



**Established in 1906**

**MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday:  
4:00 pm Vigil

Sunday:  
9:00 am  
11:00 am en Español

Mon, Tues, Thurs:  
8:00 am

Wednesday 6:00 pm Español &  
Friday 6:00 pm

**RECONCILIATION**

Saturday:  
8:30 am to 9:30 am

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday  
8:30 am - 5:30 pm  
(closed 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm)

Friday:  
8:30 am - 12:00 noon

**Rev. Victor C. Yakubu**  
Parochial Administrator

Parochial Vicar

**Rev. Julius Kayiwa**  
Parochial Vicar

**Deacon Francis Staab**  
Parish Deacon

**Parish Secretary**  
Amelia Kent

**Parish Manager**  
Donna Wicker

**Hispanic Community**  
Oralia Cano

**Facility Manager**  
Steve Couch

**St. Mary Roman Catholic Church**  
Iglesia Católica Romana de Santa María



**302 E. Spring Street, Kingman, AZ 86401**  
**Office: (928) 377-3435 / [www.stmarykingman.com](http://www.stmarykingman.com)**

**SUNDAY, June 5th, 2022**



**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

[Jesus] breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." - Jn 20:22-23

Sopló sobre ellos y les dijo: "Reciban el Espíritu Santo. A los que les perdonen los pecados, les quedarán perdonados; y a los que no se los perdonen, les quedarán sin perdonar" - Jn 20, 22-23

**Parish Mission Statement:**

We the people of St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, Called by God,  
Approach the Father in Word and Sacrament, Live relationship with Jesus in Catholic  
Community, Seek the Called in the Love of the Holy Spirit

**MASS INTENTIONS, DAILY GOSPEL****Pentecost Sunday****June 5, 2022**

Year C

<b>Sat. June 4</b>	Jn 7:37-39	4:00 p.m.	+	<b>Paquito Agduyeng</b> (Susan Madole)
<b>Sun. June 5</b> <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	Jn.7:37-39	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	+ +	<b>People of the Parish</b> <b>Enrique Gonzalez</b> <b>Virginia Gonzalez</b> (Henry Gonzalez)
<b>Mon. June 6</b> <i>The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church</i>	Jn. 19:25-3	8:00 a.m.	+	<b>Judith Becker</b> (Louis Becker)
<b>Tues. June 7</b>	Mt. 5:13-1	8:00 a.m.	+	<b>Martina Aguila</b> (Anonymous)
<b>Wed. June 8</b>	Mt. 5:17-19	6:00 p.m.		<b>Cory Aguila</b> (Anonymous)
<b>Thurs. June 9</b> <i>St. Ephrem, Deacon and Doctor of the Church</i>	Mt. 5:20-26	8:00 a.m.	+	<b>Ed Dobosh</b> (Cindy Bridges)
<b>Fri. June 10</b>	Mt. 5:27-32	6:00 p.m.	+ +	<b>Damian Lopez</b> <b>Richard Lopez</b> (Antonia Lopez)
<b>Sat. June 11</b> <i>St. Barnabas, Apostle</i>	Jn. 16:12-15	4:00 p.m.	+	<b>David &amp; Nell Philipps</b> (Donna Farner)
<b>Sun. June 12</b> <i>The Most Holy Trinity</i>	Jn. 16:12-15	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	+ +	<b>People of the Parish</b> <b>Martina Aguila</b> (Anonymous)

Reflection for Pentecost Sunday: Year C  
Send Out Your Spirit Through Us  
Allison Gingras



“Lord, send out your spirit and renew the face of the earth,” like many of the faithful, I can’t read those words without finding myself doing so along with the familiar tune of the Responsorial Psalm. In addition to the song filling my

ears, an image also formulates within the heart of my imagination. As I read these words, I can almost feel the mighty rushing wind and see the tongues of fire descending and then dispersing outward to all the earth — animating, maintaining, and inspiring all of creation with the Spirit of the God.

Holy Spirit, the one sent down from heaven on Pentecost after Jesus ascended, bestows 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.

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 grows us in 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 — opening their 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 these symbols, 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.

The Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, guides and directs us, empowers and motivates us, dwelling within, branded upon our souls as we experience our daily Pentecost. The life of a disciple requires continual prayerful discernment of how God calls each of us to use the gifts bestowed through the Spirit in serving the community of believers and the whole world. We have a share in the redemptive mission. God doesn’t need us in this mission, as He has already accomplished it through His Son, but in His great love for us empowers us to be sharers in His work upon this earth. He empowers, guides, and allows us to not only embrace a faith more deeply found through the Spirit for ourselves, but incredibly also gives us the opportunity to bring this Good News to others so they too can experience the indwelling of the Triune God.

Allison Gingras

## Sharing our Gifts

### What We Gave Back to God

May 29, 2022

Attendance 543

Needed to meet weekly expenses	\$ 8,000.00
Plate Collection	\$ 5,962.60
Online Giving	\$ 506.42
Building Fund	\$ 233.00

#### April 2022

Monthly Operating Expense	\$30,748.83
Monthly Plate Collection	\$38,974.48
Deficit or Gain	+\$ 8,225.65

### Our Daily Bread

Thank you for your continued support of Our Daily Bread ministry. We have made and distributed 7,678 sandwiches year to date, and 312,975 since inception (September 2013).

**WE ARE IN NEED OF MONEY DONATIONS, FOR LICENSE, APRONS, HAIRNETS.** You may drop your donation off at the Parish Center.

**WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TWO MONDAYS PER MONTH 9:00AM TO 11:30AM**

If you are interested, please contact David Hunter at 714-726-6130.

Thank you, once again!

## Donate your Change

Be sure to pick up a special offering box or can at the back of the church. Write that it's for the building fund, your name and phone number on it before you turn it in.

All monies will go toward future building improvement projects in the parish campus.

## *Brick Garden*

*We are continuing to take brick orders. This is a wonderful way to pay honor to someone you love or to be remembered as part of St. Mary history for years to come. Bricks are \$50 for a 4x8 and \$100 for a 8x8. Call the Parish Office for an order form or to place your order.*

*The brick garden is growing — don't miss the opportunity to be a part of it.*

## *Featured Advertiser*

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Dominick Varallo**

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## Parish News and Events

### *Parish Events This Week*

**Sunday, June 5**

CERS 11:45am Rm. 5,6,7

**Monday, June 6**

**Tuesday, June 7**

**Wednesday, June 8**

Rosary 10:00am Rm. 5,6,7  
CERS 6:00pm Rm. 5,6,7

**Thursday, June 9**

**Friday, June 10**

CERS 6:00pm Rm. 5,6,7

**Saturday, June 11**

Pro-Life Meeting 9:30am Library  
Meet & Greet After Mass Church



## Gift Shop

### Hours of Operation

**Saturdays,  
Before & After Mass**

**Sundays,  
Before & After Masses**

We have medals, bibles, rosaries, Chapel veils, prayer cards, missals, large print bibles, religious candles, various statues.

Come soon to the Gift Shop for the best selection.



### Meet & Greet of St. Mary Ministries

Saturday, June 11, 2022 and  
Sunday, June 12, 2022 in the narthex  
before and after mass.

This is a great opportunity to get  
acquainted with the various ministries.



### St. Mary Community

We are in the process of putting  
together an updated History of St  
Mary and need your help. Please  
submit any photos, stories, or  
memories you may have of your  
time here at St. Mary.

You can either bring them to  
Donna in the Parish Office or  
email them to  
[donna.mariew@yahoo.com](mailto:donna.mariew@yahoo.com)

### Mass Intention Book 2023 is Here

Come and schedule your Mass  
intention for 2023. Reservation of date  
is first come bases.

