

Dear Padre,

I am a practicing Catholic and I don't remember being confirmed. Is it too late for me to be confirmed?

The sacrament of confirmation usually happens when a person is older, and therefore you would likely remember the occasion. It could be that you were not confirmed. You can check with the parish you lived in during your school years to be sure. They keep records of confirmations done in the parish.

Confirmation is the final sacrament of initiation. Baptism ushers us into our life with God by giving us new life. Confirmation seals us with the spirit so we can follow Jesus and live out our particular vocation. And the Eucharist gives us strength for the journey and keeps us in union with God.

If you discover you have not been confirmed or if you can't find out for certain, talk with your pastor. You would not be the first adult seeking confirmation. Your pastor can tell you how your diocese handles confirmation for adults. There might be a program of adult instruction for confirmation to ensure you understand the sacrament and the teachings of the Church.

Today is Pentecost, the day when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit into the lives of the apostles. The Spirit gave them strength for what they had to do. The Spirit can do the same for you.

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
May 29 Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14 Jn 19:25-34	May 30 Weekday Sir 35:1-12 Mk 10:28-31	May 31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16 Lk 1:39-56	June 1 St. Justin, Martyr Sir 42:15-25 Mk 10:46-52	June 2 Weekday Sir 44:1, 9-13 Mk 11:11-26	June 3 St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs Sir 51:12cd-20 Mk 11:27-33	June 4 Most Holy Trinity Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9 2 Cor 13:11-13 Jn 3:16-18



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were still disoriented and fearful. They did not yet have the courage to go out in the open. We too, at times, prefer to remain within the protective walls of our surroundings. But the Lord...sends upon us the Holy Spirit who envelops us and overpowers all our hesitations.

REGINA CAELI, ST. PETER'S SQUARE, MAY 23, 2021

A VIGIL LED BY POPE FRANCIS AHEAD OF PENTECOST SUNDAY AT THE VATICAN IN JUNE 2019. CNS PHOTO/REMO CASILLI, REUTERS

Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 28, 2023 Pentecost (A) Acts 2:1-11 / 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 / John 20:19-23



Freed by the Spirit

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Fear can be a most powerful imprisoning force. Like the apostles who locked themselves behind closed doors after the resurrection for fear of the local leaders, there are times when our own fears lock us out of the future and into our past.

We find ourselves choosing not to be generous for fear that if we are, we will find ourselves empty-handed with no one to care for us because all of our resources have been used up. And so, because of our fear, we lock ourselves into our own selfishness. At other times, we hesitate to be kind for fear that our care will be misconstrued or, worse, will be taken advantage of and abused. And so, for fear of continual demands upon our kindness, we lock ourselves into indifference. At other times, we find ourselves too cautious to speak out in the face of injustice because of a misguided respect

for "someone else's business" or because we are afraid anger or rejection will come down upon us. So, we lock ourselves into silence.

It is always the Spirit, however, that enables us to unlock those doors once locked by our fear. While that new power enables us to venture into a sometimes-shattering world, it does not promise we won't be shattered in the process. All that Jesus promised is that the Spirit would bring us peace. Such peace happens to us whenever we choose not to succumb to our fears. It is indeed a new creation taking place in us, even now.

Reflect

Has fear ever paralyzed you, keeping you from doing good?



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Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek	355-1696
& Nanette Rice	355-7676

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

5/27/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Lucy Gannett, Jonathan Gannett,
Nathan Gannett

Reader: Karen Burden

E.O.HC: Rosemary & Tom Bachman

5/28/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Kirbe & Kipton Koons, Joleigh Lohman-
Fuller

Reader: Hannah Schauf

E.O. HC: Alvin Bergkamp, Bob Woodrow

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

6/3/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Volunteer, Jason Velasco, Ryann
Bamberger

Reader: Tom Bachman

E.O.HC: Debbie Frederick, Gwen Waechter

6/4/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Cade & Jace Berning, Luke Woodrow

Reader: Alvin Bergkamp

E.O. HC: Mike & Cindy Broeckelman

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, May 27	4:00 p.m.	For the People
Sunday, May 28	9:00 a.m.	David Bergkamp
Monday, May 29	8:30 a.m.	Anna Sack +
Tuesday, May 30	8:30 a.m.	Peter Sack+
Thursday, June 1	8:30 a.m.	David Hoang
Friday, June 2	8:30 a.m.	Ritha Linenberger
Saturday, June 3	4:00 p.m.	For the People
Sunday, June 4	9:00 a.m.	Juan & Rosie Perez

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

MAY 28— PENTECOST—SOLEMNITY

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth (Ps 104:1)

My friends, this Sunday we celebrate Pentecost, a day on which we come together to remember that day long ago when a Jewish festival became something life-changing for those who had chosen to believe in the resurrection, had chosen to put their trust in Jesus, had chosen to follow wherever he wanted to lead them. It’s really not possible to overestimate the power of this experience in the life of the Church. Whatever exactly happened that day, however we understand the descriptions used by the authors of the Gospels and Acts, one thing is pretty clear: The community of faith was forever changed by this experience --- changed from being paralyzed by fear to being on fire with the Good News, on fire with the mission of Jesus, on fire to tell the whole world what they witnessed and how they had been transformed in ways they could never have imagined.

