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the

Liturgical

flame

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR
LITURGICAL MINISTERS

What do we do with the “Fire”?

In the midst of the darkness of the Easter Vigil, symbolizing the Good Friday death of Jesus, a fire was lit in a courtyard of our St. Stephen the Martyr campus. Beginning as a small flicker and growing into a larger fire, it was used to light a new 2009-2010 Easter candle and the candles of hundreds of congregants gathered for this special service. As those to be baptized and those to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church processed into our worship area, the fire of God’s love was evident on their faces as well. The ancient song called the *Exultet* was sung—“*Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing choirs of Angels! Exult, all creation around God’s throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!*” And God’s people rejoiced for the new fire of resurrection. Our Easter season began.

This Easter season will come to its fruition on Sunday, May 31, the Feast of Pentecost, often referred to as the “birthday of the Church.” For on that day, the tongues of fire that came upon the disciples, gathered in an upper room, shot through the locked windows and doors and spread through the streets, the hillsides, the cities and countries of that first generation of disciples who caught on fire.

2000 years later, that fire is still burning. Many attempts have been made in various times and eras, including our own, to extinguish that light. And the power of that fire has been diminished at times through the sinfulness of the Church and our own sins and hurts as well. But the fire persists. This is a fire than cannot be contained. It can be touched and felt and celebrated and honored, but it cannot be limited, measured, or defined completely. It is a glorious mystery!

What do we do with the fire? Bathe in it, soak in it, let it cleanse sin and heal hurts. Spread it, share it, give it the air of the Spirit to grow. Let it enflame your minds and

hearts and very being.

“Accept this Easter candle, a flame divided but undimmed, a pillar of fire that glows to the honor of God. Let it mingle with the lights of heaven and continue bravely burning to dispel the darkness of this night. May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning: Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all mankind, your Son who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.”

“When the day of Pentecost came, it found them gathered in one place...tongues as of fire appeared, which parted and came to rest on each of them.”

By Father Jim Tiegs

20th Anniversary Celebration

6 (June) + 14 (Sunday) = 20th Celebration

- Noon mass—Celebrated by Archbishop Curtiss, Bishop Dendinger, founding Pastor, Father Gerry Gonderinger, and current Pastor, Father Jim Tiegs
- Immediately following, will be an Eucharistic procession in honor of the feast of Corpus Christi
- Upon conclusion of procession, parish picnic on the Church grounds
- Commemorative items are available to mark the 20th Anniversary Celebration

Come Holy Ghost—Send Us Your Spirit

Last Month's Flame had an article on Pentecost as well.

Please refer to it from the Liturgy Website at Stephen.org



The first Pentecost that occurred 50 days after Easter, is often called the birthday of the Church. It is on this day that the Apostles were inspired by the Holy Spirit and publicly preached the Good News to others. Our responsorial psalm exhorts us to bless God individually and personally--with "my soul." The great and awesome God, who is "clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak" is the Lord "my God." With "my soul" I am to bless the Lord as Creator of the vast array of creatures that fill the earth and are fashioned in God's wisdom.

All creatures depend upon this Creator God for timely nourishment and sustenance. When God gives it to them, they gratefully gather it. When the Creator generously "opens his hand" to give these gifts, his creatures are filled with good things. This calls us to a deep appreciation and gratitude, rather than taking for granted, not only all of the food we eat but also all of the good things and blessings that come our way as gifts of the Creator God.

The lives of God's creatures are totally dependent upon him. If the Creator "takes away their breath, they perish and return to their dust." But when God sends forth his Spirit, his creatures come to life and the Creator "renews the face of the earth." It is the great gift of this life-giving and renewing Spirit of God that we celebrate on the feast of Pentecost.

SAVE the DATE!!!

Fall Renewal Day

Please mark your calendars now for Saturday October 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in our Church.

This special day is a key part of our 2009 Parish Mission with Vince Ambrosiano.

We would really like to have ALL of our liturgical ministers participate in this great day of spiritual renewal.

More information will follow as we get closer.



**LORD, SEND OUT YOUR SPIRIT AND
RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.
PSALM 104: 1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34**

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and they shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Oh God, by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful. Grant that by that same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolation through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Upcoming Liturgical Dates

Ascension Thursday Services

Wednesday May 20th: 6:30 p.m.

Thursday May 21st: 6:30 a.m.; 12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m.

Memorial Day Mass: Monday, May 25th: 9:00 a.m.

