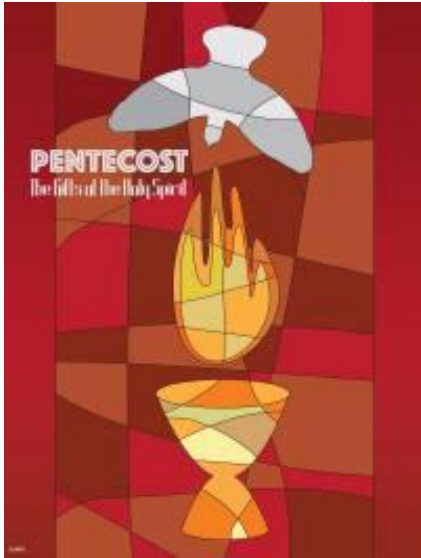


# Pentecost Sunday

MAY 23, 2021



## CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to Gale Britto and her family upon the death of husband, father and grandfather, Joe. Please keep the family in your prayers.



5 p.m.: Gloria Palmeri, Hamlet & Sophie Valenti, Beth Zahn and Joe Britto

10 a.m.: Janet Stinson, Peter Capria, Lucy Rametta and Fr. Romaeus Cooney, O. Carm.

## LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

### Ascension Thursday

Vigil, May 12: Total of 11; 9 a.m. May 13: Total of 13  
**Weekend**

5 p.m. Saturday, May 15: **49** in the church/choir.  
10 a.m. Sunday, May 16: **54** in the church/choir;  
**30** in the hall. Total: **84**.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**May 9-May 16: Totaled \$ 5,497.72**

Envelopes: \$2,271.00 – Online: \$ 3,226.72

**THANK YOU!**



You did it! We achieved our goal of \$43,000 – so no more mention of the Cardinal's Appeal until next year. Thank you!

## PONDERING PENTECOST

“Red is the color of my true love’s hair,” is a lyric of a country music ditty based on an old Scottish song. No matter the actual color of a loved one’s hair, we must admit that red is a powerful color. It bespeaks of confidence and clarity of purpose; energy and enthusiasm; power and purpose. Red can underscore the importance of events. Picture the red carpet spread out for distinguished visitors. And red is not the clothing color for the timid or those doubtful of their self-worth.

For us Catholic Christians, red is meant to recollect the blood sacrifice of Christ and the martyrs who followed Him to the end. Remember how you saw it in the vesture and church decor for Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

But today, this fine Pentecost Sunday, you see it used also to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Book of the Acts of the Apostles recalls His dramatic arrival among the struggling members of the little group who formed the embryonic Church.

This is the day that we call the Birthday of the Church. It is also the 50th day (what the word “Pentecost” means) since the Feast of the Resurrection. The great three-month Lent-Easter cycle of high

celebration comes to its inevitable end. Weather-wise, we have come

from snow-clogged roads to dry streets of macadam; from overcoats to no coats; from virus to vaccination; from penance to a party-like celebration marking God’s promises fulfilled.

What Pentecost means is tantamount to rediscovering the purpose of our earthly lives, complete with their chapters of joy and sadness. As a Church, we have gained the Holy Spirit’s inestimable insight to help us find our way forward to the eternal destiny Jesus promised.

It should be glaringly obvious, but still worth pointing out, that devotion to the Holy Spirit should be part of our spiritual lives. Without Him, we can easily become confused. We have so many “why” questions that beg for answers. Without the Spirit, we only have our insular insights.

Sometimes, we can become so disoriented by our lack of devotion to the Spirit that we are tempted to fill the vacuum by turning to clever but faulty imitations of His authentic guidance. The Bible tells us, on Pentecost, to “Look to the Spirit, and you will find what you need,” for He covers our minds and hearts with light. He colors our world not only with red but all the colors of the rainbow. He leads us where to go - as illustrated by the late great humorist Erma Bombeck, who wrote about what happened to her in church one Sunday...

