



St. Rita Catholic Church

**89-318 Farrington Hwy.
Nanakuli, Hawaii 96792**

**Parish Office: (808) 668-7833
Website: <http://www.stritananakuli.org>**

Pastor:	Rev. Paulo Kosaka, OFM Cap	
Deacon:	Deacon Harold S. Levy, Jr.	
Office Manager:	Mele Ahuna	
Bookkeeper:	Lalla Andres	
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Youth Minister:	Ivan Okuda	808-3086261
Knights of Columbus:	Bill Kozak	609-381-1193
Outreach Coordinator:	Carlin Ujimori-Kaeo	808-668-7833
Outreach/Facsimile/Prayer-line		808-668-7716

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday at **5:00 PM**

Sunday at **7:00 AM, 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM**

Confessions: Saturday from 3:15 to 4:00 PM *at the church* or by appointment

Infant Baptism: Contact Parish Office

Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact the Pastor 6 months before the wedding date for an appointment.

Funerals: Contact the Pastor before going to the Mortuary

We, the people of God of St. Rita Parish in Nanakuli, are united in our belief and in our commitment to Jesus Christ. In the spirit of aloha we respond to Christ's mission of love and freedom with our care, concern and communal action. This is expressed in the stewardship of our treasure through tithing and in the gift of our time and talents through shared ministries.

As a fast growing rural parish with a large Hawaiian population we feel a special calling to stand together in truth and justice for indigenous people of this land. As part of the universal Church, our outreach extends beyond our boundaries to the global community and we affirm the human dignity of all peoples.

As a parish family we enthusiastically participate in bringing about God's reign of peace. We continue to evangelize, welcome and invite all of God's people to St. Rita Parish.

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Pentecost Sunday

May 24, 2026

The Spirit of God dwells within us!

PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday, May 23	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass	
Sunday, May 24	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass	
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (<i>Live Stream</i>)	
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass	
Monday, May 25	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass	
		PARISH OFFICE CLOSED - MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY	
Tuesday, May 26	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass	
	..... 7:00 p.m.	Finance Council Meeting - Kamiano Trailer	
Wednesday, May 27	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass	
	.. 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Open	
Thursday, May 28	..... 8:00 a.m.	<i>Communion Service</i>	
Friday, May 29	..... 7:30 a.m.	<i>Liturgy of Hours/Rosary</i>	
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass	
Saturday, May 30 8:00 a.m.	Mass	
 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church	
 5:00 p.m.	Mass	

PEACE
be with you
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NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Ex:34:4b-6, 8-9: Moses went up Mount Sinai to meet the Lord. He begged the Lord to accompany the Israelites, "a stiff-necked people." He asked God to pardon their wickedness and sin.

2 Cor:13:11-13: Paul encouraged the Corinthians to mind their sinful ways and help one another live peace. He write to them, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you."

Jn:3:16-18: God loved the world so greatly that he sent his only Son that all may have eternal life. The Son did not come to condemn the world but that it might be saved through him. Whoever believes in the Lord will live forever.

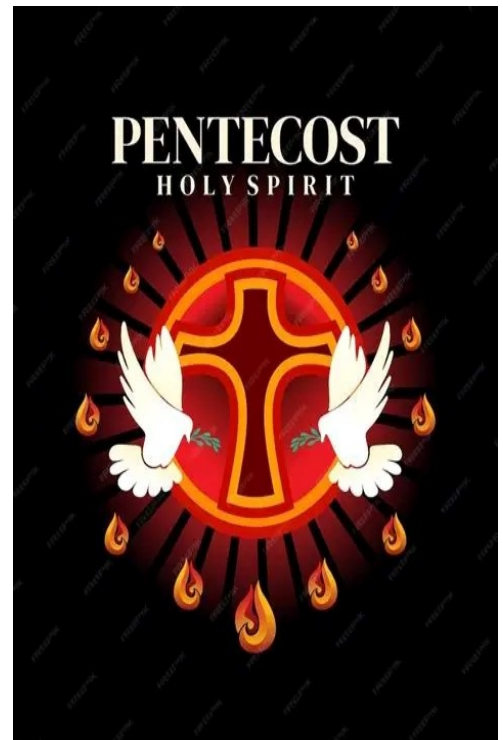
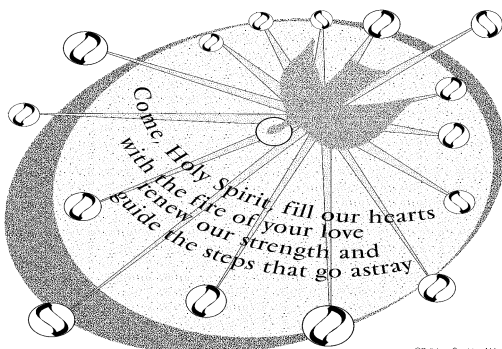
Pentecost