Events & News



**Please pray for all who are sick or infirmed:**



*Carl Cena, Lori Davies, Robert Comstock, Linda Pinnick, Carol Kreft, Diane Schatz, Stella Dombrowski, Ray Martin, Rita Cownie, Mark Kucharek, Fr. Charlie Urnick, Orelia Cano, James Cleary, Angie Huizenga, Sandra Lyons, James Driscoll, Michael Barrett, Diane Seiler, Joan Anamassi, Frankie Daiber, Fermin Esquibel, Joseph Matthews, Richard Potts, Mary Woodward, Toni Grzechowika, Ron Tuohey Sr., Don Hall, Danny Weatherwax, Richard Fernandez, Anthony Fernandez, Susan & Steve Richards, Ventura Villalobos, Jaime Fernandez, Susan Regino, Ellsie Taylor, Ryan Smith, Olivia Sanchez, Ann Peterson, Helena Hall, Gabriel Esquivel, Teresita Mocato, Aurora Marchece, Caitlin Amburgue, Peyton Mann, Jaime O'Niell, Art Penfold, Jerrod Wetzal, Teresa Stafford, Jacque Sweetman, Fernando Galvan Jr, Gary Gallant, Rocco DiConza, Rick Maiero, Alex Freiday, Neal Kinsinger, Jimmy Gifford, Nora Wisely, Mike DeGraff, Marietta Green, Yolanda Gallegos, Brad Glowacki, Jan Brooks, Rita Middendorf, Ann Collins*

**Names Will Only be Posted for 4 Months**



**Please pray for all those who have died, especially;**

Maria & Roger Coleman,  
Vivian Brown, Iris Matthews  
Gaynelle McCasland,  
Mary Guitron, Manuela Bañuelos  
Maria Smedley



**First Saturday Devotion**

Saturday,  
July 2, 2022

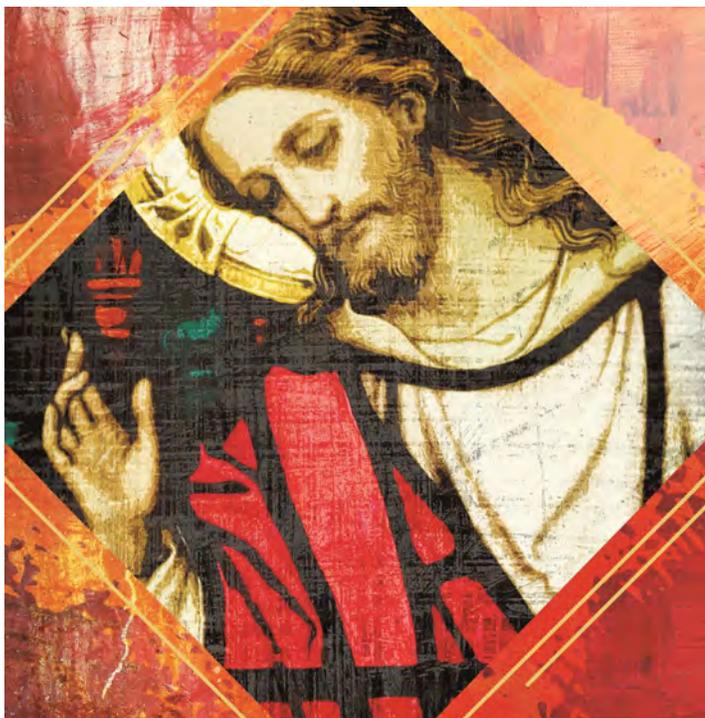
11:00am to 12noon  
Chapel

**Altar Flowers**

*Thank you Filipino & Vietnamese Families for the flowers*

*Fr. Victor wants to extend an invitation to the parish community to make donations for altar flowers.*

**JUNE—Sacred Heart of Jesus Month**



**Quinceañeras**

If you are interested in having a Quinceañera please notify Donna Wicker at (928) 377-3435 ext. 2 at least 4 months in advance.

There is a preparation for having the ceremony in the church.



**Pro-Life Meeting**

Saturday, June 11, 2022  
At 9:30am in the Parish Center



## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PHOENIX

### DECREE

Whereas, on April 2, 2020 I issued a decree allowing for general absolution within the Diocese of Phoenix when the priest could not gain access to the faithful as a result of restrictions imposed by an institution due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), in accord with canon 961 §1, °2 and §2 of the Code of Canon Law;

Whereas, in accord with canon 961 §2, I have determined that the grave necessity of COVID-19 is no longer present to allow for general absolution;

Now therefore, with this decree, I hereby revoke the decree of April 2, 2020.

