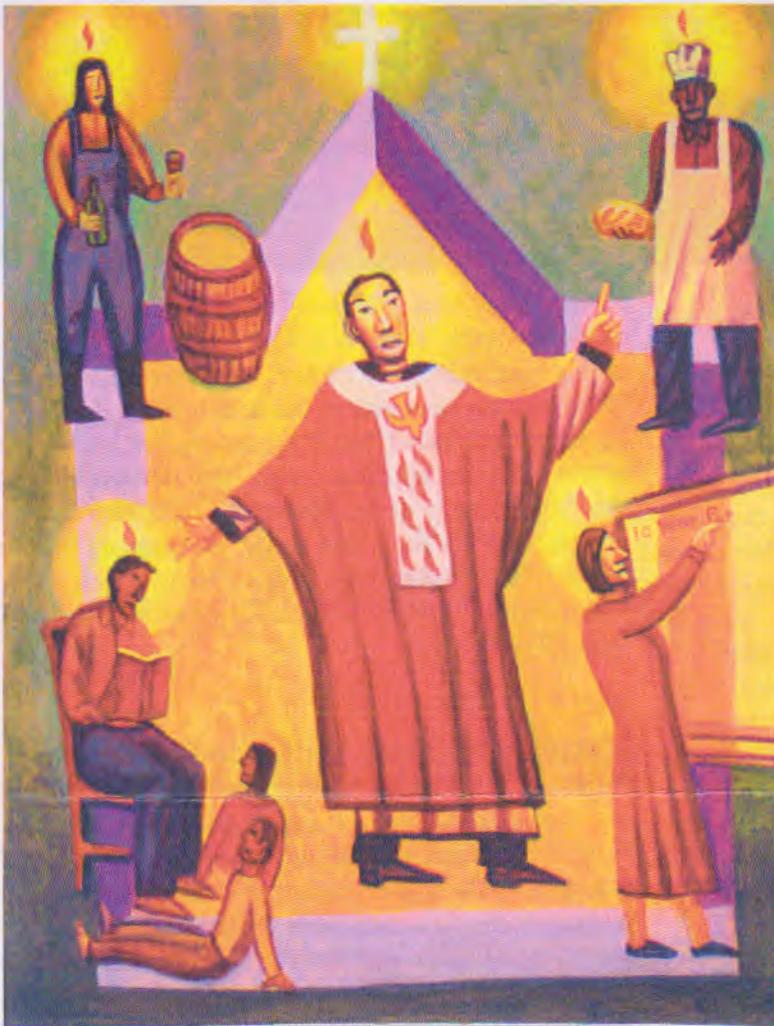


# PENTECOST SUNDAY



## Spirit of Life

Almighty Father,  
shower upon us the sevenfold gifts of  
your love,  
that we may bask in your salvation  
and live lives full of service and joy.  
Filled with the gifts of the Spirit,  
may we go out from our communities,  
ready to share the fruits of the Lord's  
Passion, Death, and Resurrection  
with the whole world.  
May the Spirit who is our life and  
breath enliven us  
and may our unique gifts be shared  
with the entire Body of Christ.  
We ask this through our Lord  
Jesus Christ,  
your Son, who lives and reigns  
with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, June 8, 2014

Invite the Spirit

Today's Readings: Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 (see 30); 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23. Today the eternal Paraclete comes down, freeing us from sin and sorrow. The Spirit of the Lord, who blows where he will, cleanses and heals the wounded earth, a healing balm poured out from the Cross. Today the Spirit also burns within us, flinging wide doors and windows, that we may embrace the universal call to holiness, as proclaimed by the Second Vatican Council.

Take time, on this holy day, and throughout the year, to invite the Spirit into your life. Pray for true wisdom, courage, compassion, consolation, healing, and peace that comes from the *ruach* (breath) of God. Try to become more sensitive to the workings of the Spirit around you.