"To each is given the manifestation of the spirit for the common good." 1 Corinthians 12:7

To receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit you must open your heart and invite Him in! Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, words and actions every day!

Be grateful for all the gifts God has given you!

Regardless of our individual circumstances, God has given all many blessings. What we do with those gifts is our gift back to God! By generously sharing everything we have and everything we are, we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered" and our lives truly reflect God's light, love, and mercy.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD OF LIFE:

“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

USCCB Respect Life flyer Quoting Pope Francis” “Day for Life Greeting” © 2013 Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

WEEKLY READINGS

May 24 Sun: Pentecost Sunday

Acts:2:1-11; Ps:104; 1 Cor:12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn:20:19-23

May 25 : Mon: The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

Acts:1:9-15, 20; Ps:87:1-2, 3 & 5, 6-7; Jn:19:25-34

May 26 : Tue: Saint Philip Neri, Priest

1 Pt:1:10-16; Ps:98: 1, 2-35b, 3cd-4; Mk:10:28-31

May 27: Wed: Ordinary Weekday

1 Pt:1:18-25; Ps:147; 12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk:10:32-45

May 28 Thur: Ordinary Weekday

1 Pt:2:25, 9-12; Ps:100: 2, 3, 4, 5; Mk:10:46-52

May 29 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

1 Pt:4:7-13; Ps:96:10, 11-12, 13; Mk:11:11-26

May 30 Sat: Ordinary Weekday

Jude:17:20b-25; Ps:63: 2, 3-4, 5-6; Mk:11:27-33

What Does Pentecost Matter?

Pentecost matters in our live today just as much as it did for those early believers (followers of Christ). It is remarkable and humbling to consider That’s God’s loving presence, in the Holy Spirit, comes to live with imperfect humans like us when we are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Described as our “Advocate” in **John 14:26**, the Holy Spirit is our ever-present help. We can know him, walk in relationship with him, call upon him and receive his perfect guidance every moment of ever day.

In a world that is rife with confusion hatred and sin, the Holy Spirit call fill us with unshakable peace and hope. He gives discernment and direction that helps us live out our faith as children of God. The Sprit enlightens our minds, opens our hearts to the truth, and gives us the grace to choose goodness. He dwells in the community of the Church, giving us brotherly and sisterly love for one another and teaching us to become more like Jesus in the way we serve.

The Holy Spirit is present in the Church and with God’s people, and the day of Pentecost honors the invaluable gift we have received in him. It also honors the very birthday of our beloved Church, the day that the Gospel began to go forth and draw many hearts to salvation. What an immeasurable impact Pentecost has made in all our lives!

(Ref.: Cross Catholic Outreach)

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today’s Gospel Jesus charges his followers to “make disciples of all nations.” What exactly is going on here? What is the Great Commission anyway? Good stewards know they are directed to share what they exercise stewardship over: their life of faith in Christ Jesus. They know Jesus didn’t direct them to go to church and to keep quiet about ; or to go out into the neighborhood, workplace or marketplace and just be nice. Christ’s Good News is meant to be shared. Many people in our communities don’t know about Jesus Christ. Does that bother us? Do we care? Do we realize we are supposed to do something about it?

