



## **Our Lady of Lebanon**

### **Maronite Catholic Church**

950 North Grace Street, Lombard, IL 60148

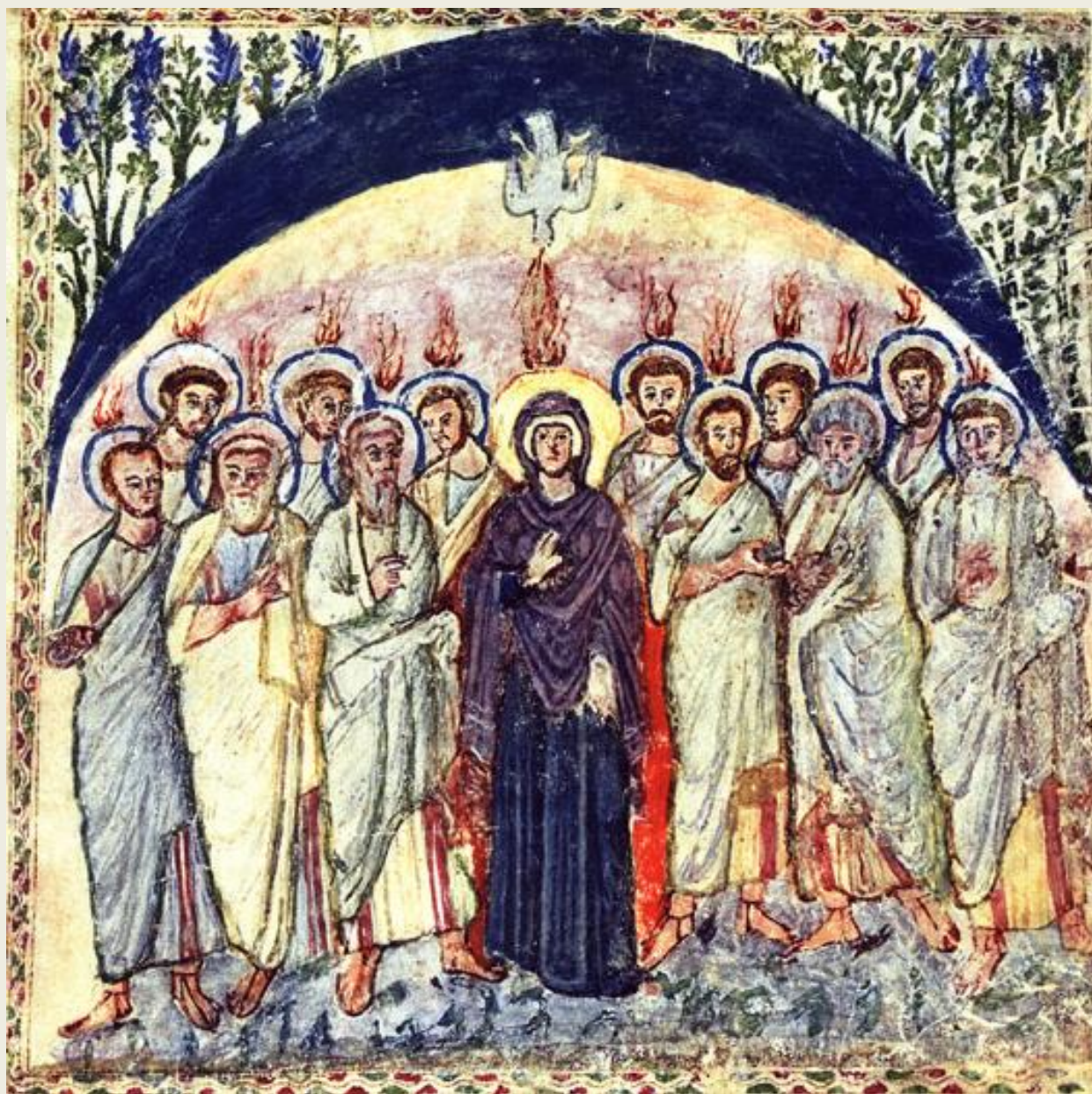
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## **Pentecost Sunday**

**May 15, 2016**



## **The Acts of the Apostles 2:1-21**

### **Brothers and Sisters,**

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language? They were all astounded and bewildered, and said to one another, "What does this mean?" But others said, scoffing, "They have had too much new wine."

