

**FATHER MARK SCHULTE**  
**HOMILY**  
**PENTECOST SUNDAY EASTER (C)**  
**June 8, 2025**

**“Spiritual Gifts”**

Brothers and sisters, we have arrived at the completion of the Easter season with the Feast of Pentecost. Pentecost marks fifty days following Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus promised His disciples that he would not leave them orphans and alone. He promised to send them the paraclete, the counselor, who would “teach them everything” (Jn 14:26). That counselor and companion is the Holy Spirit of God. The third person of the Blessed Trinity (CCC 263).

We read how the Apostles were once again in the upper room when all of the sudden the doors flew open, and the room was filled with wind. And then tongues of fire appeared above the heads of each of the Apostles (Jn 20:19-23). Wind and fire in particular are signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-11) (CCC 696). The Holy Spirit of God poured out His gifts on the Apostles in abundance; wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord (CCC 1831). Prior to this they were afraid of persecution. Now they are filled with courage and conviction and soon will begin speaking the Gospel to all the people in Jerusalem and in many different languages, languages that they did not know previously. This demonstrates the Church’s ability to communicate to all the peoples of the world, to which she would soon bring the Gospel, beginning in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit is God speaking through His Church inviting all people to salvation in Jesus Christ. What was scattered at the tower of Babel is restored by the Church (Gen 11:1-9).

The Church’s seven sacraments communicate the Holy Spirit to God’s people as well, but especially in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. During the Mass, the priest will invoke the Holy Spirit upon the gifts of bread and wine, preparing them to become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, the second person of the Blessed Trinity, to be offered to God the Father. All who receive the consecrated bread and wine worthily will themselves be filled with God’s Holy Spirit (1 Cor 11:27).

The Feast of Pentecost marks the beginning of Jesus’ Church, the Church’s birthday so to speak. When each individual person is baptized they are said to be born again, not in the flesh, but in the Holy Spirit (Jn 3:5-8). They become a completely new person in Jesus Christ.

When a person receives the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit they then begin to exhibit the fruits of the Holy Spirit in the way they live their lives, remembering that Jesus said to His Apostles “By their fruits you will know them” (Mt 7:16). The twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit are: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity (Gal 5:22-23) (CCC 1832).

By being open to the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit the Christian begins to form himself in the virtuous way of living. There are seven virtues: four cardinal virtues and three divine or theological virtues (CCC 1803-1829). The cardinal virtues are prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. The divine virtues are faith, hope and charity. We can easily see that in order to live the Christian way of life one must be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The Feast of Pentecost marks the virtual beginning of this spiritual growth process.

From this day forward let us allow the Holy Spirit to guide our lives:

- In our prayer life
- In our willingness to do God's will
- In our willingness to undergo daily conversion through the repentance of our sins

Even though the Easter Season is coming to a close our spiritual life is only beginning. For we now live in the age of the Holy Spirit. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in our every effort to grow in holiness, for Jesus said, "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Lv 11:44-45, Mt 5:43, 1 Pt 1:15). Our goal is eternal life in heaven and only those who are holy achieve it and achieving holiness requires the gift of the Holy Spirit. Make that commitment today, right now, don't wait another minute.

NOTE: CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church