International Catholic Stewardship Council

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection:	\$2,555.00
Mass Intentions:	\$60.00
Candles:	\$135.00

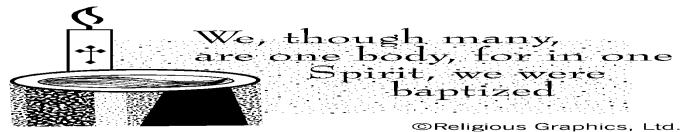
Total: \$2,750.00

Restricted Collections:

Building Fund:	\$615.00
Repairs/ Maintenance:	\$50.00
Outreach:	\$70.00
Military Services:	\$20.00

Total: \$3,505.00

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Solemn Feast of Pentecost A May 24, 2026

Ka Leo O Ke Kahuhipa – Aloha 'Ohana Aloha Nu'ia

HAPPY SOLEMN FEAST of PENTECOST! Today we celebrate the Solemn Feast of Pentecost. This feast is rich in Jewish history. In **Exodus 34:22**, we read about the “**Jewish agricultural feast - harvest of wheat and barley**” that is celebrated. Later this celebration was combined with the event of **Moses receiving the 10 Commandments – Torah Covenant on Mount Sinai**. **Jews came to celebrate them in the Feast of Shavuot.**

Pentecost (comes from the Greek word Pentekoste meaning fiftieth), and it was fifty days after the Passover from Egypt when Israel freed from the slavery in Egypt and there in **Mount Sinai received the Covenant and became the Chosen People of God.**

Interesting to note that the **coming of the Holy Spirit with the 7 - Fold Gifts upon the Apostles and Mary** took place on this **Jewish Feast of Pentecost**. We Christians celebrate the feast 50 days after Easter. We recognize the **Solemn Feast of Pentecost, too, as the birth of the Church, the birth of the Church's mission to the world.**

We are informed that there were many devout Jews from every nation in Jerusalem at this time of **Pentecost (Acts 2:1-11)**. They were there with many Jews from all over the Mediterranean world – the Roman empire who were Jews or affiliated-converts to Judaism celebrating **Pentecost, their agriculture feast of harvest and the receiving of the Covenant-Torah on Mt. Sinai.**

To the Catholic Christians the **Solemn Feast of Pentecost**, represents living presence of the Holy Spirit within the Church. We seek again to be re-enchanted in the fire of the **Holy Spirit with the 7-Fold Gifts (Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and the Fear of the Lord)** and strive to hold steadfast to our precious Christian Faith.

The **Feast of Pentecost** continues to hold profound meaning for each one of us today. It is a reminder that **Faith** is not meant to remain hidden but lived and shared with courage and compassion. How we need more than ever to pray to rekindle in our hearts **the 7-Fold Gifts of the Holy Spirit** so that we can courageously bear a living witness to Risen Jesus Christ and all that He had taught.

It is a time of prayer for **guidance, renewal, and spiritual strength**. We are invited to reflect on the actions of the Holy Spirit in our daily life and to rediscover hope, unity and purpose of our precious Faith in Jesus Christ.

We often refer or see **the Catholic Church** in the institutional sense alone and focus on the weakness of her members and we forget that it is also the **Mystical, that is the Mystical body of Christ**. The **institution of the Church** led by human members have often eclipsed the glory of risen Christ who is the Mystical body of the Church. She is eclipsed by evil men and women,

Church the Mystical body of Christ established on St. Peter's confession – the rock has not changed, Jesus Christ is still glorious and triumphant, the Church established by Jesus Christ will not be conquered by the evil. Some biblical references to the use of **Mystical body of Christ**:

“As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many. Are one body, so also Christ...Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it.” (1 Corinthians 12: 12, 27). The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that **“the image of the Church as the Body of Christ is significant because it indicates the Church is not simply as community of members gathered around Christ, but that the Church is united in Him, in His Body (cf CCC #789).”**

Before we find faults with others the church leaders and members, let us first do our part - kuleana **to sanctify and make our own lives as members of the Catholic Church** for we are integral part of the Church - Mystical body of Christ the Church through our Baptism.