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them, "You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. These people are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'It will come to pass in the last days, God says, that I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. Indeed, upon my servants and my handmaids I will pour out a portion of my spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy. And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

**Praise be to God always!**

## **The Holy Gospel according to Saint John 14:15-20**

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always,  
The Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept,  
Because it neither sees nor knows it.

But you know it,

Because it remains with you, and will be in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me,

Because I live and you will live.

That day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you.

**This is The Truth, Peace be with you.**

## **The coming of the Spirit**

TODAY WE CELEBRATE what is often called the birthday of the Church. Happy birthday to all! The apostles were all gathered in one room at the time of the Jewish feast of Pentecost, which falls 50 days after the Passover (or Easter in our Christian calendar).

What follows is a scene filled with scriptural symbols. First, there is the sound of a mighty wind from heaven filling the whole house. The word in Greek for 'spirit' and 'wind' is the same, so the wind clearly indicates the Spirit of God.

Then there appeared tongues of fire which rested on the head of each one present. Again we have a symbol of God's presence. We remember Moses speaking to God out of the bush which was on fire. We remember that, as the Israelites wandered through the desert, they were accompanied during the night by a pillar of fire – God was with them. All present are then filled with the Spirit. The sign of this presence is their ability to speak in different languages.

Immediately, the apostles go out and begin to speak to the crowds of people. Jerusalem was filled with Jewish and convert visitors from all over the Mediterranean, from Asia Minor, Egypt and North Africa, even Rome, to celebrate the feast. These people are amazed to hear unlettered people, speaking to them in so many languages.

The meaning is clear. What the apostles are preaching is a message destined for the whole world and not just for one people. A long time ago, as described in the book of Genesis, men tried to build a tower right up to heaven (Babel). For such arrogance they were punished and humanity became deeply divided. Today, Babel is reversed. All are speaking and hearing the message with full understanding; people are being brought together in unity under God. This is ultimately the mission of the Church, to bring people to God.

On this feast of Pentecost, as we celebrate the formation and the mission of the whole Christian community, we need to reflect on working together in different ways towards a common aim. we also need to reflect on the particular role that God has for me, to reflect on the particular contribution that I can make to the corporate mission of the Church and of the particular group with which I am involved.

### **REMEMBER IT**

**And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth.**

**John 14:16-17**



## What Symbols Does the Bible Use to Describe the Holy Spirit?

One of the difficulties of studying the Holy Spirit is the problem of building a concrete, physical picture of Him. Of course, we're trying to do the impossible. In a very real sense, the spiritual cannot be pictured. However, the Spirit, His purposes, and work can be compared to other things more understandable to us, and this is what God has done through the writers of Scripture. In looking at these symbols, it is important to remember that they are limited to illustrating only a small picture of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible uses a number of symbols to describe the person and work of the Holy Spirit. These symbols show the nature, character and work of the Holy Spirit. They include:

