

A blessed Pentecost Sunday to you as we pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all of us anew! Further, it is the Spirit that consoles, strengthens, and guides us among other things. It is providential that we hear the Easter Sunday Gospel as this day closes the Easter Season. We hear this Gospel to give us a challenge to live out the meaning of Easter everyday and that meaning guided by these three realities:

1. He IS Risen
2. The Spirit Guides Us
3. We encounter the above two realities with him in prayer and the sacraments.

If we begin each day with that on our mind, hearts, and in prayer, then we continue to live out the glory of Easter and the power of the Risen Jesus daily! Also, remember it is the Spirit that keeps us connected to the love of the Father and the Son; and helps us see his presence in one another. That is why it is so important to pray for the Outpouring of the Spirit regularly.

On this Pentecost weekend, this is a great reminder that the Spirit moves and is here! We are called by the spirit through prayer and discernment to live our lives. Outside of our personal prayer lives we have the Sacraments. And from the sacraments flows grace for the action of our daily lives. Have you wanted to complete your sacraments and have not had the opportunity to do so? Yes, OCIA continues to be a great tool and avenue to make this happen, but we can also look at meeting you where you are at. If you/or an adult family member would like to receive any of the sacraments, or you have questions about them, please contact the office so that we can meet you where you are at and help you!

Our prayer also helps us work for vocations. We are called to continue to listen to the spirit and ask that question of how we are called to support vocations, especially to the Priesthood. Again, never underestimate your ask of a young person if they have ever thought of this vocation. And never most importantly underestimate the power of prayer as we continue to pray for more vocations in the coming weeks and months. May we listen to the spirit and be its instruments as we have done already and continue to do.

As we end the easter season, so does the catechesis on Sacraments that has been happening in our bulletin. This weekend is about the Sacraments of Healing: Confession and Anointing of the Sick. I spent a great deal of time earlier in the season of Lent reminding us of the importance of the the Sacrament of Reconciliation. But again, I hope that we continue to take advantage of this powerful sacramental gift (after all Sunday Morning Masses at St. Charles and Eusebius; and before 4pm Mass on Saturday's at IC with other times as scheduled). Never underestimate his willingness of mercy and a great reminder to go every time we find ourselves in mortal sin (anytime we commit mortal sin, it always must be confessed); or once a month to keep us in practice (the church does require us to go at least once/year). As I said before, I keep the word "confession" locked in my online calendar to remind me so I can go when I find myself in either of the above and the busy-ness of life! Finally, sin is not about judgement but justice. We don't get to make the rules; God does. He tells us what sin is. We commit the offense, but Jesus took the penalty through his mercy. But like any other gift we must unwrap it. We do so by being honest and humble in the confessional and then go forward with renewed holiness. What a great gift! Remember, there is nothing that you can ever say that the priest will judge you (or say anything to you about it outside of the confessional) and we have heard everything. Just be honest and Jesus will renew your holiness.

Regarding the anointing of the Sick: This sacrament has had history like the others from Jesus himself. However, its practice and pragmatics may have shifted over the ages. For a while in our history it was understood that we should (or could) only receive it once and

that was right before death. This was typically paired with Communion before death. However, the Second Vatican Council took us back to the roots of how this Sacrament was celebrated in the early church and that is how it is now. Like the Sacrament of Confession, we can (and should) receive it many times in our lives when we are struggling with sickness of body, mind, or spirit. That is why it is offered communally twice/year in our parish and anytime by request. The oil used in this sacrament is blessed (along with the Oil of the Catechumen and the consecrated Sacred Chrism) at the Chrism Mass on Monday of Holy week by the Bishop. We do not believe that it has magical powers (we do not believe in magic at all); nor is it a "cure-all". The importance of this Sacrament is that it can give us spiritual strength to help us in the physical healing/comfort that we need regardless of the health prognosis. That is why you can receive it hours before death, before surgery, dealing with chronic pain, or when requested when dealing with an ailment of the body, mind, or spirit. *(remember the request is when the priest is available to do so and is not something demanded of him)*. With this sacrament I do also offer it twice/year to all our nursing home/shut in parishioners in their home as well. Never tire from seeking his healing from Sin in the Confessional; or from the grace offered in the Anointing of the Sick as he only wants to give you mercy....all you need to do is ask!

I would like to take this opportunity to offer thanks to all who have helped make our Easter Season so meaningful. To all of our Liturgical Ministers, Musicians/Cantors, Servers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Ushers, Bible Study Leaders, Catechists, and our Staff that have worked very hard through the Lenten and Easter Seasons to help us know his love. Also, thank you to all who have joined us for our Adoration vigil this weekend. Again, thank you to all!

As we are in the home stretch of the Easter Season, we also pause as a Nation this Memorial Day weekend to Remember and say thank you to all who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can live in the greatest country in the World. This weekend is more than the unofficial start of summer, but a time to remember the gifts we have as a Nation, and the gifts given to us in the dignity of our lives. Traditionally, Memorial Day is also a time to visit a cemetery. As you pass a Cemetery this weekend say a quick prayer for those who are resting there; as well as those who mourn them; and for the souls in Purgatory that need our Prayer. **I also hope you can join me for Mass at 8:30a on Monday at St. Eusebius Cemetery (if Rain: At Church; the location change will be sent out via myparishapp if needed)**. This Mass is scheduled intentionally for you to start the day with the Lord, before the business of picnics and gatherings (yes, they are important too) start. Please join us and bring a lawn chair. As we go forward from this Easter Season, may we keep each other in prayer, and on this memorial day weekend may God Bless America!

In the Lord,  
Fr. Jason