Summer Daily Mass Schedule

May 26th through August 21st

6:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon—Monday through Friday

Liturgy Meeting: July 2nd 7:00 p.m. Staff Lounge

Liturgical Office Changes

As many of you know, we are experiencing transition in our liturgical office. Please be patient if anything falls through the cracks, so to speak, in the short run. On your behalf, I thank Peter Guile for his years of service to the parish. Most of his job description is being divided between Karen Hardy and Deacon Marty Warwick. All issues of scheduling and assignments should be addressed to Karen. You can reach her at k.hardy@stephen.org

On a practical note—we are going to try and schedule the 10:30

a.m. Masses as two separate Masses: 10:30 a.m. and 10:35 a.m. (gym Mass). Ministers will be scheduled for the entire cycle in either the gym or the Church. Once a cycle in the gym Mass is finished, for example, you would then go back to the Church for the next cycle.

Thank you! Thank you for your faith! Thank you for your faithful service! Thank you for being part of the 20 year history of St. Stephen the Martyr!

God bless you!
Fr. Jim

Stephen Ministry—

Is God Calling you to Serve?

What is Stephen Ministry at St. Stephen the Martyr Parish?

This ministry provides Christian-based training for individuals to prepare them to meet one on one with someone who is experiencing a crisis period in his or her life. These events could be the loss of a job, death in the family, divorce, serious illness, hospitalization, etc...

Requirements for becoming a Stephen Minister are simple. Individuals need to be a caring, compassion-

ate person who is willing to listen and to share time and talent, thus being of assistance to others.

Please consider being a part of this very important ministry.

We plan to start another training session during the fall months.

Please contact Sister Clarice for more information. 861-4508 or c.faltus@stephen.org

Post-Easter Season— Thank You “Karen’s Corner”

Our Easter Season has come to a conclusion. This year I looked at the Easter Triduum through a different set of eyes. Instead of through the eyes of a musician, I viewed it through the eyes of a liturgist. It is amazing to me the number of individuals it takes to make those services proceed so beautifully and seamless.

I especially would like to thank all the liturgical ministers that assisted with any of the holy week liturgies. From the individuals who answered the call to serve as Jesus’ Disciples for the washing of feet, to all of the EMHC’s, lectors, servers, greeters, ushers, and musicians. You really make our liturgies special.

I would like to thank the team of individuals who assisted me in decorating. You all aided in making our holy space of worship divinely beautiful.

A special thanks to our Sacristans. You are the backbone of our liturgies and blend in behind the scenes to make everything flow so perfectly.

We are blessed to have several spirit-filled Deacons who dedicate so much time to our church and the various ministries we offer here at St. Stephens.

But most importantly, thanks to our three wonderful priests that we are truly BLESSED to have. The Holy Spirit truly transcends through them and allows Jesus to come to us daily through the Eucharist! God Bless! Karen Hardy

Trinity Sunday—June 7th, 2009

This solemnity occurs one week after Pentecost. The Holy Spirit came in transforming power upon the disciples and the life of faith that we know began. Jesus is present among us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The origins of this solemnity can be traced to the seventh century. This solemnity offers us the opportunity to meditate upon this defining mystery of our faith.

Every mass and prayer begins with an invocation of the Holy Trinity—in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

On this Sunday, truly try and slow down and call attention to this familiar invocation.

Today we honor the Trinity, the divine mystery at the heart of our faith. Far from being some unfathomable puzzle, however, the Trinity is as much about us and God's relationship to us as it is about God alone. In

the words of opening prayer, this God is the one revealed "in the depths of our being"; we are the people "formed in God's image."

***IN THE NAME OF THE
FATHER
AND THE
SON
AND THE
HOLY SPIRIT***



Feast of Corpus Christi—June 14th, 2009

In 1264 Pope Urban IV prescribed the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ, for the whole Church. But the inspiration for the feasts came from a woman, Mother Juliana of Liege. It was she who prayed for the need for this special celebration of the Eucharist.

What was the intuition of Juliana and the sense of the faithful? In essence it is nothing more than the sheer realism of the words and meaning of the Lord on the night before he died. His word over bread, "This is my body," and his word over wine, "This is my blood, the blood of the covenant." Body and blood make the living person. In inviting us to eat his body and drink his blood, the Lord Jesus invites us to become, by graceful participation, his living presence in the world, invites us to become Eucharist for the world. But more. In associating us with "(his) blood, the blood of the covenant," Jesus links us to his sacrificial death. Sacri-

fice is self-donation, self-gift for another to the point of laying down one's life. Sacrifice is the rhythm of the life of the Trinity, utter self-donation for the Other. Being Eucharist for the world is very costly. If the celebration of the Holy Trinity last Sunday speaks our intimacy in the Communion that is God, the celebration of the Body and Blood of Christ shows us the way and tells us the cost.