Scripture Reflections

1st. Reading: Acts 2: 1-11 Background Context: Pentecost which means **fiftieth** was **the second of the three most important annual feasts in the Jewish calendar**. It occurred **seven weeks after the Passover and was primarily a feast of thanksgiving for the harvest**: the first fruits of the wheat crop offered to God on that day.

Later on, the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai was also commemorated on this feast day. **All Jewish men, not legitimately impeded**, were expected to come to Jerusalem, to the temple, for the solemn feast. **Thousands of Jews living outside Palestine – Israel** also came, and the City of Jerusalem was overflowing. **It was very fitting therefore that this solemn feast day of the Jews** was chosen for the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, thus Pentecost, embraced as a solemn Christian feast.

The Christian religion - Faith was to be **universal – Catholic**, and **the gift of tongues showed its universality**. The Law given by God to Moses was for the Jews only; the new Law, given by Jesus Christ, and confirmed by the power of the Holy Spirit, was for all men and women.

The vast gathering of Jews from all over Israel and from all the surrounding nations where the dispersed Jews lived was very suitable occasion on which to proclaim publicly the message of Jesus Christ given through the mouth of St. Peter.

And suddenly there came from the sky a noise: The Apostles had been told by our Lord to wait in Jerusalem (**Luke 24: 49**), until the Holy Spirit came on them. They were all in one place, probably the room of the Last Supper where Jesus had appeared to them twice after his resurrection. **Like a strong driving wind:** Spirit means breath or wind, so it fitting the Holy Spirit made his presence felt like the strong driving wind. **Tongues as of fire, which parted and**

came to rest on each of them: Something that looked like a flame rested on each. When God gave the law to Moses, peals of thunder and lightening flashes signified God's presence and made the people tremble (**see Exodus 19: 18ff**). The loud noise and the flames signified the presence of the Holy Spirit.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit: The first signs of the power of the Spirit. They were given foreign languages and a new superhuman courage to proclaim their faith. Hitherto they had sheltered from the Jews.

And at this sound: This sound "like a driving wind" was heard all over the city, and by devout Jews from "every nation under heaven," a pious exaggeration and a way of saying that they came from most of the known nations of the Roman Empire, which was the whole world then known to the Jews.

Each one heard them speaking in his own language: Each foreigner who spoke from the language of the country he came from heard one or other of the Apostles speaking his language. **They were astounded and in amazement:** Little wonder they were amazed. They had enquired of the local Jews, and knew that the Apostles were simple men, with little education, from Galilee. Where did they learn all these foreign languages?

Parthians...: These were foreigners, Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, Egypt, and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans, and Arabs.

We hear them speak in our own tongues: This was the cause of their amazement, these simple folks from Galilee speaking all kinds of languages. **The mighty acts of God:** The Apostles were speaking of Jesus Christ, his teachings and his resurrection. St. Peter develops this theme later (**Acts 2:14ff**).

Application to Life: Pentecost day is called the "birth-day" of the Christian Church. The Apostles had already received the Holy Spirit on Jesus Christ's first appearance to them after His Resurrection (**John 20:22**). But on **the Pentecost day** the descent of the Holy Spirit was a **public manifestation intended to manifest to the crowds of local and foreign Jews who thronged Jerusalem on their great festive occasion.** The signs and wonders that manifested the Holy Spirit's coming brought these Jews in huge crowds to the place where the Apostles were staying, and immediately the **gifts of tongues – speaking in all languages** was used by the Apostles to explain this solemn occurrence.

It was a marvel wrought by God, a necessary consequence of the sojourn of Jesus Christ on earth. Jesus was the Christ whom the Jews had crucified but whom God had raised from the dead, thus proved Jesus was the promised Messiah and His beloved Son. Jesus Christ had chosen the Apostles to bring His Gospel to all nations - the good news that all men and women

were once more, reconciled to God their Creator, and were now adopted sons and daughter of God and heirs to heaven.

Today, the day chosen for the opening of this mission of the Apostles. That they were backed by the divine power of the Holy Spirit was proved not only by **the gifts of tongues** but more especially by **the transformation wrought on the Apostles, by the 7-Fold Gifts of the Holy Spirit**. From this day forward they were men dedicated by one purpose and to one purpose only, to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the world.