And so, today, as we gather to celebrate this great feast --- giving thanks to God for the gift of his Spirit --- let’s be sure to strive to truly believe that God can and will dwell within each of us. But let’s take it one step further. Let’s not simply believe that it is possible, but rather want it to be so, want it to happen. I guess you could say God is coming across the street to help. Will we let him? Do we believe he knows more than us? Will we welcome what he is offering?

Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for May 21, 2023: Envelopes: \$930 Loose: \$244; Online Giving: \$473.29; Total \$1647.29
Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under - 113.88
CHURCH PROJECT GOAL \$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$27804.63 *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

BUDGET SHOP We will be working at the Budget Shop on Saturday, May 27th and Tuesday, May 30th. Please keep these dates on your busy calendars and try to save a few hours to help us. We are open on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

MEMORIAL DAY PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS “On this Memorial Day, we pray for all members of the military, especially those who died in service to others. May we honor them by loving and caring for all those they have left behind. Give them strength and strengthen our commitment to caring for those who mourn their loss. Amen.” hal-low.com

QUESTION OF THE WEEK What gifts of the Holy Spirit do I recognize in myself? How can I use these gifts to bring Christ’s peace and mercy to others?

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Pentecost) Father of light, you have enlightened the minds of your disciples through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Bless us and give us the gifts of your Spirit forever. May that fire that hovered over the disciples as tongues of flame burn out all evil from our hearts and make us glow with pure light. May the voice of the Spirit strengthen our faith and inspire others who need love, guidance, and hope. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (John 20:19-23)

Peace Peace be with you was a familiar greeting among Jews. Peace was the great hope God’s people had for the world. Jesus’ gift of peace also frees the disciples from fear, and the disciples desperately need this freedom. As they go forth from their locked room to proclaim the gospel, they will meet resistance, hostility, and outright rejection.
For testimony Before he was killed, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit (14:15-18). Now the risen Jesus sends his followers to continue his ministry of loving people even to death (15:12-13). They don’t go alone: the Spirit makes them inseparable from Jesus. The Spirit is also the one who will speak through them, giving testimony to the truth (15:26-27).

New creations Jesus breathes on his disciples just as God once breathed life into the first human being (Genesis 2:7). Now that these disciples share in the life that comes from the risen Jesus, they share his power to bring others into union with God. However, they will also hold people accountable for refusing to accept that Jesus brings salvation to all (v.23). (oursundayreadings.wordpress.com)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING OF THE WEEK - (Acts 2:1-11)

Fulfilling his promise In his Gospel (Book One) Luke emphasizes that the Holy Spirit is with Jesus. At the end of Luke’s Gospel, Jesus promised to share the Spirit with his disciples. Today’s passage from Book Two shows the fulfillment of that promise.
Claiming Pentecost Pentecost was the Greek name for the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot). It was originally a harvest festival celebrated about fifty days after Passover. The feast evolved into a commemoration of God’s giving of the law (Torah) on Mount Sinai, where fire was a sign of God’s presence (Exodus 19:18). The Hebrew word ruah means wind, breath or spirit. In this passage all three meanings are implied. God breathes his Spirit into those who believe in the saving power of Jesus’ death and resurrection. The Jewish feast of Pentecost has thus come to assume new meaning for Christians.

A summary story Right before his Ascension Jesus told his disciples that they would be his witnesses throughout the world (Acts 1:8). Acts of the Apostles is the story of how the holy Spirit helped Jesus’ followers to preach and build up God’s church. Today’s passage sums up the first part of the book: Jews from all over the world hear what God has accomplished through Jesus’ death and resurrection. 1 CORINTHIANS 12:3b-7,12-13
All kinds of people The Christians at Corinth included people of different ethnicities, religious backgrounds, education, and income levels, which led to internal division and snobbery. Some people thought they were better than others because they had better spiritual gifts. All kinds of gifts Paul makes it clear that every person who believes in Jesus has the holy Spirit within them and that every gift comes from the Spirit. Therefore, no one should presume to think they’re better than anyone else. Moreover, the gifts of the Spirit aren’t given to make people feel special but to strengthen God’s church. The Spirit’s presence within individuals draws them into a community. The Spirit bestows gifts that makes the community diverse but also interdependent. The community will be unhealthy and ineffective if its members don’t value each other and work together .