We hope you will join in our Eucharistic Procession that will occur following the 12:00 noon Anniversary Mass. This mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Curtiss, Bishop Dendinger, founding Pastor, Father Gerry Gonderinger, and current Pastor, Father Jim Tiegs.



Holy Spirit—Rekindle our Fire

Pentecost is one of the most ancient Feasts of the church. The word Pentecost is from the Greek word, “*Pentecoste*” [πεντηκοστή] which means “*the fiftieth day.*” This name was used by the Christians to mark the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles on the fiftieth day after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Historically Pentecost marks the Jewish Feast of the Harvest of *Shavu’ot* also known as “*the festival of the weeks.*” This feast is connected to the Jewish Passover. It is celebrated on the fiftieth day after the feast of Passover commemorating the freedom of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 34:22). In Jewish tradition, during this harvest festival, the first fruits were offered in praise and thanksgiving to God. The *Shavu’ot* also commemorates the day that God visited his people Israel after they left Egypt and brought down the Law to them through Moses. This great betrothal event and earth-shaking visitation took place on the fiftieth day after leaving Egypt. This constituted Israel as a nation that is committed to serving the Living God. In the Jewish tradition, Pentecost brings the festivities of the Passover to a close.

For Christians, the Feast of the Pentecost has a different meaning. John the Baptist promised his own disciples who would become followers of Christ that “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one coming after me is more powerful than I. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Luke 3:16). At His baptism, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove. Following his crucifixion and death the disciples were afraid of the Jews. Then suddenly the Lord appeared to the twelve and breathed on them and said “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22), the spirit of strength. At the of ascension of our Lord, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, “And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49). This was the power for a new mission.

This promise of Christ was fulfilled on the day of the Jewish festival of Pentecost. It was another earth-shaking visitation and betrothal, when God constituted the people of the New Covenant. On that day, the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles in the form of tongues of fire, with the sound of a mighty rushing of the wind. They began to speak in tongues and languages they did not know. On that day, many visitors to Jerusalem came for the Jewish observance of the feast. They were amazed to hear those once timid, uneducated fishermen and tax collectors praise the Lord boldly, preaching the Gospel eloquently in their native languages (Acts 2:1-11). Pentecost for the early Christians was a breakthrough in understanding of their ministry, mission and relationship with the Lord. It marked the birth of the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. At Pentecost the church also celebrates the full revelation of God in three persons. The trinity is revealed as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Pentecost completes the revelation of God as Trinity. The early Christians also saw in Pentecost an image of the church as the first fruit of Christ’s resurrection. Before the death of Christ, they were bystanders of Jesus’ ministry; after the death of Christ, they were petrified and disillusioned, but at Pentecost they were no longer afraid. They were empowered, preaching the Gospel

without fear, beginning in Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. Thus they became a community, an “*Ekklesia*” (church) who will for over two thousand years become unshakeable in their witness to the risen Lord.

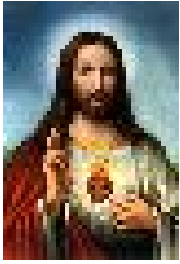
In today’s society marked by quests for power (financial power, political power, power to face difficulties and obstacles), Jesus invites us to seek more power and strength in the ongoing Pentecost. This power will animate and move us from being attentive spectators to those whom will bear witnesses to the risen Lord. Christ’s promise was not just to the early Christians, but also to us who are today’s disciples. Christ’s followers had so many questions after his death and ascension. One of such questions was whether the Lord had forsaken them again. The Pentecost answered that question for them, and continues to answer it and other questions for us today. God would never abandon his people. His promise was that “I will not leave you orphans” (John 14:18) and “I will send you another advocate” - the Holy Spirit who will work in us and through us (John 14:16-17, 26). Hence Christ released the Holy Spirit to animate the church. This same Spirit animated Him, and helped the early Christians to recognize Jesus as the model of what it means to act in the Spirit.

For us today’s disciples who were not there at the first Pentecost, we are not left out. For Christ promised that “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” (John 20:29). In addition, the gifts of the Holy Spirit have been poured out on us also. We are given a share of the Holy Spirit when we are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Baptism then is “the gateway to life in the Spirit” (Catechism of the Catholics Church 1213). At confirmation each of us receives the Holy Spirit, thus making confirmation our personal Pentecost. In this Pentecost, we receive the strength to live as adults in the church. Through this out pouring of the Holy Spirit we are each given unique, but different gifts for the building up of the body of Christ, the church (1Cor 14:26). We need the power of the Holy Spirit, so that the body of Christ will continue to be built up in our world, especially in our parish here at St Stephen the Martyr.

