

From the Pastor's Desk

May the Holy Spirit Enlighten and Strengthen Us

The Church was conceived when Jesus said to Peter, "You are the rock, upon which I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18). But the Church was born on Pentecost Sunday with the descent of the Holy Spirit, on the apostles and disciples of Jesus who had been praying in Novena together after Jesus's Ascension. The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Blessed Trinity and the one sent down from heaven on Pentecost, grants us seven gifts: Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. In Confirmation, we have sealed with the Holy Spirit the completion of our Baptism. In addition, our cooperation with and our living in the Holy Spirit bears spiritual fruit in us. According to the tradition of the Catholic Church, there are twelve fruits of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22-23, CCC 1832). If there is an absence of these fruits (virtues) in our lives, we have been offered a wonderful gift from God to pray and invite the Holy Spirit to increase them within us. Cooperating with this grace, these gifts and fruits at work through the Spirit, we can go forth and bring the Good News to others, commissioned just like the Apostles, receiving the same Spirit which descended upon them at Pentecost.



St. Paul names some other gifts which have been referred to as extraordinary or charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are the gifts of faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment of Spirits, varieties of tongues, interpretation of those tongues (languages), discipleship, teaching, assistance and administration (1 Corinthians 12:9-10, 28). These extraordinary or charismatic gifts are nourished by the foundational seven gifts of the Holy Spirit named above.

The Holy Spirit does so much in our lives, today's readings remind us of the many ways he acts in our lives. He confers the graces received in the seven Sacraments. Grace can be thought of as that freely given yet underserved gift from God that helps us be holy. God asks us to be holy because He is holy (Matthew 5:48). This Sacramental grace transforms us, heals us, and helps us grow in the faith. The Spirit prepares the faithful with a grace that draws them closer to Christ, reveals the Risen Lord to them, and recalls the Word of God. As we pray for a revival in our parish, community, and nation, we pray for an opening of our hearts and minds to understand these teachings so they may be embraced, lived, and brought to others. The Holy Spirit appears in many forms, as illuminated in the teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Although considered unseen, the Holy Spirit once manifested in the symbols and gifts mentioned above, can be perceived. One symbol is water, especially present at the sacrament of Baptism. The Spirit is also present in the living water, Christ, the source of eternal life. At the well, Jesus told the woman that whoever drank this water would never thirst again. The Spirit brings hope and a promise of eternal life.

Probably the most familiar symbol of the Holy Spirit is that of fire, which came as tongues above the Apostles' heads during Pentecost. With this fire came great gifts of prophecy, healing, discernment, and tongues, among others. Fire can also be an agent of refinement, a transformation of the original to a new, more purified form as with gold. This infusion of the Holy Spirit within us, purifying and shaping us, brings with it new life and understanding of the gifts God grants us. We are each given our own gifts so that we may play an essential yet unique role in his good and perfect plan for us in our families, society, and the Church. For many of us, it is also true that the gifts of the Holy Spirit bestowed on us are either inactive or minimally active depending on how much we open up and cooperate with the Spirit. For this reason St. Paul urges us, "I invite you to fan into flame the gift of God you received through the laying on of my hands" (2 Timothy 1:6). May the Holy Spirit, fall afresh on us, melt us, mold us, fill us and use us. May the Holy Spirit enlighten our minds and strengthen our wills. Amen!

For reference, see the June 5 posting at Connect! Sunday Reflection by Allison Grugras.

Sincerely in Christ, Pastor, Fr. Paul Asoh, MSP

Housekeeping:

1. Supporting the Diocese 50th Anniversary, we're continuing to celebrate our 50 Acts of Charity. We are hosting a Baby Bottle Campaign to support Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center. Loose change can go a long way! Please take a baby bottle home, and fill it with loose change, cash, or check, and return by Father's Day. Lastly, we are having a Blood Drive on Saturday June 25th. Your one blood donation can save up to three lives. Please sign up if interested in the vestibule. Thank you!
2. Father Paul will be on vacation from June 16th until July 1st. Father Marcel Amadi will be covering Masses, confessions and any other sacramental needs during this time.
3. Please stop over for Donuts & Dogma at 10:00am every Sunday as we go through the Catholicism series with Bishop Barron.
4. I ask for your prayers for Charlotte Alexander who is currently in the hospital in Greenville, SC recovering from a fall.

