

Pentecost Sunday

Here we are, as we mark the end of the Easter Season. The Church throughout the world celebrates the feast of Pentecost. The Gospel account for this Sunday taken from the 20th chapter of St. John records the appearance of Jesus to His Apostles after His death and resurrection. Despite the locked door, Jesus comes and stands before them. He greets them by twice wishing them peace. He reminds them of His mission and theirs. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He then breathes on them sending the Holy Spirit upon them. Then establishes another Sacrament in giving them the power to forgive sin.

This event is referred to as the "Birthday of the Church." It is from this moment of commissioning that the Apostles now fortified by God's Spirit in them are sent to bring Christ's message to the whole world. Imagine from this interaction in that locked room the Church grows and spreads to every part of the world. One billion people share our Catholic faith expressed in customs and languages everywhere. How else could this be possible unless God's presence was there and here now.

You and I here in Sayreville are recipients of that first sending of the Spirit. First received in the Sacrament of Baptism and then sealed in Confirmation. Fully initiated we too are sent into the world around us to preach Christ crucified and risen from the dead. That message once given and received changes everything. It brings light in darkness, hope in despair, and yes even life in death.

We anxiously await permission to resume our public worship. During these weeks of suspension, we have prepared our church, school, hall and other facilities to receive our people when that moment arrives. Until then, we are still called to prayer, penance and whatever works of charity are possible to bring the message of Jesus commissioned in the first Pentecost to those around us even as close as those in our own homes.

Peace,

Father Robert