Traditionally, the church encourages a ten day Novena to the Holy Spirit beginning on the Feast of Ascension of the Lord and ending on Pentecost Sunday. During these ten day, we pray for a new out pouring of the Holy Spirit on the church, and the spirit of renewal on all Christians. We pray that the Holy Spirit rekindles the fire of His love on the church and throughout the world, especially on our church St Stephen the Martyr. Pentecost is celebrated on the fiftieth day after Easter, marking the end of the Easter Season. The liturgical color for Pentecost is red signifying the fire of the Holy Spirit. The altar is usually decorated with red colors while the priests, deacons and other liturgical ministers wear red vestments during the liturgy to signify that unquenchable fire of the Holy Spirit.

By: Father Chi Igboanusi

June—Month of the Sacred Heart



The solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus occurs on June 19th this year. The mystics of the Middle Ages, including Saint Gertrude and Saint Bernard, loved to ponder the human heart of the Savior. But it is the seventeenth-century saint and visionary Margaret

Mary Alacoque who is most associated with devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. At a time when the Jansenist heresy was seeking to put limits on the love and grace of God, the revelations to Saint Margaret Mary emphasized the human heart of Jesus, on fire with love for all people, a fountain of mercy and grace.

A Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

***Heart of Jesus,
Burning with love for me,
Set my heart on fire with love for you:
Help me to love you in the poor,
In those who hunger and thirst for justice,
In those who are sick, lonely, or imprisoned,
In all those whom I find it difficult to love.
Give my heart no rest until it rests in you,
Who are the source of wisdom, compassion and
love,
Who lives and reigns with the Father,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever. Amen***

Fall EMHC/Lector Training Dates Announced

Who are our best individuals to recruit new and future Liturgical Ministers? You are!! We are always looking for more individuals to assist us with our liturgies here at St. Stephens. Do you have a friend here at church that you think would make an excellent Liturgical Minister? Extend them an invitation to seek out more information on our various liturgies. The Archdiocesan Dates for EMHC/Lector Training have been announced for the Fall. Candidates are asked to attend one of the three available training sessions at the Archdiocesan Level as well as the St. Stephen's Training. The candidates also then will be mandated at the Cathedral by the Archbishop.

Archdiocesan EMHC/Lector Training (Attend one)

August 16th—St. Columbkille's 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

August 18th—St. Leo's 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

August 24th—St. Vincent de Paul's 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

St. Stephen Training Session

August 27th—Worship Space 7:00 p.m.

Archdiocesan Mandation—Cathedral

September 3rd—7:30 p.m.

Internet Links

www.zenit.org

This online tool shows daily news from the international news agency Zenit as "The World Seen from Rome". Zenit can be received via an e-mail subscription.

www.vatican.va

All major Church documents, papal writings, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, art and even "secret" archives can be found here.

www.catholic-hierarchy.org

This website contains all the current and historical information about bishops and dioceses.

DO YOU HAVE A

FAVORITE INTERNET LINK WHERE YOU

RETRIEVE LITURGICAL OR CATHOLIC

INFORMATION?

**CHECK OUT PAST ISSUES OF THE
LITURGICAL FLAME AT
STEPHEN.ORG UNDER THE
LITURGY SECTION**

Ask the Liturgical Team?

After publication of the last newsletter, no questions were posed to the liturgical team. Please send your questions, and we will be happy to respond with some wonderful answers.

Q: Why do we kneel during part of the mass?

A: At the end of the “Holy, Holy, Holy,” we all kneel. This change in our posture further emphasizes what the Preface has already brought out, that we are to set our focus on God. Kneeling has the effect, perhaps because our weight is shifted to our knees, of changing our level of attention. Kneeling seems to require something more sacrificial and active from us.

The posture of kneeling during prayer communicates the following three things:

- Adoration (something that is given to God alone)
- Repentance (for anything that we allow to take our focus off God)
- Submission (to the will of God)

Q: What are Mass Intentions?

A: A Mass intention may be attached to most Masses. This means that the priest is offering the Mass specifically for an intention someone has requested.

Does this mean that all the benefits of the Mass go to that one intention? The answer is no—every Mass benefits those in attendance and the entire Church, as well as the person or group who asked for a special remembrance at the Mass.

A person wishing to have Mass said for an individual usually can arrange to do so through the parish office here at St. Stephens (896-9675). It is customary to offer a ‘stipend’ when requesting a Mass intention.

ASK THE
LITURGICAL
TEAM?

PLEASE SEND
YOUR
QUESTIONS TO
K.HARDY@
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**NEXT NEWSLETTER SNEAK
PEAK**

ORDINARY TIME

**LITURGICAL MINISTER
WITNESSES**

**“IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE
OUR NEXT LITURGICAL FLAME
MINISTERIAL WITNESS?”**