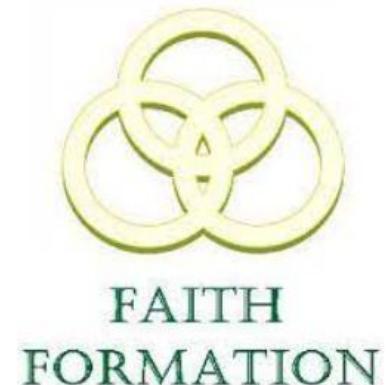
Religious Education

Next **Confirmation class** is Wednesday, June 8, and class will be **every week** until August 10.

La próxima **clase de Confirmación** es el miércoles 8 de junio,
y será **todas las semanas** hasta el 10 de agosto.

Registration for Faith Formation for 2022/23 is now OPEN! Contact Luci or stop by during office hours to register. We have classes from grades Kindergarten through 12th grade. If you would like to volunteer as an assistant or any other role for faith formation please let me know, we would love to have you!

¡El registro para la formación en la fe para 2022/23 ya está ABIERTA! Comuníquese con Luci o pase durante el horario de oficina para registrarse. Comenzamos las clases desde los grados de Kinder hasta el grado 12. Si desea ser voluntario como asistente de nuestros maestros principales o cualquier otra función durante las clases de formación en la fe, hágamelo saber, ¡Nos encantaría tenerlo/a!



Stewardship

Offertory last weekend: \$2,905 / Month to date: \$16,820

Ofertorio último fin de semana: \$2,905 / Mes hasta la fecha: \$16,820

Bookrack News / Estante de Libro

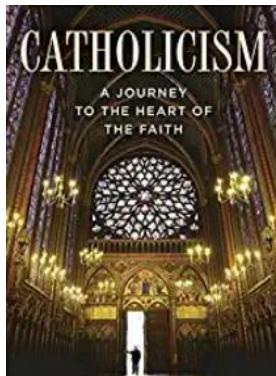
Check out the BookRack for **Father's Day items**.

We still have a few First Communion and Confirmation things as well.

Echa un vistazo al Estante de Libro para los **artículos del Día del Padre**. Todavía tenemos algunas cosas de Primera Comunión y Confirmación también.

Catholicism Series – Sunday at 10:00am – La Serie Catolicismo

What is Catholicism? A 2,000-year-old living tradition? A worldview? A way of life? A relationship? A mystery? In Catholicism Bishop Robert Barron examines all these questions and more, seeking to capture the body, heart and mind of the Catholic faith.



¿Qué es el Catolicismo? ¿Un tradición viva de 2,000 años? ¿Una visión del mundo? ¿Una forma de vida? ¿Una relación? ¿Un misterio? En el serie Catolicismo, el obispo Robert Barron examina todas estas preguntas y más, buscando capturar el cuerpo, Corazón y mente de la fe Católica.

Mark your calendars for our 50th Anniversary summer celebrations!



Come enjoy fun and fellowship with the faithful, priests, seminarians, and religious of the Diocese of Charlotte!



JULY 9

FAMILY CONCERT:
CHARLOTTE
WHITEWATER
CENTER



JULY 24

CATHOLIC
FAMILY DAY:
CAROWINDS



AUG. 5-6

EUCARISTIC
CONGRESS:
CHARLOTTE
CONVENTION
CENTER



SEPT. 9

CATHOLIC NIGHT:
CHARLOTTE
KNIGHTS
STADIUM