

Readings for the week of May 28, 2023

Sunday:

Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39

Extended Vigil: Gn 11:1-9/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Ez 37:1-14/Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39

Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 (see 30)/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

Monday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday:

Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23/Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday:

Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/Lk 1:39-56

Thursday:

Sir 42:15-25/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 10:46-52

Friday:

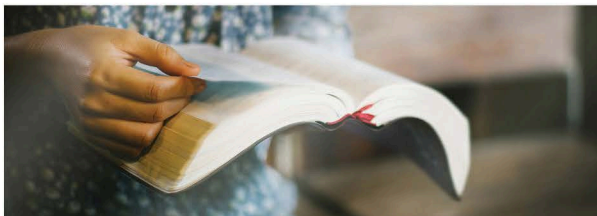
Sir 44:1, 9-13/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mk 11:11-26

Saturday:

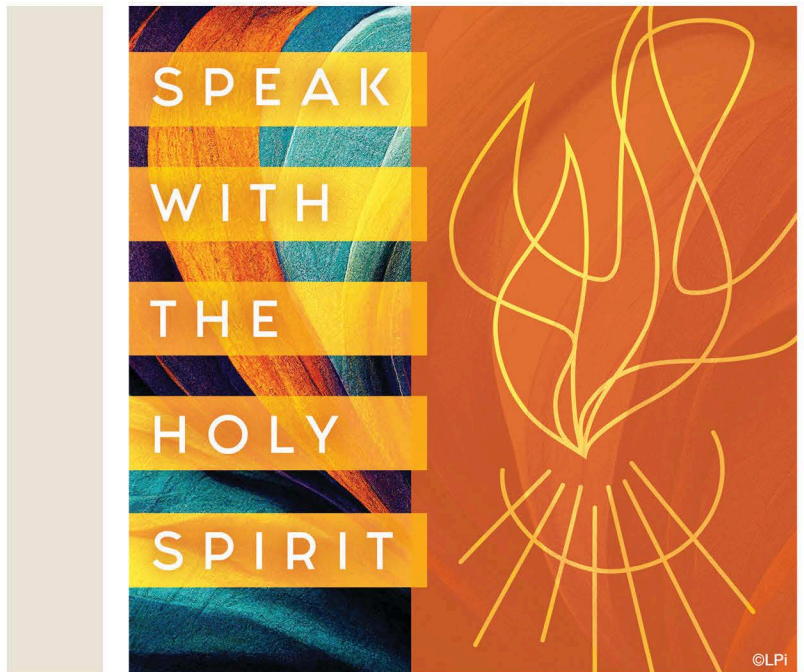
Sir 51:12cd-20/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mk 11:27-33

Next Sunday:

Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 (52b)/2 Cor 13:11-13/Jn 3:16-18



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I hope you'll acknowledge with me a simple fact: it's not normal to have tongues of fire "part and come to rest" on people. It is actually pretty strange. Yet that is precisely what we celebrate in this feast of Pentecost. How can this mean something to us in our daily lives?

Jews had a tradition that heaven is a temple made of bricks of fire. So, through the apostles, the heavenly temple is coming to earth. But this fire looks like tongues, not bricks. That means that heavenly speech will be crucial to building a dwelling place for God on earth among men and women. So, it's no surprise when the apostles begin to speak in a miraculous way that is understood by all language groups. They are speaking of what God has done in and through Jesus: bringing heaven to earth and uniting all peoples to God and to each other.

How often our speech divides: gossip, slander, insults, and so on. How strange and rare it is when people speak in ways that truly unite instead of divide. Imagine how powerful it would be if you and I began to speak at home, at work, and in our community in a way that made people hear heavenly speech. Imagine if you spoke of the mighty deeds of God in a way that everyone could understand. That's precisely what the Holy Spirit descends upon us to do. Ask Him to come as a tongue of fire to you once again, and He will. Then speak!

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Fame Communicated

“Fire! Fire! They’re all gonna die! They’re all gonna burn up!”

I had absolutely no hope of restoring order as I read the story of Pentecost with my young children last year. As soon as they glimpsed the tongues of fire hovering over the foreheads of the apostles, they were lost to giggles and shrieks. I sighed, sipped my coffee, and wondered resentfully why the Holy Spirit couldn’t have chosen to be a dove on that particular day. Just a nice, peaceful dove.

I’ll say this, though: the fire left an impression. It usually does, doesn’t it? Fire consumes. It renews. It illuminates. It leaves you breathless with fear and awe. The memory and scent and impact of a flame lingers long after it is extinguished.

When I am trying to explain theology to my kids, I have an awful habit of overcomplicating things. I’d had a whole speech prepared for them about what the Holy Spirit is, but it went out the window as soon as they saw the flames. And you know what? It’s probably for the best. They wouldn’t have remembered that speech. The flames, though? The flames they remembered. The flame communicated.

As a result of Pentecost, the apostles suddenly had the ability to give the truth to foreigners. Aliens. People who were heretofore beyond their reach, isolated by language. The flame communicated.

God’s sense of timing is impeccable, and His delivery is carefully crafted. And on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit did not descend as a dove or pour forth as water.

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit burned.

“Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.” — Psalm 104

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

My friend has never heard of Christ and I want to share the Gospel with her but I’m afraid to. How do I share my faith?

Answer:

There are a lot of ways to bring up the topic of religion, without being judgmental or pushy. Begin by asking what her thoughts are about religion, or what her experience was growing up. Finding common ground is often easier than you think, because the questions and problems we have about God, the presence of evil, our purpose in life, and our relationship with God are universal concerns.

Why are you afraid? If you do not want to insult or offend someone, don’t be pushy or judgmental. If you are uncertain about how to explain your own faith, do a little reading or practice with a friend. If you measure success only by this person converting, focus your attention more on beginning the conversation, not on bringing it to a perfect close! Faith is a journey of many acts of belief, many discussions about God, and many choices about how we practice what we preach. In some we will have great success; in others we will need forgiveness and perseverance. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the Holy Spirit is always at work and our most humble efforts can bear great fruit. Have faith in God because he has faith in you!