

Sunday, May 28, 2023

I, the Lord of wind and flame

The Spirit of holiness enters the gathering in driving wind and burning flame. It also comes more gently, as Jesus breathes on his friends and wishes them peace. How can the Spirit be so forceful, yet soft as a breath? The same way love is impassioned in some hours, light as a caress in others. Sometimes our loving presence is required in bold, dynamic, and powerful action. At other times, presence alone is enough: a hand held or silence shared. The more fully immersed in Spirit we are, the more we'll know what to do when the time comes.

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; Veni Sancte Spiritus; John 20:19-23 (63). *"There came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind.... Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire."*

Monday, May 29, 2023

Waiting for your call

"Mother of the Church" is one of Mary's many titles, first appearing in the writings of Saint Ambrose in the fourth century. But it wasn't until 1964 that the title was made official by Pope Paul VI. Pope Francis made this title a movable feast in 2018, placing it the day after Pentecost, as a reminder that Mary was with the disciples as the Holy Spirit descended. As the mother of Jesus, the head of the church, and given to humanity as a mother by Jesus at the foot of the cross, her presence at the event that is known as the "birthday" of the church affirms her role as mother to the church as a whole and to each Christian individually. You can call on Mary.

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; John 19:25-34 (572A). *"Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother.'"*

Tuesday, May 30, 2023

A Christian's job description

On this day in 1937, 10 unarmed demonstrators died in the Memorial Day Massacre in Chicago as police opened fire on a parade of workers and their families. Catholic writer Dorothy Day was there. "We look upon our work, our lives, and we say, 'How do these things square with Christian teaching? Can we go on making money at the expense of our brother?'" she would later ask, echoing Catholic social teaching on the dignity of work and workers. "If we wish to follow Christ, we will be workers like Jesus, like Saint Joseph, like Saint Paul. We will think of the dignity of labor, we will respect the worker, will bear our share of responsibility toward making that new social order wherein justice dwelleth."

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 35:1-12; Mark 10:28-31 (348). *"To refrain from evil pleases the LORD, and to avoid injustice is an atonement."*

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Mary in living color

Mary of Nazareth wears many different mantles—literally and figuratively. In images honoring Mary's Immaculate Conception, Mary wears a baby blue cape evoking calmness and purity. As Our Lady of Mercy, Mary protects the people beneath a brilliant bold red cloak. As Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Mary wears a cerulean *tilmahtli* emblazoned with gold stars, rebelling against death and oppression and promising hope and new life. Mary is all

these things: quiet and comforting, strong and protecting, rebellious and lifegiving. As we celebrate the Visitation, let us reflect on the unique ways that Mary has visited us in our own lives.

FEAST OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
TODAY'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:14-18a or Romans 12:9-16; Luke 1:39-56 (572). *"Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth."*

Thursday, Jun 01, 2023

Suffer for the Kingdom

Justin Martyr was a significant philosopher and Christian apologist who was not born Christian but experienced a conversion to Christianity. His writings are still published, and one of his better-known sayings—aimed at the Romans who persecuted and killed Christians—is, "You can kill us but you cannot harm us." The blood of many courageous martyrs has strengthened the church. Do you know anyone who has suffered in order to follow Christ? Pray for them today.

MEMORIAL OF JUSTIN, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 42:15-25; Mark 10:46-52 (350). *"So they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you.'"*

Friday, Jun 02, 2023

Little known but never forgotten

Not much is known about the fourth-century martyrs Marcellinus and Peter. Like other martyrs, stories about their faithfulness were remembered more so than hard data about their lives. Such stories were salve to a church suffering under an oppressive Roman empire, and martyrs often became saints by public acclaim. Though lacking the thoroughness of today's canonization process, the Early Church recognized the importance of lifting up unknown martyrs as well as well-known ones. For in them, the people could see a reflection of their own suffering and faithfulness and know that they were not forgotten by the church. What can you do to ensure that the martyrs of our own age are remembered by the church?

MEMORIAL OF MARCELLINUS AND PETER, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 44:1, 9-13; Mark 11:11-26 (351). *"Yet these also were godly; their virtues have not been forgotten."*

Saturday, Jun 03, 2023

You don't need permission to act for justice

Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in 1963 in response to a "Call for Unity" statement from white clergy of Birmingham criticizing King's nonviolent protests for civil rights, encouraging him to settle things in the courts, not take to the streets. Those in authority do not like folks who don't follow the rules they themselves have established to protect their authority. But faith-filled prophetic leaders, from biblical times down to the present, act on higher authority. The God of justice calls us to question authority.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 51:12cd-20; Mark 11:27-33 (352). *"By what authority are you doing these things? Or who gave you this authority to do them?"*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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