

PENTECOST SUNDAY - 2020

Happy birthday! Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church.

Empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit the apostles and other disciples carry on Jesus' mission to spread the good news of God's Kingdom.

On this Pentecost we rejoice with those who received the Sacraments of Initiation at the Vigil Mass last evening: Angelica Ramos, Daniel Ramos, Alexandra Carrillo-Ramos, and Vanessa Carrillo-Ramos, as well as with Kyle Murphy and Ethan Tuttle received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

And at this Mass we celebrate with and honor our young people who have graduated this year:

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| 1. Dahlia Buenrostro | 10. Donnie Parent |
| 2. Allison Drake | 11. Luke Persun |
| 3. Jisela Herrera | 12. Jacob Prather |
| 4. Ryan Hjertquist | 13. Anthony Rivera |
| 5. Mackenzie Kusbel | 14. Victoria Rivera |
| 6. Adrian Lopez | 15. Jack Scolaro |
| 7. Jacob Malatestinic | 16. Emily Stevens |
| 8. Mary Mantel | 17. Tristan Stultz |
| 9. Ryan McLaughlin | 18. Lorena Trujillo |

Your accomplishments are a sign to this community of faith of your use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit whom God has graciously poured out you and upon all who believe in Jesus as Christ and Lord.

We want to especially note your perseverance in your studies as well as your patience in the midst of the Corona virus pandemic.

I also think we should congratulate and thank your parents who I'm sure have shepherded you through this unique experience for all of you.

On the day of Pentecost the disciples of Jesus received the courage they needed to proclaim him as the promised Messiah who, risen from the dead, has ascended into heaven as Lord of all creation and Head of his Body the Church.

As St. Paul reminds us, the Church and all her members are called to manifest the gifts of the Spirit who has been given to each individual for the benefit of all.

And so I would ask each of you, dear graduates - as well as the rest of us - to reflect on this: What are the special gifts God had given to you and how are you being called to use them for the benefit of others?

Don't be afraid to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance, courage, and strength to know and do God's will.

As Pope Francis has said: "God never tires of listening to our prayers; it is we who grow tired of praying to God."

And let us all remember that the Holy Spirit is not a thing nor a bird! The Holy Spirit is a person.

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The Holy Spirit is God's Spirit dwelling within us.

Or to put it another way, the Holy Spirit is the personal presence of God within each of us.

And it because of the presence of the Holy Spirit within us that we are united with Jesus Christ and with each other.

Therefore, we are never alone. Never.

The Holy Spirit is always with us.

All that we have to do is to "tune in to" the Spirit for the guidance, the comfort, the courage, the ability to forgive, to resist temptation, and to be generous.

May our belief in the presence of the Holy Spirit be the source of our constant joy and the foundation of our surest hope.