*“I was intent on a small child who was turning around and smiling at everyone. He wasn’t gurgling,*  
(Continued on the next page)



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spitting, humming, kicking, tearing the hymnals or rummaging through his mother's handbag. He was just smiling.

Finally, his mother jerked him about and in a stage whisper that could be heard in a little theater off Broadway said: 'Stop that grinning! You're in church!' With that, she gave him a belt, and as tears rolled down his cheek, she added, 'That's better' and returned to her prayers. We sing, make a joyful noise unto the Lord while our faces reflect the sadness of one who has just buried a rich aunt who left everything to her pregnant hamster.

Suddenly I was angry. It occurred to me the entire world is in tears, and if you're not, then you'd better get with it. I wanted to grab this child with the tear-stained face close to me and tell him about my God, the happy God, the smiling God, the God who had to have a sense of humor to have created the likes of us. I wanted to tell him that our God is an understanding God who understands little children who turn around and smile in church.

By tradition, I suppose, one wears faith with the solemnity of a mourner, the mask of tragedy. What a fool, I thought; this woman is sitting next to the only sign of hope - the only miracle - left in our civilization. If that child couldn't smile in church, where was there left to go?"

God love you and give you His peace,  
- Rev. Leonard N. Peterson



## A CALL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

We are continuing to share resources for insight into current social-justice issues from a Biblical/Church perspective. The following article was published in the National Catholic Reporter regarding the sweeping changes that Pope Francis put into effect regarding bishop accountability. "Vos Estis" expires in one year. How effective has it been? Visit: [www.ncronline.org/news/accountability/vos-estis-expires-one-year-what-works-and-what-changes-are-needed-version-20](http://www.ncronline.org/news/accountability/vos-estis-expires-one-year-what-works-and-what-changes-are-needed-version-20)

Or for one-click access to this and all the other reflections, go to [www.stpaulsbullville.org](http://www.stpaulsbullville.org); then click "Read More" under the Social Justice heading on the home page.

## HEARD IT IN A HOMILY

Have you ever struggled to pay attention to the homily at Mass? The homily is an opportunity to have the mysteries of our faith explained to us through Christ's priest. However, as soon as the homily begins, our minds often wander - especially if the preaching feels dry and boring.



In "The How-To Book of the Mass: Everything You Need to Know but No One Ever Taught You," Mike Dubruiel offers tips on how to listen for God's voice in the homily at every Mass.

One tip he gives is to listen for a specific word that stands out to you:

"Listen to every homily at Mass expecting that God will speak a 'word' to you. No matter how poor the presentation, or how long or short it is, if we expect to hear a 'word' from God, we will - and we will hear a great homily at every Mass!"

As a result, Dubruiel says, we'll always experience some sort of message, simple or profound, to carry forth into the world when we leave.


## DELIGHT IN NEXT BOOK CLUB PICK

Up next before summer break is the first volume in "The Hawk and the Dove" series by Penelope Wilcock, which bears the name of the series itself. Although delightfully-engaging light reading, it's also inspirational and thought-provoking.

The narrator tells stories handed down in her family as far back as the 1400s, which are intertwined with the stories of brothers living in a medieval monastery. They're stories and struggles that interface with our own: Finding one's place; coping with failure; living with impossible people and changing when we realize we are the impossible ones. The tales depict love in action and love given in the most trying of circumstances. The author writes a love story about God and man, and the love between brothers in Christ.

The book is available through Amazon and other retailers. Zoom discussions take place 10-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays beginning this Tuesday, **May 25**, and with Chapters 1-3. For more information, contact Deacon Carl at [carlloc@yahoo.com](mailto:carlloc@yahoo.com) or call the office.

## SPONSOR OF THE WEEK



Complete Collision  
& Body Repair  
24 Hour Towing  
**845.361.2322**  
2557 Route 17K, Montgomery, NY  
Located in Bullville • Mike Fontana  
[Fontanasautobody@gmail.com](mailto:Fontanasautobody@gmail.com)

