

Living the
Gospel

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PENTECOST SUNDAY

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, we reach the culmination of the Easter Season. The First Reading, from the Book of the Acts of Apostles, presents the account of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. They were gathered in the Upper Room and the Holy Spirit came upon them in the form of tongues of fire and a strong wind. The hearts of the apostles were transformed by the Spirit of the Risen Christ, and they had the strength to go out to announce the Gospel. All of us need to receive the Holy Spirit in our hearts so that He can allow us to live the Resurrection of Christ in our daily lives. It is Him who allows us to have peace, courage, and a grateful heart. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, gives us the joyful news that we have been made children of God. The Spirit of Christ makes us live in a spirit of trust in which we can have confidence in any situation since God sustains us and provides for us. It is amazing to be reassured that we have a Heavenly Father who cares for us and His only desire is that we have life and to the fullest. This fullness of life Spirit. It is Him who gives us the opportunity to be complete. The Gospel, from St. John, gives us a teaching of Jesus on the Holy Spirit during the Last Supper. Jesus Christ is going to send us an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to be with us and to make us experience God's life in us. All of us need to be reassured and supported in our daily lives, especially when we face difficulties and struggles. The Holy Spirit is the One who constantly walks with us and strengthens us in any kind of trouble. Let us open our hearts to the coming of the Holy Spirit who comes to support and strengthen us!

I want to congratulate all the children who have received their First Communion in the past weeks and all the young people who were confirmed last week. May the Lord fill them with peace and may they grow in faith, hope and love!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Regina Caeli on the Solemnity of Pentecost (May 29, 2022)

And today, happy feast day too, because today we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost. We celebrate the effusion of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, which took place fifty days after Easter. Jesus had promised it several times. In today's Liturgy, the Gospel recounts one of these promises, when Jesus said to the disciples: "He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (Jn 14:26). This is what the Spirit does: he teaches and reminds us of what Christ said. Let us reflect on these two actions, to teach and to remind, because it is in this way that he makes the Gospel of Jesus enter into our hearts.

First of all, the Holy Spirit teaches. In this way he helps us to overcome an obstacle that presents itself to us in the experience of faith: that of distance. He teaches us to overcome the obstacle of distance in the experience of faith. Indeed, the doubt may arise that between the Gospel and everyday life there is a great distance: Jesus lived two thousand years ago, they were other times, other situations, and therefore the Gospel seems to be outdated, it seems unable to speak to our current moment, with its demands and its problems. The question also comes to us: what does the Gospel have to say in the age of the internet, in the age of globalization? What impact can its word have?

We can say that the Holy Spirit is a specialist in bridging distances, he knows how to bridge distances; he teaches us how to overcome them. It is he who connects the teaching of Jesus with every time and every person. With him Christ's words are not a memory, no: Christ's words, by virtue of the Holy Spirit, come alive today! The Spirit makes them alive for us: through Scripture he speaks to us and directs us in the present. The Holy Spirit does not fear the passing of the centuries; rather, He makes believers attentive to the problems and events of their time. Indeed, for when the Holy Spirit teaches, he actualizes: he keeps faith ever young. We risk making faith a museum piece: it is a risk! He, on the other hand, brings it up to date, always up to date, the faith up to date: this is his job. For the Holy Spirit does not bind himself to passing epochs or fashions, but brings into today the relevance of Jesus, risen and living.

And how does the Spirit do this? By making us remember. Here is the second verb, to remind, *ri-cordare*. What does remind mean? To remind means to restore to the heart, *ri-cordare*: the Spirit restores the Gospel to our heart. It happens as it did for the Apostles: they had listened to Jesus many times, yet they had

understood little. The same thing happens to us. But from Pentecost forth, with the Holy Spirit, they remember and they understand. They welcome his words as made specially for them, and they pass from an outward knowledge, an awareness of memory, to a living relationship, a convinced, joyful relationship with the Lord. It is the Spirit who does this, who moves from "hearsay" to personal knowledge of Jesus, who enters the heart. Thus, the Spirit changes our lives: he makes Jesus' thoughts become our thoughts. And he does this by reminding us of his words, bringing Jesus' words to our heart, today.

Brothers and sisters, without the Spirit reminding us of Jesus, faith becomes forgetful. Very often, faith becomes a recollection without memory; instead, memory is living and living memory is brought by the Spirit. And we – let us try to ask ourselves – are we forgetful Christians? Maybe all it takes is a setback, a struggle, a crisis to forget Jesus' love and fall into doubt and fear? Woe to us, should we become forgetful Christians! The remedy is to invoke the Holy Spirit. Let us do this often, especially in important moments, before difficult decisions and in difficult situations. Let us take the Gospel in our hands and invoke the Spirit. We can say, "Come, Holy Spirit, remind me of Jesus, enlighten my heart". This is a beautiful prayer: "Come, Holy Spirit, remind me of Jesus, enlighten my heart". Shall we say it together? "Come, Holy Spirit, remind me of Jesus, enlighten my heart". Then, let us open the Gospel and read a small passage slowly. And the Spirit will make it speak to our lives.

