Pentecost

May 24, 2026

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Pentecost is one of the three most important feasts of the Church Year. We know that Christmas is one of the three. It's easy to get excited about the birth of a baby, especially when the baby is God's Son and His mother is the Virgin Mary. We know that the feast of Jesus' resurrection is the most important feast of all, because if there were no resurrection, we would have no faith or hope at all. But Pentecost, the third most important feast, seems like another ordinary Sunday.

Pentecost was not invented by the Church. The Jews were celebrating Pentecost 3000 years ago. It was one of their three most important feasts. It was originally a harvest feast on which fruits were offered in gratitude to God. It later came to be celebrated as the anniversary of the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai. The word itself means simply 50th, the 50th day after Jewish Passover. The Jews were celebrating that feast when the Spirit came on Jesus' followers. And so Pentecost is still celebrated, but we who are Christians celebrate it as the day on which God sent His Holy Spirit upon the Church.

Pentecost isn't just the celebration of a past event. It is important for us today, because the Holy Spirit is important for us today. The Spirit is hard to picture because the Spirit is within us when we are in God's grace. The Spirit is like the air we breathe, the light that goes on when we have an idea, the fire that burns in our heart. And so the Scriptures use these symbols to help us know the Spirit. This weekend, in the first reading, the Spirit is a strong driving wind whereas in St. John's gospel, the Spirit is the gentle breath of Jesus who breathes on His apostles and says,"Receive the Holy Spirit. In either case, the Spirit is like the air, unable to be seen, but something we cannot live without. The Spirit is like the light that goes on in our mind when we have an idea: Jesus tells us in the gospel "He will guide you to all the truth."

When we pray, the Spirit is at work in us, helping us to pray. God wants us to know Him and love Him and the Spirit helps us to do that. But because the Spirit works within us, we are not aware the Spirit is even there. When it comes to God, there is no way we could find Him or know Him if He didn't show Himself to us. And He has done so in Jesus Christ. But we cannot know Jesus Christ without the help of the Spirit. As St. Paul tells us in this weekend's second reading: "No one can say Jesus is Lord except in the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, God is really unknown to us...." The Spirit makes us constantly aware of God's presence with us and God's love for us. The Spirit helps the Scriptures come alive for us because through them God speaks to us.

Fr. Leo A. Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**May 26**	**11:00AM**
Agnes Llamas		Ed & Mae
Wed.	**May 27**	**11:00AM**
Elliott Avery (Thanksgiving)		Lolo & Lola
Thur.	**May 28**	**11:00AM**
Raymond Arcega (Birthday)		Mom & Dad
Fri.	**May 29**	**11:00AM**
Ender Ty (Thanksgiving)		Lolo & Lola
Sat.	**May 30**	**4:30PM**
Diane Thomas †		Lydia & Family
Sun.	**May 31**	**9:00AM**
Rose Catalano †		ICF #14
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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