When Peter, representing the eleven preached Jesus Christ, crucified, raised from the dead by the power of the Father and now seated at His right hand (Ascension) in heaven, He raised the Christian standard aloft. Peter and his fellow Apostles (**including Matthais and Paul later**) gave their lives gladly to plant the Faith throughout the Roman empire. The frail and mortal men, turned into spiritual giants by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Two millennia (twenty centuries) separates us from those heroic men of God, but the task of their labors is with us and the same Holy Spirit who has remained with the Church down through the ages continues to assist each one of us. From generation to generation the message and the means of salvation have been handed down, and we are to carry on the task!

The Church (Catholic) established by Jesus Christ on the confession of St. Peter **“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the hell shall not prevail against it,” Matthew 16: 18**. The Catholic Church will always remain through the ages until Jesus Christ – the groom-head of the Church returns (Second Coming) to claim His bride the Church.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are to strive to be faithful in a world saturated with moral relativism and self-indulgence and overcome the temptation to put personal convenience and comfort of the flesh or earthly gain over our discipleship. Perhaps the greatest struggle of the Church today is not from the enemies outside but from enemies within.

Let us not fall victim to moral relativism, that is have no sound doctrine and principled moral life in Christ. of ages and condemn in clarity what is evil. Truly we all must stand on the rock of St. Peter’s confession and not let shifting winds of moral relativism espoused by many in the world to affect, shatter or weaken our faith in Jesus Christ. The voice of the Holy Spirit is still as strong as it was on that first Pentecost day in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit is still at helm of the bark of St. Peter and will continue to bring millions the faithful to the shores of the eternal kingdom as it has done during the past two millennia! **“Come Holy Spirit, enkindle in the hearts of the faithful the fire of divine love.”**

2nd Reading: 1Corinthians 12: 2-7; 12-13 Background Context: The gifts of the **Holy Spirit** were very evident in the infant Church. This was necessary to prove to the pagans that the Christian religion (Faith) was from the real God who controlled all things.

As pagans they had their local god or gods to whom supernatural powers were often falsely attributed. But the God of the Christians had real powers, and they were distributed freely by the **Holy Spirit** where occasion demanded. St. Paul in this part of his **first letter to the Corinthians** is emphasizing that these gifts are not given to an individual for his honor or glory but to help build up the Church.

No one...the Spirit: One of the first tests of genuineness of a gift from the Holy Spirit was conformity with the Christian Faith. If any person claimed he or she was moved by the Holy Spirit to blaspheme Jesus, he or she was evidently a liar and a fraud. On the other hand, he or she who sincerely professed that Jesus Christ was God was moved but the Holy Spirit. Faith is a gift from God. **Varieties...same Spirit:** All the gifts given to the early Christian converts were from the same Holy Spirit and each had its special purpose. It is possible that Paul wished to prevent any temptation from boasting that he had a better gift than his neighbor. All were from the same source. **Varieties...service:** The ability to help in administering the affairs of the early Christian communities was a gift of God- each one receiving the gift necessary for his particular task. Helping the sick, feeding the poor, calling the assemblies together, explaining the faith, powers of healing, are all examples of these different ministries, but they all came from the same God.

Given for common good: These gifts were given for the good of the whole Church community, to help build up the Church, and so that no one should refuse to use the gifts he or she got or claim it as his or her own. **The body is one:** St. Paul now introduces the simile of the human body made up of many members, to describe the Church. From this we get the title "**Mystical Body of Christ**" to describe the Church.

For by one spirit: It was the Holy Spirit sent by Jesus Christ on his ascension to heaven to direct and inspire his newly founded Church, who gave us the grace to become members of Christ's Body. **Jews or Greeks:** Meaning all men and women, Greek stood for Gentiles, that was the rest of the world apart from the Jews. **Were baptized:** The sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ to make men and women members of his Church, his body.

