

## Pentecost Sunday

**Do you know?** Which gospel will be read on most Sundays in this new Church year?  
*Answer below.*

### Women Growing in Faith – May 31

Our next gathering for Women Growing in Faith will be **Sunday, May 31**. Please join us for an “afternoon of prayer for women” presented at the Jesuit Retreat House by Sr. Mary Ann Flannery. We can meet in the St. Therese parking lot at 12:30 p.m. to share a ride. Otherwise, you can arrive at the Jesuit Retreat House by 1 p.m. The cost is \$12, which includes the prayer service and light refreshments. We also have access to the JRH grounds before and after the prayer session. This includes the beautiful chapel and easy walking paths. The Jesuit Retreat House is located at 5629 State Road (between Snow and Brookpark Roads). If you have any questions, please call Nancy Simpson at 216-570-7510. You may pay at the door.

### Save the Date!!

St. Therese Parish will host a “Dining for Dollars” event at Applebee’s in Garfield Hts., 9225 Vista Way, on Tuesday, June 16, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. to support our ongoing fundraising efforts. Applebee’s will donate 15% of each check to the parish when diners present a flyer to their server. Flyers will be inserted in the church bulletins the weekend prior to the event and will also be available at the rectory. Flyers cannot be distributed in the restaurant. And don’t forget, Applebee’s gift cards can also be purchased at the rectory.

### May Baby Bottle Collection



No woman should face a pregnancy without hope or help. The loose change you are putting in your baby bottle for Womankind allows this organization to offer needy pregnant women free prenatal care and a full range of support services. If you missed the bottle distribution and would like to participate, bottles are available at the doors of the church. Please return the baby bottles to the basket near the baptismal font any time between now and May 31. For information about Womankind, go to [www.womankindcleveland.com](http://www.womankindcleveland.com).

**Answer:** Mark’s gospel with John’s also getting some play. Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the synoptic gospels. Matthew’s was read during the previous Church year, and this Advent it will be Luke’s turn.



Busy making plans for your summer vacation? Don’t forget to include St. Therese in your vacation plans! Sign up today for eGiving through *Faith Direct* to make sure you remember your gifts to St. Therese while you’re off enjoying the summer breeze and sunshine. Enrolling is easy--just go to [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and use our church code OH617. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family with your time and talents as well as treasure!

God bless you,  
Fr. Dan



### Social Justice and Advocacy

Advocating for social justice is part of our responsibility as Christians. Our elected officials answer to us, and it’s important that we share with them on the matters that affect our communities. Considering that the gospels reveal to us Jesus’ special concern for the poor and marginalized, this is a quality we also should cultivate. Research about the impact of advocacy shows that receiving personalized letters does have a decided influence on legislators if they haven’t yet come to a firm conclusion on an issue. If this is something that interests you, please contact Fr. Dan.

**If your name hasn’t been included in our monthly birthday calendar and you would like it to be, please call the rectory at 216-581-2852.**

### A Greeting Before Mass

Soon we will begin a practice new to our parish but that a number of other parishes use: greeting one another before Sunday Mass begins. The St. Therese Liturgy Commission has recommended this as a worthy instrument to enhance a sense of hospitality here. That everyone, from our long-time parishioners to a first-time visitor, feels welcome is an important value for any faith community. May each of us offer a friendly smile to one another when we come to church and give a warm greeting to anyone who might be a visitor!





The St. Therese Cub Scouts will hold a car wash on Saturday, May 30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Turney & Granger Sunoco.

### Pancake Breakfast

The St. Therese Boy Scouts will hold a pancake breakfast after masses on Sunday, May 31. Thank you in advance for supporting our troop!



Did you know our parish hall is handicap accessible?



The handicap accessible entrance is on the east side of the building.