Continue to pray for all neophytes, the newly baptized, and continue to accompany them on their faith journey. Invite them to participate in parish activities, such as Bible study, small faith sharing groups, and hospitality following the Sunday Eucharist. At the same time, pray for new seekers to be led to the RCIA process at your parish. Is there someone you know who might like to be invited to Mass? Consider whether you are called to participate in RCIA as a sponsor or in some other way.

May we continue to embrace the various charisms given to the Body of Christ for the common good. Whatever gifts, ministries, or works we find within our community, let them be true expressions of the Spirit, so that all may be continually enlivened through that same Spirit. "Come, Holy Spirit, enliven the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your divine love!"



## THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

### Ordinary Time

Easter Time closes with the celebration of Pentecost, and we return to Ordinary Time. The term “Ordinary Time” does not mean time that is commonplace or usual, but rather it designates the weeks arranged in a numbered series. Ordinary Time is counted time outside of the holy seasons. We began counting the weeks of Ordinary Time after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Monday, January 13, 2014. We celebrated the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time on March 2, 2014 and then Lent began on Ash Wednesday, March 5. On Monday, June 9, we begin counting Ordinary Time again with the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time. We will keep counting all the way through the Thirty-Fourth Week of Ordinary Time that will end on Saturday, November 29. On the next day, November 30, a new liturgical year will begin with the First Sunday of Advent. Here are four solemnities we will celebrate during the coming weeks of Ordinary Time.

### Sunday, June 15

#### Most Holy Trinity

Today’s readings offer insights about the three persons of the Trinity. In a dramatic scene, mighty Lord God stands with Moses on the mountain and proclaims that he is “merciful and gracious.” In the closing of his letter to the Corinthians, Paul prays that each person of the Trinity remain with the community through a characteristic attribute: Jesus Christ (grace), God (love), and Holy Spirit (communion). Finally, we hear Jesus teaching that God sent him, the Son, into the world to save it and not to condemn it, if only we can believe in him. Through these many actions of the Trinity, we receive mercy, grace, love, communion—and we are saved. Today’s Readings: Exodus 34:4b–6, 8–9; 2; Responsorial Psalm: Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55 (52b); 2 Corinthians 13:11–13; John 3:16–18.

### Sunday, June 22

#### Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

To celebrate today’s solemnity, we hear what happens when the crowds (who had heard about the feeding of the five thousand)

come to Jesus, hoping for more bread. After telling them that he himself is the “Bread of Life,” he explains: “Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever.” His listeners are perplexed: “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” As they often do, the people have taken him literally, but he is trying to reveal a deeper, spiritual truth. How do you understand this great mystery of the “Bread of Life”? How does Jesus feed us with his Body and Blood, and how do they bring us life? Today’s Readings: Deuteronomy 8:2–3, 14b–16a; Psalm 147:12–13, 14–15, 19–20 (12); 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; John 6:51–58.

### Tuesday, June 24

#### Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

On this day, celebrated six months before Christmas Eve, we hear the story of John’s miraculous conception, and how his father’s muteness disappeared when he named the child according to the instructions of the angel. John was a wild prophet, with odd eating habits (locusts and honey), strange dress (camel hair), and fiery preaching. He was Jesus’s cousin, sent by God to prepare the way for the Christ with his vigorous call for conversion. Jesus highly esteemed him, and the Church celebrates his birthday with a Mass at the vigil as well as on the day. Some in the family could draw him or sculpt his figure from foil, placing it in water to signify the Jordan River where he baptized Jesus. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 49:1–6; Psalm 139:1–3, 13–14, 14–15 (14a); Acts 13:22–26; Luke 1:57–66, 80.

### Friday, August 15

#### Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Today’s Gospel is joyous—recalling Elizabeth’s words about Mary, the Mother of God: “Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” We also hear Mary’s hymn of thanksgiving to God: “My spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.” Gather flowers, fruits, and vegetables to honor Mary. Today’s Readings: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab; Psalm 45:10, 11, 12, 16 (10bc); 1 Corinthians 15:20–27; Luke 1:39–56.



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*Keeping the Seasons*

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