Priests are reminded that absolution cannot be imparted in a general manner to many penitents at once without previous individual confession (except in danger of death is imminent and there is insufficient time for the priest or priests to hear the confessions of the individual penitents) (canon 961 §1, °1).

Given at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Phoenix, Arizona, on this 28<sup>th</sup> Day of April in the year of Our Lord 2022.

Handwritten signature of Thomas J. Olmsted in blue ink.

+Thomas J. Olmsted  
Bishop of Phoenix

Handwritten signature of Maria R. Chavira in blue ink.

Maria R. Chavira, Ph.D.  
Chancellor



ENCOUNTERING THE LIVING CHRIST

400 EAST MONROE STREET, PHOENIX, AZ 85004-2536 | 602-554-2000

Parish News

# REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO THE BAPTISM OF YOUR CHILD

In order to baptize your child in our parish, the following documents are required before you begin the process.

1. Must be registered parishioner
2. Must have child's birth certificate
3. Godparents must be a practicing Catholic, in good standing. This means they have received Confirmation (certificate is required). If they are married, a copy of their Catholic marriage is required. A letter of good standing and proof of completion of a baptismal preparation is required for both parents and Godparents These forms will be included in packet.



Preparation takes time. Please contact Donna Wicker at (760) 900-2336 to receive all necessary forms and information.

I can not set a date for baptism unless all requirements are met.

## HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING ?!?!?

Surely some of you have been thinking and praying about joining the Choir?! We hear some great voices out there and invite you to help with leading the congregational singing. If you play an instrument of any kind, if you enjoy singing, if you feel called at all, please step forward. You are needed and wanted. Additional accompaniment is needed !!! Piano, keyboard, guitar, any instrument welcomed!! You don't have to participate every Mass or even every week. Pray about it. Is God Calling You ??? Is this the call? It's a wonderful, spirit filled, and fun Ministry. Pray about it some more and check it out! Feel free to check with any of us after Mass, call the office, reach out in any way for more information. You could even just join us for practice on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm in the Church. Everyone is WELCOME !!!

## Rosary Group

Wednesdays at 10:00am in Parish Center: Room 5,6,7



If you are unable to attend the Wednesday rosary, but would like to be included in prayer, please leave your prayer petition on the clipboards in the Gift store. God Bless You.

### LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

St. Josemaria Escriva tell us, "To live according to the Holy Spirit means to live by faith and hope and charity. To allow God to take possession of our lives and to change our hearts, to make us resemble him more and more." Today we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit given freely by God to us. The Holy Spirit is the very breath of God and the true source of our power and strength. When we accept that God is the beginning and the end of all things, we open ourselves to receiving this powerful presence. The Holy Spirit alone is the one who teaches us how to pray, who stirs us to lift our eyes to heaven in search of our Creator and opens them to recognize the wonderful gifts of faith, hope, and love God gives us. The Holy Spirit is the one who teaches us how to understand ourselves, God, others, and the world. When we allow God's Own breath to truly take possession of us, we realize that we are meant to become like God and know Him as He really is. This ultimate helper lifts our eyes from what is below to what is above and empowers us to live life with joy and keener vision!

### OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 5, 2022

- Sunday:** Pentecost Sunday; St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr
- Monday:** Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church; St. Norbert, Bishop
- Thursday:** St. Ephrem, Deacon and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday:** St. Barnabas, Apostle
- Next Sunday:** The Most Holy Trinity



Fr. Benedict Groeschel said there are “four kinds of prayer most appropriate in the presence of the Eucharist.”