May the Virgin Mary, filled with of the Holy Spirit, kindle in us the desire to pray to him and receive the Word of God.

PILGRIMAGE TO MARTYRS' SHRINE

Date: Saturday, July 26th
Departs St. John's at 8:30am
returns at 6:30pm

Cost: \$45.00

For further details call: 905-668-3218

Thank You Volunteer Appreciation Night

**Thursday, June 12, 2025
at 7:00pm, Parish Centre**

**Please RSVP to the parish office by
email vmorgan@archtoronto.org**

JUNE 8, 2025

GRAND IN YOUR HAND

Your Catholic Women's League will be selling 50/50 tickets for the "Grand in Your Hand" draw after all masses on June 14/15. 100 tickets will be sold at \$20.00 each. The winner will win \$1,000.00 and \$1,000.00 will go towards o/r January charitable disbursements. Once the 100 tickets are sold, the draw will be made. The winner will be contacted and announced in the bulletin. We thank you for your continued support and we wish you luck.

CWL GENERAL MEETING

Our last general meeting before the summer break will take place on Thursday, June 19th at 6:00 p.m. In the main room of the parish centre. It will be a pot-luck supper with some business. Please bring your food donation, your place setting and your appetite. If you have any questions or require transportation, please contact Lynne Childerhouse at 905-431-6582 or lchilderhouse@hotmail. All women of the parish are invited to come and meet your CWL, and just maybe you'd like to join us.

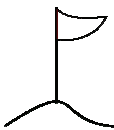


Collection to date \$81,254.19

Goal: \$174,000

You are the light of hope this ShareLife Sunday

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.



St. John Parish Golf Update

Saturday, June 21st 10am start

**Lyndebrook Golf Course
5055 Baldwin St. N, Whitby
Registration: QR Code Registration
and all the details**



PRAYER FOR PEACE

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025

All are invited to the 10th Anniversary of the Prayer for Peace Multifaith Service on Saturday, June 14, 2025, 2:00pm to 3:00 pm at St. John the Evangelist Church. There will be a reception to follow from 3:00 to 4:00 pm in the Parish Centre.

For information on the Prayer for Peace 2025 please contact Deidre Newman
dnewman@danewmanlaw.com

CHALICE SPONSORSHIP WEEKEND

JUNE 14/15, 2025

A member from Chalice will speak at all masses. Child Sponsorship enables parishioners to help families struggling with poverty through an organization which is faithful to the Church and obedient to her bishops. Your sponsorship of \$42 per month gives a child a future of completing their education and providing them with necessities such as nutrition, healthcare etc.

R.C.I.A

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) provides instruction and spiritual formation to anyone 16 years of age and older who are not baptized, or baptized in another Christian community, who would like to become a member of the Catholic Church. Catholic adults who have not yet celebrated their First Eucharist or the Sacrament of Confirmation may also take part. RCIA Sessions take place on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 9pm in the Parish Centre beginning soon. Interested participants should contact Fr. Francisco at the Parish Office as soon as possible to register: (905) 668-3676.



Masses For The Week

Sat Jun 7- 5:00pm

+Eli Hallett

req. by Fred & Jacque Shady & Family

Mon. Jun 9 – 8:20 am

+Paul Collins

req. by Gail McMonagle

Tues Jun 10 – 8:20am

+Maria Zak

req. by Ann Mueller & Family

Wed Jun 11 – 7:00pm

+Julian Armando Rodriguez

req. by Sandra Salcedo & Family

+Alex Pol

req. by Kathy Webb

+George Schell

req. by Sonja Wright

+Deceased Members of the Luis Family

req. by Hyacinth, Cavin, Cydell & Herschelle

In Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered

req. by Theresa Robinson

Thur Jun 12 – 8:20am

+Tony & Carol Leitch

req. by Their Family

Fri Jun 13 – 8:20am

+Ante Barich

req. by His Wife & Family



Marygrove Camp Collection June 14/15 2025

A fully subsidized camp for girls age 5-12. Campers participate in a full range of activities including swimming, canoeing, crafts, drama, sports, co-operative games, hikes, star gazing and campfires. Cheques should be made out to St. John the Evangelist Church – Marygrove Camp. THANK YOU!

Totus Tuus Summer Camp!

DAY CAMP

(students going into grade 1-6 in the fall)

- Monday July 7th to Friday July 11th 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

EVENING PROGRAM

(students going into grade 7-12 in the fall)

- Sunday July 6th to Thursday July 10th 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The deadline to register for the camp is June 16th. For more information,

contact sjewhitbyyouth@gmail.com or the parish office.

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