Application to Life: These verses of St. Paul are very suitable on this the solemn feast day of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. Not only did he make his presence felt by the external exercise of his powers on that first Pentecost day, but he continued to do so for some years until the Church had laid solid foundations in the Gentile world.

These gifts of the Spirit were foretold in the Old Testament as signs of the Messiah's arrival (see **Joel 3:1ff; Acts 2: 16ff**), and were manifested in the early Church in Jerusalem (**Acts 2:4**), Samaria (**Acts 8:17**), Ephesus (**Acts 19:6**), Rome (**Romans 12:6**), Galatia (**Galatians 3:15**), and in Corinth. St. Paul has much to say of the gifts given in Corinth because there was evidently some abuse of them or some dissensions because of them in that city. But for us the

important point to bear in mind today on this, the anniversary of the public manifestation of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles- **Pentecost**, is the infinite love of God for us, God's Chosen People of the new covenant. Through the amazing mystery of **Incarnation**, men and women, we are empowered to become adopted sons and daughters of God; through our **Baptism** we become members of Christ's body, his Church.

Through the worthy reception of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in **the Holy Eucharist** we are nourished with divine life, Risen body of Jesus Christ even on this earth and our direct reception of the Holy Spirit in the **Sacrament of Confirmation**, we are made active members of the Christian Church, with all the strength and powers necessary to be effective members, on active service daily, true soldiers of Jesus Christ.

Because of Jesus Christ's redemptive sacrifice of his life for us, even in our earthly failure, no matter how low we may have fallen, the unfathomable mercy of God in the **Sacrament of Penance** can bestow upon us "a second baptism" forgiveness of sins.

On this **Solemn Feast of Pentecost**, often called the "birthday of the Church" let each one of us take an honest look at ourselves today, and ask; "Am I really an active member of the body of Christ the Church? Am I spiritually healthy, living in God's grace and thus helping the whole body (church) to be healthy? Or am I a diseased member, and not only sick and weak through my personal sins, but spreading that sickness and weakness to my neighbors by my bad examples?" Perhaps many of us can claim "I have no big (mortal) sins and give no grave scandal," yet perhaps by our lukewarm practice of our faith we further drive away those who were seeking to find Jesus Christ.

We could hardly call ourselves disciples of Jesus Christ on active service if our lives are like one of deserters and dishonest draft – dodgers avoiding being at the battle front and seek only safety and comfort that others have provided.

Truly we can always give thanks to God, that God continues to draw us, Christians to strive to remain healthy members of his mystical body – though we may be weakened now and then but the call of our divine physician (Jesus Christ) put things right again- Sacrament of Confessions, lifting us up, to again follow ever more faithfully the Good Shepherd, let us never take our faith for granted.

The Holy Spirit came to us in **Confirmation** with the Seven-Fold Gifts; **Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Knowledge, Fortitude, Piety and Fear of the Lord** to equip us for life of discipleship. We must ceaselessly draw back those amazing gifts given by the **Holy Spirit** and reflect on and call upon them every day and be renewed in faith. We will know if we are using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit by the fruits of the Spirit we bear in our daily life. Are any of the these fruits found in your life? **12 fruits of the Spirit... 1. Love, 2. Joy, 3. Peace, 4. Patience, 5. Endurance, 6.**

Kindness, 7. Goodness, 8. Gentleness, 9. Faithfulness, 10. Modesty, 11. Contenance and 12. Chastity. (Galatians 5:22-23).

God never ceases to bestow upon us abundant graces to enable us to work for the whole Church, for the whole body of Christ, our part is as simple as to humbly kneel daily and seek the Lord 's help.

We are made disciples - soldiers of Christ (Church militant) that we work together for the protection of our nation and our freedom, the growth of faith in our parish and family-ohana. We are **Baptized and Confirmed** Christians not made disciples of Jesus Christ in order to save our own souls only - we are Christians in order to help our fellow – Christians and all men and women in their common fight against sin and godlessness in the world. **The Church triumphant** – those who are in heaven, **the Church suffering** – those who are in purgatory- purgation, being purified and **the Church militant**- we on earth journeying to eternal life. We must then not be fearful to take an active part in the battles of the Church, against every evil that impede the practice of the Christian virtues. There is a place for everyone in the Church's line of battle. We need not search far to find it. We need not be physical or intellectual giants in order to fulfill the role destined for us.