## *Things to do during Eucharistic Adoration*

Adoration and Praise  
Thanksgiving  
Repentance  
Trusting Intercession

1. Pray the Psalms or the Liturgy of the Hours . Whether you are praising, giving thanks, asking for forgiveness, or seeking an answer, you’ll find an appropriate psalm. The ancient prayer of the Church called the Liturgy of the Hours presents an excellent way to pray through the book of Psalms throughout the year.
2. Recite the Jesus prayer  
Say “Lord Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner.” Repeatedly as you quiet your heart and mind.
3. Meditate using Scripture  
Choose a passage from the Bible. Read the words and ask God to let the passage speak to you. Pay special attention to anything that strikes you and ask God what He wishes for you to draw from that passage.
4. Read the life of a saint and pray with him or her. Most holy men and women have had a devotion to Our Lord in the Eucharist. Terese of Lisieux, Catherine of Siena, Francis of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas, Peter Julian Eymard, Dorothy Day, Mother Theresa of Calcutta, and Baroness Catherine de Hueck are just a few. Read about them and pray their prayers before the Blessed Sacrament. ( to be continued)

Honor guards are still needed for Thursday Call Paulette Dollarhide at 928- 753-5449. **Join us on Sundays at 4:00 pm for Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.**

## WEEKLY PRAYER

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 5, 2022

- 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/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/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39  
*Day:* Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26
- Monday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 6, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34
- Tuesday:** 1 Kgs 17:7-16/Ps 4:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 5:13-16
- Wednesday:** 1 Kgs 18:20-39/Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab and 8, 11/Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday:** 1 Kgs 18:41-46/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13/Mt 5:20-26
- Friday:** 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-16/Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14/Mt 5:27-32
- Saturday:** Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Mt 5:33-37
- Next Sunday:** Prv 8:22-31/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [2a]/Rom 5:1-5/Jn 16:12-15

### SAINT OF THE WEEK

Born to nobility, St. Norbert of Xanten, was ordained as a subdeacon and served in the court of Henry V, Emperor of Germany, however, at court it was easy to be distracted by wealth, power and luxury and he lived a worldly and corrupt life there. By the grace of God while traveling in a storm he was nearly struck by lightning and almost killed. This experience changed St. Norbert and he became penitent, left his court post, and after a period of discernment in a monastery, felt called to be a priest.

Norbert became an itinerant preacher, preaching against worldly attitudes but at the Pope’s request finally settled in northern France and founded the Norbertine order established according to the rule of St. Augustine. The order grew rapidly and soon founded women’s branch. Norbert traveled and preached across Germany where he also founded a lay branch of the Norbertines. In Belgium he preached against heresies which denied the Blessed Sacrament.

Eventually he was made Archbishop of Magdeburg, Germany, and later he traveled to Rome in support of Pope Innocent II, against the antipope. Afterward he returned to Germany to court of Emperor Lothar as advisor, at end of life, in failing health, St. Norbert was carried back to Magdeburg where he died.

## Parish News and Events

### Servicios de Consejería



**Caridades Católicas ofrece Servicios de Consejería/Asesoramiento a bajo costo...**

para individuos, familias, parejas, niños y adolescentes para tratar una variedad de problemas, entre los que se incluyen, pero no limitado a: Abuso, trauma, pena y pérdida, depresión, comunicación y mucho más. Los servicios se brindan en varios sitios a lo largo del valle. Tarifas en una escala móvil, según los ingresos y el tamaño de la familia, y ahora brindamos asesoramiento a través de algunos planes de AHCCCS.

Para programar una cita llame al 602-749-4405.

**El Señor oye el clamor de los pobres.  
Job 34:20-28**

Para aprender más sobre este programa o donar hacia esta causa, llame al 602-285-1999 y visítenos en [www.catholiccharitiesaz.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesaz.org)



Hope is a FREE emotional support bot providing encouragement and strategies to manage everyday stress and anxiety.

Text "Hi" to Hope at 1-202-949-7249 and get instant support  
Start Code: CCCSAZ



Catholic Charities offers the service through a partnership between Catholic Charities USA and X2AI

### Counseling Services



**Catholic Charities provides low cost Counseling Services...**

for individuals, families, couples, children and adolescents to deal with a variety of issues, including, but not limited to: Abuse, trauma, grief and loss, depression, communication and more! Services are provided at multiple sites throughout the valley. Fees on a sliding scale, based on income and family size, and we are now providing counseling through some AHCCCS plans.

