

Sunday's
READINGS

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
 John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Scan the code to read
 today's readings. →


**Opening
 PRAYER**

Holy Spirit, move me. Direct me on the path you have set forth for me. Set me on fire with the desire to bring others to Christ. Amen.


**Thoughts for
 REFLECTION**

Think of a saying or words of wisdom that were given to you as a child that now hold a deeper meaning for you.

What led you to uncover a deeper meaning?

Awaken is written and edited
 by Jo Ann Paradise, D.Min.


What You NEED to KNOW
Scripture Background
Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

Luke, the author of both one of the four Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, describes the coming of the Holy Spirit. We refer to this event as Pentecost or, sometimes, the birthday of the Church. In Chapter 1 of Acts, Luke recaps an appearance of Jesus after his Death and Ascension into Heaven. Jesus calls the disciples his witnesses. Witnesses testify to the truth. Why, then, were the Apostles gathered in a room? Should they not have been visible in Jerusalem witnessing to what they had experienced? Amid their fear and doubt, Luke describes a strong driving wind and tongues as of fire. This is an encounter with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit drives them out into the streets and empowers them to proclaim the Good News of our redemption in Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

Having heard of this profound experience of the Holy Spirit, one can understand why Paul would say, "No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit" (v. 3). Paul goes on to encourage the Corinthians to live this truth. The Spirit is present in the Church. The differing gifts given

to each person are for the good of the community. Because of the Holy Spirit's presence, we are one Body of Christ. Many of the Corinthians were wealthy as they lived in a seaport town. Paul tells this community that whether their gift is wealth or leisure time, or knowledge, these gifts must be used in service to the community.

John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

This passage in John's Gospel is from the Farewell Discourses, which are three chapters long. Jesus is speaking to his disciples. He assures them that he will send the Advocate. In Greek (the original language of the Gospel) the term is *paraklétos*. Directly translated this term means "called to one's aid." In a foreshadowing of Pentecost, Jesus tells the disciples that it will be through the power of the Holy Spirit that they will discover the courage to proclaim the Kingdom. In this Gospel reading we also hear Jesus explain that the Holy Spirit will help us to understand all that the Father wants to reveal about himself through his Son's life, Death and Resurrection. In these words, we hear Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit will continue to reveal to us who God is and who we are to God through his Body, the Church.





Points to Ponder

On Your Side

Many television news programs have a reporter who fights for the rights of those who are not getting justice. In our area, this segment is called “On Your Side.” Moving from an understanding of the Holy Spirit as a guide to an Advocate may be a spiritual leap. These are both roles of the Holy Spirit. But, have you ever imagined the Holy Spirit “on your side”? Think of someone communicating, “Oh no, you don’t!” Maybe you experienced a bird coming toward you to protect her nest. Or a mother standing in front of her child, staring down a bully. She might not utter a word, yet everything about her body language says, “You better not take one more step.” Whenever you are face to face with suffering or evil and you are tempted to give up hope, hear the voice of the Holy Spirit saying, “Do you really want to take us on?”

- What does having the Holy Spirit on your side mean?
- How might this image affect your spirituality?



Our own belief is that the renovation of the world will be brought about only by the Holy Eucharist.

—Pope Leo XIII

Strengthen belief in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Visit the Pflaum Eucharist resources page.



and CHURCH TEACHING

Connecting GOSPEL

Gifts Given and Shared

Why does God give us spiritual gifts? Pope Francis makes it clear in an October 1, 2014 talk. “A charism (gift) is more than a talent or personal quality. It is a grace, a gift that God gives through the Holy Spirit. As a sign of God’s superabundant love for his children, they are rich and varied, yet each is meant to serve the building up of the Church as a communion of faith and love.” We are powerfully formed by our culture to believe that our gifts are for our personal benefit. “Do everything you can to get the most money and status

from them,” is an underlying principle of our economic system. This message is so dominant that hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit may be almost impossible. Hear Pope Francis ask, “What charism has the Lord given me? Do I assume it with generosity, placing it at the service of all, or have I perhaps neglected it, forgotten?”

➔ To learn more, refer to CCC, 1822–1832 or go to Booklet 8, Session 4 in *Growing Faith*.



Closing PRAYER

O most gracious God, create in me a thankful and generous heart. Put the gifts you have given me at the service of my family, friends, church, and community as a witness to your love. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Scan here for parent resources. ➔



Question of the Week

What gifts of the Spirit do you see in each of the members of your family?



Family Prayer

Make me less centered on myself, dear Jesus. Amen.