the world. Let us open our hearts to the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we can participate in the glory of the Risen Lord!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant, and your Pastor

Pope Francis Homily for the Solemnity of Pentecost (June 4, 2017) Today concludes the Easter season, the fifty days that, from Jesus' resurrection to Pentecost, are marked in a particular way by the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is in fact the Easter Gift par excellence. He is the Creator Spirit, who constantly brings about new things. Today's readings show us two of those new things. In the first reading, the Spirit makes of the disciples a new people; in the Gospel, he creates in the disciples a new heart.

A new people. On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit came down from heaven, in the form of "divided tongues, as of fire... [that] rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages" (Acts 2:3-4). This is how the word of God describes the

working of the Spirit: first he rests on each and then brings all of them together in fellowship. To each he gives a gift, and then gathers them all into unity. In other words, the same Spirit creates diversity and unity, and in this way forms a new, diverse and unified people: the universal Church. First, in a way both creative and

unexpected, he generates diversity, for in every age he causes new and varied charisms to blossom. Then he brings about unity: he joins together, gathers and restores harmony: "By his presence and his activity, the Spirit draws into unity spirits that are distinct and separate among themselves" (Cyril of Alexandria, Commentary on the Gospel of John, XI, 11). He does so in a way that effects true union, according to God's will, a union that is not uniformity, but unity in difference.

So the prayer we make to the Holy Spirit is for the grace to receive his unity, a glance that, leaving personal preferences aside, embraces and loves his Church, our Church. It is to accept responsibility for unity among all, to wipe out the gossip that sows the darnel of discord and the poison of envy, since to be men and women of the Church means being men and women of communion. It is also to ask for a heart that feels that the Church is our Mother and our home, an open and welcoming home where the manifold joy of the Holy Spirit is shared.

Now we come to the second new thing brought by the Spirit: a new heart. When the risen Jesus first appears to his disciples, he says to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them" (Jn 20:22-23). Jesus does not condemn them for having denied and abandoned him during his passion, but instead grants them the spirit of forgiveness. The Spirit is the first gift of the risen Lord, and is given above all for the forgiveness of sins. Here we see the beginning of the Church, the glue that holds us together, the cement that binds the bricks of the house: forgiveness. Because forgiveness is gift to the highest degree; it is the greatest love of all. It preserves unity despite everything, prevents collapse, and consolidates and strengthens. Forgiveness sets our hearts free and enables us to start afresh. Forgiveness gives hope; without forgiveness, the Church is not built up.

The spirit of forgiveness resolves everything in harmony, and leads us to reject every other way: the way of hasty judgement, the cul-de-sac of closing every door, the one-way street criticizing others. Instead, the Spirit bids us take the two-way street of forgiveness received and forgiveness given, of divine mercy that becomes love of neighbour, of charity as "the sole criterion by which everything must be done or not done, changed or not changed" (ISAAC OF STELLA, Or. 31). Let us ask for the grace to make more beautiful the countenance of our Mother the Church, letting ourselves be renewed by forgiveness and self-correction. Only then will we be able to correct others in charity.

The Holy Spirit is the fire of love burning in the Church and in our hearts, even though we often cover him with the ash of our sins. Let us ask him: "Spirit of God, Lord, who dwell in my heart and in the heart of the Church, guiding and shaping her in diversity, come! Like water, we need you to live. Come down upon us anew, teach us unity, renew our hearts and teach us to love as you love us, to forgive as you forgive us. Amen".



St. John the Evangelist's Social Committee invites you to **Family and Food Fun Day!** Saturday, June 10th, 2023

From 11:30-3:00 p.m.

Join us on the church grounds for tons of fun and games for the whole family! Come and share in culinary delights from around the world.

BYOLC: Bring your own lawn chair!

CHALICE SPONSORSHIP WEEKEND

June 10/11, 2023

Chalice Canada is the largest child sponsorship program in Canada. Sponsorship through Chalice enables parishioners to help families struggling with poverty with communities that lack the essentials, including food, medicine, and clean water.

Your sponsorship of \$42 per month changes all that. Parish volunteers from Chalice will be promoting sponsorships on Saturday June 10th and Sunday June 11th after all masses. Information pamphlets with children in need of sponsoring will be on display in the foyer. You are invited to tour the display and have any questions answered to assist you.

Natauashish Night

The Knight's North Group of KofC Council 4895 is hostin the 10th Annual Ray Hayes Memorial Music Night for Natuashish Labrador.

When: Friday June 16, at 7:30pm (doors open at 7pm)

Where:Knights of Columbus Hall, 133 Brock St.

Cost \$20 per person

Tickets available from Mark McGowan

(dr.mhairc@gmail.com) or 905-668-0959

Enjoy local talent and help raise funds for the Innu People of Natuashish

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday June 7, 2023 at 8PM at the Knights Hall at 133 Brock St. For further information assisting the St John's community and becoming a Knight through our online virtual application and exemplification process taking less than an hour, contact Membership Director Bryan Childerhouse bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com or call 416-508-9877



ShareLife-funded agencies turn no one away Did you know that no one is turned away from ShareLife-funded agencies due to inability to pay? This is all thanks to your generosity to our annual appeal. It is through your support that ShareLife agencies are able to help the most vulnerable in our community and around the world. Thus far we have raised \$53,000 toward our goal of \$148,700. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

The 3rd collection for ShareLife takes place next weekend.

Join us at Totus Tuus Summer Camp!

DAY CAMP (for students entering grade 1-6 in September) - \$80/child for the week

Monday, July 10th to Friday, July 14th, 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

EVENING PROGRAM (for students entering grade 7-12 in September) - \$40/child for the week

Sunday, July 9th to Thursday, July 13th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

The deadline to register for the camp is June 30th, 2023.

Parishioners are invited to volunteer! We need student volunteers (age 13-18) and adult volunteers (18+) to help the children and youth stay safe, have fun and grow in their faith. **The deadline to apply to volunteer is June 1st, 2023.** For more information about volunteering or to register, please email Cassandra at cass.sullivan@archtoronto.org or contact the parish office.

Volunteer Appreciation Night

Thursday, June 1, 2023

at 7:00pm, Parish Centre

IT'S BACK!

Fr. Francisco would like to thank all in Ministry by invitation to join us for hors d'oeuvres, wine and friendly fellowship.

Please RSVP to the parish office by email or phone call stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org or 905-668-3676



Masses For The Week

Sat May 27 – 5:00pm

+Marie Therese Tiron

req. by Christiane Prior

Mon May 29 – 8:20am **+Sheila Larkin**

req. by Pat McDonald

Tues May 30 – 8:20am

+Patrick Fitzpatrick

req. by Nina Veltri & Family

Wed May 31– 7:00pm

+Gilles Jean

req. by Theresa & Jacquie

+Patrick Treacy Jr.

req. by Theresa & Jacquie

+Balendra Nagalingam

req. by His Family

Int. for Alyssa Bucciarelli Birthday

req. by Paul Adamek

Int. for Blessings Received

req. by Maria Singh

Thur Jun 1 – 8:20am

+Walter Ratnasingham

req. by His Wife & Family

Friday May 26 – 8:20am

+James Dashney Jr

req. by Clare Dashney & Family

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