

The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200

www.pothc.org + www.facebook.com/pothnesconset

LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!

And they were all
filled with the

Holy

Spirit...

Acts 2:4



Come and pray with us!

Pentecost Sunday – May 31, 2020

Vision Statement: *Holy Cross is a vibrant Catholic community striving to maintain a spirit of welcome to all, serving as a guiding beacon to nourish and sustain prayer, work and play.*

We celebrate Eucharist

The 9AM Daily Mass, Monday-Friday, &
the Sunday 11:30AM Mass are live streamed on Facebook.

We are here for you!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + pothc@optonline.net

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Vincent Matula
Custodians

Mary Inghilterra
Weekend Sacristan

Please pray for those in our parish who are sick, their families and caregivers:

Patricia Becker, George V. Daly, Manuela Diaz, Francesco DiMartino, Ann Egan, Phil Graziose, Bob Grieco, Joseph Santamaria, Marlene Starr, Judy Viskupic

Mass Intentions for the upcoming week: Mon.-Neal & Concetta Romano; Tue.-Maria Conte; Wed.-Mary & Michael Dillon; Thu.-Vilma Gorodzdi

All Mass intentions for June 6th/7th will be read at the 11:30AM Mass which is live streamed on Facebook: John Mattera, Louis Follo, Henri-Robert Lamarque, Damien Pickel, Richard Brian McKenna, Ella C. Fandrey

The Church is open for private prayer: Monday through Friday from 10AM to 2PM and Sundays from 7:30AM to 11AM.

Confession by Appointment: Please leave a message for Fr. Michael at 631-265-2200 x115.

The Parish Offices are closed. You can leave a message for us at the above extensions. We will return your call as soon as possible.

Readings for Most Holy Trinity, June 7th: Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9; 2 Cor. 13:11-13; John 3:16-18

God, give me Grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other. Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a time, Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking as Jesus did this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, Trusting that You will make all things right if I Surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.

Coronavirus Chronicle #11

by Father Michael

The events of these past months have enabled or sometimes even forced us to look at life from a different perspective. Hearing familiar Scripture passages is no exception to this rule. The first reading for this Sunday is the passage from the Acts of the Apostles which describes the first Pentecost experience. One of the details of that event is the Spirit descending on the disciples and empowering them to speak and understand new languages. It is described as tongues.

We might quickly conclude that such a thing like that would never occur today. Most of us tend to be set in our ways, and there is little likelihood that we would suddenly start dealing with life using new languages. Three months ago, how many of us were familiar with such things as Zoom, Google Groups, and livestreaming? How many parents have now had to master these programs in order to educate their children? How many employees had to quickly adopt this technology to do their work from their dining room tables? I even heard of a priest who had to do this to keep in touch with parishioners and to keep the parish running!

The power and wonder of the Spirit will always weave itself into the circumstances of life. As difficult as these days have been, I pray you have had moments of encountering God's graces in times and places you never would have expected. There will always be a danger to limit the power of God to work in far removed ways that are only recorded in Scripture. These days have provided an opportunity for us to know of God in surprising circumstances. There is no limit to where and how we will encounter the life of God. Remain open to the new and wondrous ways in which the Lord will continue to be revealed.

On a different note, these days have provided me with opportunities to tackle chores and tasks that have been on hold for a long time. This week, one of my activities was finally burning the palms that folks return to the church just prior to Ash Wednesday. I know the stockpile had accumulated for at least two, if not three, years. The palms were packed down into a 33-gallon trash barrel. It took me a better part of two hours to burn them all in the small fire pit I have at the house. Although there was an abundance of palm, the fire reduces it to virtually nothing. The amount of ashes remaining would barely fill a coffee mug, but these ashes will carry us through a month's worth of Ash Wednesdays.

There is no significant news to report yet in terms of re-opening, but we are moving closer. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook as they are where announcements will be made when there is news to share. Hang in there; the worst is behind us. Happy Pentecost!

The Cenacle

Today's 1st reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, describes the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, with vivid images of a *"strong driving wind"* and *"tongues of fire."* *"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim."* (Acts 2:4)

Earlier in Acts we read, *"When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying. ...All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and his brothers."* (Acts 1:13-14)

As I reflect on this powerful story of the Holy Spirit, and recall that "upper room" is also translated as "cenacle," fond memories of the nearby Cenacle Retreat Center flood my heart. Founded and run by the Cenacle Sisters (or, more accurately, the Congregation of Our Lady of the Cenacle), the Ronkonkoma Cenacle has been a place of prayer and renewal for over ninety years, but in November of last year the sisters announced that they were no longer able to continue ministry there and that the Cenacle would be closing in August. Sadly, because of the pandemic, operations there have already ceased.

With over 40 acres of scenic land, four hermitages, and a beautiful eco-friendly main building, the Cenacle provided people of all faiths a peaceful setting to find their own ways to God. Offerings ranged from individual spiritual direction to lectures, workshops, marriage enrichment, singles groups, recovery programs, days of prayer, and retreats. One could spend a week in silent prayer in a hermitage, or attend a presentation on "The Spirituality of the Beatles." As the sisters' Mission Statement says, "We work for the transformation of the world by awakening and deepening faith with and for the people of our times."



