

Pentecost 2026

The St. Vincent DePaul Society is taking a couple months off due to not having enough volunteers to field incoming calls or visit those seeking assistance. But this is an important ministry to maintain. In the last 12 months they have helped 347 families with things such as rent, food and medical bills...distributing \$83,000 in assistance. Please consider getting involved in this ministry. You can be as involved as your schedule allows...please contact the parish office for more information.

+ Today we celebrate in essence the birthday of the Catholic Church, Pentecost, the anniversary of the Holy Spirit descending upon the disciples. It may seem that the Holy Spirit doesn't receive the attention that the first or second person of the Trinity receive; and if that is the case, it's too bad. Because not only is the Holy Spirit fully God, the third person of the Trinity is just as necessary for our salvation as the Father and the Son. It's why the Holy Spirit is "communicated to the Church....so that she and each of her members (you and me) may become daily more and more like our Savior."¹ You see, we enjoy the richness of life, here on earth and most especially in Heaven to the degree that we become one with Jesus Christ; and it's the Holy Spirit makes that possible. It is the Holy Spirit by coming into our souls, conforms us to Christ. This is how the Spirit, when received and if active in a person, leads the person to holiness. It's why the Father and the Son sent the Paraclete...and continue to do so.

As Jesus said, without him we can do nothing. Even when our soul is filled with sanctifying grace, when we're strengthened by the infused virtues and assisted by God's grace...we're still human. So even when we're freed of sin, if detached from worldly things....we're still not capable by ourselves to be perfectly united to God. Perfect holiness is beyond our reach. Should we settle for mediocrity then...of course not? God who desires our perfect holiness has provided us with the means of attaining it....He has given us the Holy Spirit.

¹ Mystici Corporis

When the divine Spirit is operative in our life and in our soul we begin to transcend our human limitations because by the Holy Spirit we begin to act in a divine manner. By this, we're drawn and guided more completely towards God. The Holy Spirit inflames one's heart and enlightens one's mind; as a result He acts on our will, influencing our actions. Just because we're often unaware of these movements or promptings of the Spirit doesn't make them any less real. And it may seem that Holy Spirit overrides the human will, our freedom, but that would be a misconception. The Spirit forces us to do nothing, it only assists us. Besides, freedom is possessing what is truly good and the Holy Spirit has no other mission in our life than helping us attain the ultimate Good. So He actually enables and enhances our freedom by being present and active in our life.

But just because the Paraclete can accomplish these things in our life, just because God desires this to be the case for us, does not mean it always happens, hardly. All too often the hardness of our heart or hardness of our will prevents the Holy Spirit from truly living within us. Because God is love, the Spirit doesn't force its way into our heart. To begin with, we have to let go of our own ego, and that doesn't come naturally. Once we're set free from our own self, let go of preconceptions and 'my way of doing things,' the Holy Spirit can take possession of my soul and finally direct it according to His good pleasure and not my own.

We've all received the Holy Spirit already; it was given to us at our baptism and was renewed and increased at our Confirmation. The Holy Spirit is called the "Gift of God most High" because we receive the actual Spirit of God, the third Person of the Trinity, the Spirit of Jesus Christ, and the love which is shared between the Father and the Son...truly, what an incredible gift. God is the ultimate giver of good gifts, and He is not stingy. My point...we can and we must pray for an increase of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Pray often that the Holy Spirit

enliven us more completely, take hold of us more perfectly, and that we have the humility to permit it. The work of our sanctification, the story of us reaching Heaven, can be reduced to the question, how docile was I to the divine Paraclete in during this earthly life?