### Suicide Prevention Training

How do you recognize a crisis and warning signs that someone may be contemplating suicide? Attend a FREE Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training for members of the faith-based community in Cuyahoga County to learn how you can help save a life from suicide. This event will take place on Tuesday, May 26, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Hilton Garden Inn at 1100 Carnegie Avenue in downtown Cleveland. This is a free event, but registration is required: <https://qprfaith2015.eventbrite.com>. A complimentary breakfast and free parking will be provided. The goal of QPR training is to help prevent deaths by suicide in Cuyahoga County and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

### Coming up in June – Stars & Stripes, Balls & Strikes



Join the Stewardship Committee on Saturday, June 13, for some old fashioned baseball fare and fun. We'll have hot dogs, hamburgers, peanuts and cracker jack, plus lots more. This event will be held from 5:30 – 8 p.m. (after the 4:30 Mass). Tickets are \$6 and \$2 for children 5 and under. Tickets will be on sale after Mass and at the rectory.



### Attention St. Therese School Class of 1970

We are having a get-together on Friday, June 5, at 6:30 p.m. at the Winking Lizard Tavern, 6111 Quarry Lane in Independence.

### Wednesday Night Dinners

The next Wednesday night dinner at K of C Club 4130 will be on May 27 from 4-7 p.m. and will consist of breaded pork chops, scalloped potatoes, vegetable, salad, rolls and butter. The cost is \$9 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. Reservations are required by May 24 at 8 p.m. Call 216-662-2277 Mailbox #2. Dinners by Wal-Tam Grand Ballroom. Also the **Knights of Columbus Outdoor Rosary** is set for May 27 at 7:15 p.m. at Council's shrine.

### Now Enrolling!

John Paul II Academy is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year for PreK through grade 8. Please call Miss Lackney at the academy (216-581-3080) to set up an appointment. The future starts today at John Paul II Academy!

### Sacred Steps Living Waters Pilgrimage Retreat

There will be a retreat for all separated and divorced persons in the diocese on Saturday, May 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (with 4:30 Mass) at St. Joseph Church, 12700 Pearl Road in Strongsville. The cost is \$25. To register call Jane at 216-334-2978. For more information about the retreat, please contact Carol Petro, MSW, LSW at 216-334-2975 or Deacon Bob Lester at 440-238-5555 ext. 110.

### Garfield Hts. HS After Prom

Our parish recently made a donation to the Garfield Hts. High School After Prom 2015 committee in the amount of \$100. We received a thank you letter from the committee which read in part, "Your donation was incredibly generous and will allow us the opportunity to provide a safe and fun filled event for the GHHS students on May 15, 2015."

Our parish also received a letter from the Diocesan Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul which read, "On behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Cleveland, I would like to thank you and St. Therese parish for your generous donation of \$250 during this 150<sup>th</sup> celebratory year....May God continue to bless you and your loved ones."

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Do you know that more than 1,500,000 couples in over 92 countries have experienced a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend? They found something worth passing on. The next weekends are

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scheduled for June 26-28 at the Clarion Hotel in Hudson and October 16-18 at the Cambria Suites, Uniontown. For more information call Scott or Lori at 330-305-9963 or visit [www.wvme.org](http://www.wvme.org).

### Liturgy Committee Talks

The Liturgy Commission has been presenting brief talks before Mass on the various elements that comprise the Mass. The final one before the summer break concerned the Profession of Faith and the Prayer of the Faithful (Universal Prayer).

In early Christianity the Profession of Faith was associated with baptism and involved confessing belief in the Trinity. This is the distant origin of what is known as the Apostles' Creed, a profession of faith which, according to legend, was a joint composition by the Twelve Apostles. However, the Creed recited at Mass summarizes the faith expressed by the fourth-century Councils of Constantinople and Nicaea (hence, the Nicene Creed). The Order of Mass retains the Profession of Faith for Sunday Mass and solemn feasts. The purpose of the Profession of Faith is that the whole gathered people may respond to the Word of God proclaimed in the readings taken from Sacred Scripture and explained in the homily, and that they may also honor and confess the great mysteries of the faith.

The Universal Prayer, or perhaps more traditionally, the Prayer of the Faithful, are often called the general intercessions, because they extend beyond the needs and concerns of the local community. Since the Church is both local and universal, at least one intention is usually taken from each of the following categories: 1) the needs of the Church; 2) public authorities and the salvation of the world; 3) those oppressed by any need; 4) the local community. The Universal Prayer is an integral part of the liturgy. Having heard God's word, the assembled people respond to it, offering prayers to God for the salvation of all and confident that God will act today (through us) as he has in the past.