To set an appointment call 602.749.4405.

**The Lord hears the cry of the poor.  
Job 34:20-28**

To learn more about this program or to donate to this cause, call 602-285-1999 and visit us at [www.catholiccharitiesaz.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesaz.org)

## Catholic Charities

1594 N. Oatman Road  
Bullhead City, AZ

(928) 758-4872

(928) 708-7295

Hours of operation  
12noon to 5:00pm



## Knights of Columbus

Together we're empowering Catholic men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work, and in the community. We are inviting all Catholic men age 18 and over to consider joining us. The Knights are known as "the strong right arm of the Catholic Church" and were founded on the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. We have recently been described as "good men at work doing Godly things; this is what the world needs". Our mission is to live upto that! Where there's a need there's a Knight! Our Council has been growing and becoming more vibrant and will continue that growth only with YOU! Surely you see us in action around the Parish. If you have ever thought about joining us, stop thinking, PRAY and JOIN! You can join for free online at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) and Click on JOIN. When prompted put in Council # 3145. The Knights meet the first Thursday of every month at 6pm and would love to meet you! If you are a Knight new to Kingman, please consider transferring your membership to our Council. If you are a Knight visiting our area and happen to be here on a meeting night, feel free to join us as well. For more information please talk to any Knight after Mass, stop by our table in the vestibule, email [steve.couch51@gmail.com](mailto:steve.couch51@gmail.com), call or text 402-415-1296 or call 928-377-3435 ext. 4.

### Campus Corner

Peace Be With You! Thanks for helping to keep our Campus beautiful and safe. Covid numbers are decreasing but don't let our guard down just yet. Please continue to use hand sanitizers, keep safe distance as much as possible, and consider wearing a face covering. We are sanitizing the Church, Chapel and Parish Center regularly.

Remember we have a Lost and Found in the Vesting Room next to the Gift Shop. We also have a power pack should you need help starting your car while on Campus. Lots of Spring projects around campus, inside and outside. If you'd like to add your assistance in any way around Campus, please call the office at 928-377-3435 extension 4, or call 402-415-1296, or email at [scouch@stmarykingman.com](mailto:scouch@stmarykingman.com). There's always something that can use an extra pair of hands and ideas. As always, if you see something that needs attention or if you need assistance with anything let us know. Food For Thought: Stop and smell the Roses, literally! They are fully in bloom and beautiful! Keep Smiling and Praying! Peace And May God Bless Us All!

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Even though Pentecost is rightly celebrated in late spring, the robust experience of a New England fall can provide a profound metaphor for reflection. A full expression of fall colors is beautiful to behold. But, with all of its majesty and beauty, the observer knows the experience of death is soon to come. Creation will be dark and barren for a while. Pentecost cannot be separated from the cross. Before God's transformative, life-giving power can bear fruit, we must first die.

Pentecost is all about leaving the lifeless dead wood behind and allowing God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to create something new. These Pentecost creations happen repeatedly over and over again. The birthing process of the Church is ongoing. God is always bringing life out of death and creating something where there was once nothing. That is why the fall is such an apropos metaphorical season for Pentecost. In order to really receive the gift of the Holy Spirit we have to die to what we once knew and what no longer works.

When fire and wind find their fullest expression, they are in no way gentle nor kind. They have the



potential to level anything in their paths. We are experiencing great turmoil in our world, nation, and our Church. Whether the result of circumstance or the work of the Holy Spirit, much of what we knew to be normal and constant is changing. Common systems and institutional structures that may have worked for a time no longer do. When the old and familiar need to be left behind, God creates something new. Change and disorder do not need to be our enemies. They always bring opportunities for something exciting and new. What we need is untiring faith, firm hope, and perfect love.

What we need is for the Holy Spirit to enlighten us to see what is important and what we must do. "O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams." (St. Augustine) If we experience joy, even in the midst of turbulence, then we will know we are exactly where God needs us to be. If not, then perhaps there is a lesson in the decaying leaves that graciously descend to the ground on a crisp fall day.

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." - Jn 20:21-23*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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