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

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 of us 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.
;Para recibir los dones del Espíritu Santo debe abrir su corazón e invitarlo a entrar en él!;Pídale al Espíritu Santo que guíe sus pensamientos, palabras y obras cada día!;Sea agradecido por todos los dones que Dios le ha dado! Independientemente de nuestras circunstancias individuales, Dios nos ha dado a todos muchas bendiciones.;Lo que hacemos con estos dones es nuestro regalo de vuelta a Dios!Al compartir generosamente todo lo que tenemos y lo que somos, nos transformamos en más “centrados en Dios” y menos “egocéntricos” y nuestras vidas reflejaran verdaderamente la luz, el amor y la misericordia de Dios..(www.archstl.org)

Q: I attend a parish named Immaculate Conception. We recently built a new church which has an altar and a crucifix that hangs well above it. There is also a lovely state of our Lady holding the child Jesus off to the right. Recently our pastor also installed a large painting of Mary on the back wall behind the altar and I was upset since I think the altar area should remain wholly dedicated to Christ and not give the impression we are directing worship to Mary. I am so upset that I may leave this parish. – Susan

A: Your concerns are not without merit. While there are no rules absolutely forbidding images of the saints in the sanctuary, current norms and customs speak of the sanctuary area of the Church as emphasizing the altar, the ambo (pulpit), and the chair. There should also be, on or near the altar, a crucifix. Further, the tabernacle, in most parish settings, is usually in a prominent place, either within or very near the sanctuary (cf Built of Stones, #s 54,57,74-80).

That said, while images of Mary and the Saints in the central axis of the sanctuary are not common in modern Church design, it is not absolutely forbidden either. There may be some merit to have the patron of the parish Church, in your case Mary, prominently displayed (as many older churches do) somewhere near the front, presuming it does not overly dominate the sanctuary.

Perhaps, since you mention the Crucifix being high above the altar, there may be some merit in placing a small crucifix on the altar. But only if the high crucifix is well out of sight since more than one crucifix in the sanctuary is discouraged (cf Built of Living Stones #91).

It is regrettable that this has caused you such grief as to consider leaving the parish. Perhaps a spiritual way to accept what you consider less than ideal, is to remember that we do gather with the saints at Mass. Scripture says We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (Heb 12:1). There may also be benefit in recalling the description of the early Church at prayer: They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus (cf Acts 1:14).

As you rightly express, we pray with the saints, and they with us, we do not worship them.

Q: What do we mean when we speak of “our exile” in the prayer “Hail Holy Queen.” – Dionilla in Minnesota

A: Biblically “exile” refers to the fact that, after Original Sin, Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden (cf Gen 3:24). Hence we are exiled from there and live in this “Valley of Tears,” another expression that occurs in the same prayer.

Since the death and resurrection of Jesus we can also say that “exile” refers to the fact that we are not living in our true home. For Christ has opened the way not merely back to the Garden, but to heaven. Heaven is now our true homeland. This sinful and suffering world is not our home, and thus our time here can be considered a kind of exile as we await our summons to “come up higher” to our true and heavenly homeland.

Finally, speaking of this world as an exile, and valley of tears is a sober recognition that life in this world is often hard. And though we may ask God for certain relief, true and lasting joy can only come when we leave this exile for our true home with God. (Monsignor Charles Pope)

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

I, the Lord of wind and flame

The Spirit of holiness enters the gathering in driving wind and burning flame. It also comes more gently, as Jesus breathes on his friends and wishes them peace. How can the Spirit be so forceful, yet soft as a breath? The same way love is impassioned in some hours, light as a caress in others. Sometimes our loving presence is required in bold, dynamic, and powerful action. At other times, presence alone is enough: a hand held or silence shared. The more fully immersed in Spirit we are, the more we'll know what to do when the time comes. (Preparetheword)

SOLEMNIDAD DE PENTECOSTÉS

Yo, el Señor del viento y el fuego

El Espíritu de santidad entra en la reunión con viento impetuoso y llama ardiente. También llega más suavemente, cuando Jesús sopla sobre sus amigos y les desea la paz. ¿Cómo puede el Espíritu ser tan fuerte y, a la vez, tan suave como un suspiro? De la misma manera que el amor es apasionado en algunas horas, ligero como una caricia en otras. A veces se requiere nuestra presencia amorosa en una acción enérgica, dinámica y potente. Otras veces, la sola presencia es suficiente: una mano que se toma o un silencio compartido. Cuanto más inmersos en el Espíritu estemos, más sabremos qué hacer cuando llegue el momento.