### From Fr. Dan:

On Saturday I attended the priestly ordination of four men at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, and I'm so glad I did! Witnessing the commitment made by these men lifted my spirits. The priesthood is a beautiful way to serve God, and I thank God for moving me to explore this vocation 29 years ago and eventually to be ordained. Not that there aren't days when I'd like to reconsider! I suppose that every vocation includes such times, and perhaps on an

occasion when the Apostles were particularly dense or his opponents especially trying, even Jesus himself might have had his doubts. I have gone to most of the masses celebrating priestly ordination in our diocese since my own back in 1991 in order to be inspired again. For the same reason I try to make it to the annual jubilee Mass for those observing their 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries as priests. To celebrate Mass with these brothers of mine who have given of themselves so generously and have benefited me by their example truly is a privilege.

The homilist, Fr. Tom Mahoney, was among those marking their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the two of us also belong to the same prayer group. He referred affectionately to the jubilarians as a "motley" band. Then he disabused us of any negative interpretation of this word by informing us that it means simply a broad assortment. I definitely have noticed how applicable this adjective is to the priests I've encountered, as you likely have, too. But, when we call to mind the Apostles, they also were motley, so I guess we're standing on firm ground. I praise God for the priests who've touched my life. I thank God for the newly-ordained priests and for the seminarians in formation for the priesthood. And I pray for the young men of St. Therese Parish and throughout our diocese, that they will have an openness to the priesthood as a possible vocation.

### The Week Ahead

#### Sunday, May 24

Coffee & Donuts after all Masses this Weekend, H  
Choir Practice after 10:30 Mass  
Confirmation Practice Students & Sponsors 11:30 a.m., C

#### Monday, May 25

Memorial Day – Office Closed

#### Tuesday, May 26

Confirmation Practice for Students 6 p.m., C  
Liturgy Meeting 7 p.m., R  
AA 8 p.m., H

#### Wednesday, May 27

Pre K 4 Graduation  
Boy Scout Meeting 7 p.m., H

#### Thursday, May 28

Kindergarten Graduation  
Bingo 6:45 p.m., H

#### Friday, May 29

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Party 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, May 30

Cub Scout Car Wash 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Turney & Granger Sunoco  
Girl Scout Father-Daughter Dance 6 p.m. H

**KEY: H:** parish hall **R:** rectory **C:** church **S:** school



# Bringing Home the Word



Pentecost

May 24, 2015

## The Holy Spirit is urging us out of our shells!

By Janel Esker

I love weddings. Possibly even more than weddings, I love wedding receptions. Possibly even more than the receptions, I love dancing at wedding receptions. In my opinion, when a couple does it “right,” their spirit and the music draws all kinds of people onto the dance floor. Sure, a moderate sprinkling of alcohol helps loosen inhibitions, but it’s mostly the couple’s attitude of joy and welcome that causes guests to come out

### Sunday Readings

#### Acts 2:1–11

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

#### 1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit.

#### Or Galatians 5:16–25

Live by the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

#### John 20:19–23

Peace be with you.  
Receive the Holy Spirit.

#### Or John 15:26–27; 16:12–15

The Spirit of truth...will guide you to all truth.

of their shells and dance the night away alongside people they’ve never met.

The unifying spirit of that kind of wedding reception feels like what the Holy Spirit was doing at Pentecost and continues to do today. The description of Pentecost from Acts makes most lectors cringe—all those different nationalities to pronounce—but the Holy Spirit brought these disparate people together into a marvelous unity. Saint Paul reminds us that the many individual gifts of the Spirit serve together—as one body. This Holy Spirit, not unlike wedding couples who pull aunts and cousins and college friends and pastors onto the dance floor for one fantastic Chicken Dance, draws people into unity.

