

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – May 28, 2023

Dear Sister and Brothers,

The first reading for the Sunday of Pentecost from the Acts of the Apostles is dramatic and descriptive. The image of tornado-like winds, windows flying open, dust swirling all around and then this sense of peacefulness descends on all gathered, filling them with hope and courage – a courage that inspires you to reach out to others and share with them what God gives. People were amazed at the giftedness of the disciples – their ability to communicate with all people from all different backgrounds and social standings, people with different languages and different cultural traditions. The gift of the Holy Spirit, the gift Jesus promised the disciples was a gift that could reach all and was meant for all.

So, how does this work? Was this a once off or does it still happen today? Is the Holy Spirit for particular people or for all? Can I receive the Holy Spirit?

To every generation and to everyone the gift of the Holy Spirit is given. All it takes is an openness of mind, a willingness of heart, and desire for the Holy Spirit.

**“Breathe in me, Holy Spirit, that I may think what is holy.  
Move me, Holy Spirit, that I may do what is holy.  
Attract me, Holy Spirit, that I may love what is holy.  
Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may guard what is holy.  
Guard me, Holy Spirit, that I may keep what is holy.”**  
(St Augustine of Hippo)

### Mary, Mother of the Church Feast Day

**‘When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there, whom he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.’ *Jn 19:25***

Friends, on the Monday that follows Pentecost, we celebrate the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, and the patron of our parish. May Mary forever keep us in her care and present all our intentions and prayers to her Son, Jesus. As John took Mary into his home and heart, let us also invite Mary into our homes and our hearts. Please join us for the celebration of Mass at 6:30pm Monday evening at St. Mary Church, Bordentown to mark the feast day of our patron, Mary, Mother of the Church, and to say thank you to all those who take a very active part in the life of our parish. This Monday we will be honoring Donna Frappolli and Larry Denney, two wonderful and dedicated members of our parish. May God continue to bless them and guide them always.

### Memorial Day

Heavenly Father, as we [remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice](#) for the freedoms we enjoy every day, we think of how they have followed in the footsteps of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please hold our servicemen and women in Your strong arms. Cover them with Your sheltering grace and Your presence as they stand in the gap for our protection. We also remember the families of our troops. We ask for Your unique blessings to fill their homes, and we pray Your peace, provision, and strength will fill their lives. May the members of our armed forces be supplied with courage to face each day and may they trust in the Lord's mighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our love and support. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From Mary Fairchild

*Fr. Martin*