Gospel John 20: 19 – 23 Background Context: (Today for the explanation of these five verses of St. John, are repeated from the Second Sunday of Easter). They are repeated here today, the feast of the Holy Spirit, - Pentecost because on that first appearance of the risen Lord he conferred the Holy Spirit on the Apostles.

Today's feast commemorates the solemn public and publicized conferral of the same Holy Spirit. **Evening of...first day:** The evening of the Sunday. **The doors being shut:** Risen Jesus came through the closed door, which shows the spiritual qualities of the resurrected body (**see 1 Corinthians 15: 44-48**).

Came and stood among them: To prove that he was the Christ (Messiah) who had been crucified and who was now alive once more. **Peace be with you:** Jews saluted one another by wishing peace, that is, health and prosperity both in the material and spiritual sense. Here, the Risen Christ is not only wishing "**well-being,**" especially the spiritual well-being, but he is giving it (**see John 14:27**). **So, I send you:** Receive **the Holy Spirit:** The Risen Jesus is **now conferring on the Apostles the mission** he had promised them before his death (**see Matthew 4:19; John 17: 18 etc.**), which was the continuation of the work of divine salvation inaugurated by Jesus Christ himself. **If you forgive...sins:** Catholic tradition has rightly seen in this **act the institution of the Sacrament of Penance.**

Application to Life: The **liturgical cycle** which each year represents to us God's mercy and kindness in our regard, closes today with this **Feast of Pentecost – the public solemn** descent of **the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, the Advocate of the Christian Church.**

During **Advent** we try to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Son of God to dwell as man among us. **Christmas** recalls to our minds and hearts the great act of divine love. **Lent** prepares us for the sufferings endured by Jesus Christ during **Holy Week** on our behalf. **Easter** is the feast of triumph, Jesus Christ's triumph over death, the guarantee of our final triumph and union with him in his eternal glory. **Pentecost crowns Jesus Christ's work among us.**

The **Holy Spirit** comes to abide with the Church, directing and effectively aiding the Church to preserve, explain and spread the gospel of hope and love which Jesus Christ had brought on earth. This same **Spirit** helps each member of the Church, all of us, all baptized to live a life of holiness by following the teachings of Jesus Christ (commandments and the Gospel) and by helping one another to do likewise.

Briefly, this annual series of church feast days recalls to our minds the infinite love of the Blessed Trinity (**God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit**) for us who are finite, mortal men and women.

At the same time, it shows us the part that **Blessed Trinity** has **engaged actively by each of the divine Persons in the eternal plan** to share with us the perfect peace and the unending happiness which we as adopted children may enjoy in their heavenly kingdom.

God the Father created us with the intention and plan to raise us up to adopted sons and daughters with him. **God the Son** in humility took human nature (**Incarnation**) so that we might **share in the divinity**. Representing all men and women, (all of us) Jesus Christ gave perfect obedience to the Creator "**even unto death on the cross,**" and thus merited sonship and daughter ship for us. The **Holy Spirit**, the "**fruit of divine love,**" came from the Father and the Son to bring to perfection the work of our sanctification.

Thus, the **3 divine Persons** of the **Blessed Trinity** have cooperated in the great work of infinite love and condescension which opened for us a future of unending happiness, if we only have the common sense to appreciate what has been done for us, and the simple common decency to do in return the relatively little tasks (Jesus redeemed us already) we are now called to participate actively in the life's journey Jesus Christ had clearly marked the path for us.

MEMORIAL DAY

This **Monday, May 25th** is a **Memorial Day** and a federal holiday for mourning the United States military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Don't let politics keep us from rendering respect to so many men and women who had served in the United States Armed Forces. **Eternal Rest Grand unto Them O Lord and Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed in the mercy of God Rest in Peace, Amen.** The Office is closed for the holiday.

Have a Blessed Week in the Lord!