Are we aware of God’s Holy Spirit urging us out of our shells, nudging us from our places of comfort into a greater unity with other parishioners, other Christians, other nationalities? Have we hesitated to join a committee, an activity, or an association because we might be different than the rest of the people there? Perhaps we’ve resisted a service project in a part of our city that makes us uncomfortable because the residents are poorer than we are.

Where might God’s unifying Spirit be urging *you* to get out and dance freely with the rest of God’s children? †

REFLECTION  
QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION  
REFLECTION

- How do I cooperate with the Spirit of God?
- What gifts am I withholding from others?

The word "PRAYER" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Above the letter 'Y', there are two hands raised in a gesture of prayer, with fingers spread.

Lord,  
your Spirit renews our  
faith, hope, and love.  
Empower me to be  
your presence of love  
and compassion  
to others.  
Amen.

# Time, Talent, and Treasure

By Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR

**B**ack in the day, if your New Orleans cabdriver dropped you at the corner of Constance and Josephine for Mass, you had three Catholic churches to choose from. Yes, the Redemptorists ran three separate parishes on the same street corner: one Irish, one German, and one French.

Only one still functions as a parish. It's no longer staffed by an army of Redemptorists, and you may not have to arrive thirty minutes early to get a seat in one of its many pews, but it's still a holy sanctuary to those who come to worship God and be nourished by the sacraments. To many, St. Mary's is a special and unique place—not simply one of the many Catholic churches in New Orleans.

When I was in the seminary, it was common to envision how a priest shortage would affect the Church of the twenty-first century. Would one priest pastor three or four parishes, zipping between them on Sunday morning to cover all the Masses? Others wondered which Rome would give into first—married clergy or ordained women. Still others envisioned the fulfillment of the vision laid out at the Second Vatican Council: The laity would be called to full participation in their Church.

Well, we were right about one thing: Every major diocese has had to confront the issue of dwindling resources and



shifting populations. Bishops indeed face the constant challenge of spreading fewer priests throughout an ever-sprawling populace. And it's no longer happening only to the old and crumbling inner-city parishes; it's happening to suburban parishes as well.

But little did we dream that the dollars would disappear faster than the priests. The decline in the quality and quantity of services, issues like the sex-abuse scandal, and our current economic situation have caused people to think twice about their offerings.

Some people believe money is all we talk about. But the cold, hard reality is that it takes money to operate a parish, from salaries to utilities; from maintenance to insurance; from bread, wine, and candles to snow removal. I can't even begin to list them all. And continuing to operate big churches in

small communities that are often only blocks apart is not good stewardship.

So how *do* people preserve their church, the place that holds so many memories, the place that is the rock and root of their worship? The long-term solution won't save parishes now, but it will save future parishes: Encourage our sons to consider the priesthood. Some parents actively dissuade their sons from becoming priests, so it's up to us to show them a priesthood worth committing their lives to—one that won't lift them up or use them up but will allow them to be of service to God's people. Priests must be happy and healthy role models.


The short-term solution comes down to time, talent, and treasure. We must support our parishes with our financial resources, but we also need to get personally involved. We must place our talents at the service of our community, and not just 5 percent of us. *All* of us. We must be open and inviting. We must be faithful and flexible enough to respond to the needs of the community. Bishops don't close vibrant, growing parishes.

For the short *and* long terms, we need to practice—no, *live*—our faith. Most of these closed churches weren't built because of location or because people had a lot of money. They arose from a community of the faithful living their faith by building the kingdom. They arose from a people willing to make a sacrifice. They arose from a people who gave God not their *leftover* time, talent, and treasure, but their very best. Can we do the same? †

## WEEKDAY READINGS May 25–30

Mon. *Sirach 17:20–24 / Mark 10:17–27*  
Tues. *St. Philip Neri*  
*Sirach 35:1–12 / Mark 10:28–31*  
Wed. *Sirach 36:1, 4–5a, 10–17 / Mark 10:32–45*

Thurs. *Sirach 42:15–25 / Mark 10:46–52*  
Fri. *Sirach 44:1, 9–13 / Mark 11:11–26*  
Sat. *Sirach 51:12cd–20 / Mark 11:27–33*

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