In announcing the retreat center's closing, the sisters said, "As Cenacle sisters, we draw our inspiration from Mary, the Mother of Jesus, surrendering herself to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the first Cenacle. At times, such stirrings of the Spirit reveal the will of God for us in ways that are very specific and concrete, although not always easy." So, the sisters made their decision, difficult as it was, by devoting themselves "with one accord to prayer" with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

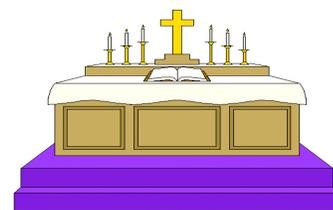
Sometimes the Spirit is bold and unexpected, like a "strong driving wind." Sometimes the Spirit is quiet and gentle, as in today's Gospel when Jesus "breathes" his Spirit on the disciples. But always, the Spirit is at work. Where do we experience the Spirit today? In this time of trial, are we listening for the Spirit? Can we follow the example of the sisters, especially when it isn't easy?

Thank you, Cenacle Sisters, for awakening our souls and deepening our faith. We have been blessed by your presence in our lives. May God bless you always.

Jude Pickel

LITURGY BYTES

Words of the Mass



Happy Birthday, Church, as we celebrate the end of the Easter season with the great feast of Pentecost. Did you remember to wear something red today?

Today I would like us to focus on a prayer of the people that was changed slightly when the Roman Missal was revised in 2011. What we pray now is familiar to those of us raised in the pre-Vatican II Church.

As the priest holds the Host before us and says:

“Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.”

The People of God respond:

“Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.”

Again, we are seeing many Scripture references in these words which are to help us delve more deeply into the meaning of what we are about as we receive Christ’s Body and Blood. Today I will offer some reflection on four Scriptural references. I do realize that for some it is painful at this time to focus on these words because of not being able to receive Our Lord sacramentally these past months. For our purposes, I would like to suggest that we realize how present Our Lord is all around us, especially in the Scriptures.

The first Scripture reference I wish to highlight is the word *behold*. It’s important because it is an attention grabber. We see it used three times in Luke’s account of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel uses it twice to address Mary, telling her it is through the Holy Spirit that she will conceive a child, and the second time Gabriel uses it, he is telling her that God will accomplish these wondrous deeds in her cousin Elizabeth who was also carrying a child. The third time *behold* is used is when Mary responds that she is willing to do as God asks. So again, we could say that the word *behold* is telling us that something extraordinary is happening. In our lives, when we hear the word *behold* before Communion, we are also alerted that something extraordinary is happening.

Continued on Next Page

LITURGY BYTES continued

The second reference in the Scriptures is the title *Lamb of God*. We know John the Baptist gave this title to Jesus when he told his disciples: “Behold the Lamb of God...” Here the word *behold* is alerting us to something special! John is calling attention to Jesus as the *Lamb of God*, as the One who would give over his life for us. Holy Communion is a great gift of nourishment, and at the same time, it is a pledge of the risen Christ’s self-giving and a call to us to respond in the same way.

A third Scriptural reference occurs in the final words of the invitation: “Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.” This is a reminder of unity and joy, along with the Messianic banquet that takes place eternally before Christ. Jesus invites us to an intimate union with him. Our Holy Communion is already a participation in the fullness of Life that is to come.

The final Scripture reference occurs in the response of the assembly (us). This is taken from the Gospel story in Luke about the healing of the centurion’s servant. Again, this is reminding us that our attitude should be like that of the centurion’s humble and respectful manner, as we approach to receive Our Lord’s Body and Blood. The healing requested in this story was a physical healing which Jesus granted in returning the servant to good health. Healing and health mean “salvation” in Hebrew. When we respond, asking that “our soul shall be healed,” we are indicating that our desire to receive Holy Communion leads us to salvation and eternal life – the ultimate healing!

So many things to reflect on in this invitation and response to receive Communion, aren’t there? We have been given much, but much is demanded too. When we are able and it is safe, may we approach receiving Communion with humility and love. Have a safe, healthy and blessed week!

~~~*Michele Hahn*

**WE REMEMBER, WE CELEBRATE, WE BELIEVE!**



# PARISH NEWS

## Parish Outreach Food Pantry

Next weekend, June 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>, will be our monthly Food Drive for our Parish Outreach pantry. The following items would be most helpful:

- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Parmalat
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Antiseptic Wipes
- Cleaning Supplies
- Hand Sanitizer



Please don't forget to check expiration dates. It will greatly assist the volunteers who stack the pantry with your donated goods. Thank you!

## Prayer Page on Our Parish Website

At this time, we are offering the opportunity for people to express their prayer intentions.



You can leave a message at the office at 631-265-2200 ext.122 or email your prayers to [pothc@optonline.net](mailto:pothc@optonline.net). Your intentions will be added to *Our Prayer Pages*, which can be viewed by clicking the link on the homepage of our website, and can be prayed for by others. (Please note: If praying for those who are ill, last names may not always appear unless permission has been granted.)

## Collection Envelopes

Next weekend, in your envelope packet, you will find an envelope for **Father's Day Mass Remembrances**. Names of loved ones will appear in the bulletin on Father's Day. Envelopes may be mailed to Holy Cross or placed in the drop box in our courtyard. Thank you!





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