- 1. Water:** The Holy Spirit is symbolized by water. This speaks of refreshing, cleansing and washing the believer of his sins.
- 2. Wind or Breath:** The wind symbolizes the invisible yet powerful work of the Holy Spirit.
- 3. Fire:** The presence of God is frequently associated in Scripture with fire. Fire speaks of the holiness of God and the judging of sin in the life of the believer.
- 4. Oil:** Oil was involved in the anointing of the prophets, priests and kings for ministry to their offices. And it was important as a food, and was used as a medication. Oil symbolizes the soothing and healing presence of the Holy Spirit.
- 5. Dove:** Dove represents gentleness and peace which the Holy Spirit provides the believer.
- 6. Still Small Voice:** The Spirit is the voice of God that speaks to our innermost being.
- 7. Firstfruits:** The firstfruits were a symbol of the coming harvest. The initial work of the Holy Spirit symbolizes the final salvation and glorification of each believer.
- 8. Cloud:** Cloud is used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit because clouds provide life-giving water.
- 9. Clothing:** Clothing speaks of the divine Enduement of the believer with the Holy Spirit.
- 10. Number Seven:** Seven speaks of completion. When used of the Holy Spirit it symbolizes the Spirit's fullness and perfection.

These different symbols that the Bible uses to describe the person and work of the Holy Spirit will begin to give us an idea of how He works in our life.

### Prayer to the 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.

O Holy Spirit, divine Spirit of light and love, I consecrate to you my understanding, my heart and my will, my whole being for time and for eternity. Amen.

## Deacon's Corner

Last week in Deacon's Corner, I wrote about the "blessings" God has given to us over the term of our lives. This is something I continue to ponder in some form almost every day. At least for me, I find it more and more difficult to truly understand the breadth of God's love for us. After all, being human, we all have certain limitations.

As I look around myself while either at Mass every day, at my office, going out to lunch, grocery shopping, etc., it becomes apparent that everyone dresses differently, looks differently, and the list goes on and on. And with social media present in our lives today most people seem to "put themselves out there" in front of everyone. But what would our life be like if we "put ourselves out there" in front of God, our Father?

Remember, God, our Father, gave us His only-begotten Son to suffer and die on the Cross so that we may have eternal life. God, our Father, has given us the "path to eternal salvation" and He really didn't make it very complicated to follow. The complications or difficulties we all experience in our lives are self-inflicted. We bring the challenges of our life to ourselves by not focusing on what should be most important to us each and every day.

So I say to you, never be satisfied with the "status quo". Never think that what you did yesterday and even today should be good enough to get you through tomorrow. Why? For one reason, tomorrow may never come. And if it does, it may, and probably will, be another set of challenges that we weren't expecting.

So let us always be ready for tomorrow by continuing to live today with HIM. Keep the Lord on your side as He wants to guide you through life each and every day. And the most important thing to leave this reading with is that while we think we are in charge, we are not. God, our Father is in charge! So instead of jumping on Facebook or Twitter today, spend a few extra minutes in prayer and discussion with God, our Father and I promise you that you will get comfort and enjoyment out of each day as time goes on.

### **Mass Intentions for Next Sunday May 21, 2016**

**09:30 Mass:** The deceased of the Shaker Family *(Req. by the Breit Family)*  
Fred Guttas *(Req. by Sara Guttas)*

**11:30 Mass:** Rev. father Boutros Khoury and Shamel Khoury  
*(Req. by The Khoury Family)*

## **Mass Celebration**



Pentecost Sunday: Page 408  
Anaphora of Saint Mark: 835

## **Sunday Readings**



Reading: Acts 2:1-21  
Holy Gospel: John 14:15-20

## **Mass Intentions**



**9:30 AM**

**The deceased of the Dumit Family**

**11:30 AM**

**Alice Balesh Rogers** *(Req. by Salem Rogers)*

<b>Schedules</b>	<b>9:30 A.M. Mass</b>	<b>11:30 A.M. Mass</b>
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Joseph and George Estephan Andres Ballines, Leila Nehra	Youssif and Reem Hattar, Estifan Azzo, Cassandra chahoud, Ramez Sayegh
<b>Readers</b>	Margret Budz	Dr. Daniel Youssif (English) Edgar Lutfallah (Arabic)
<b>Ushers</b>	Nabil Zahra Frank Kermend	Ed Kneip, Amir Geha, Sam Sweillem, Stephen George

## Announcements

### ✳ MYO Dinner and Movie

Coming Friday May 20<sup>th</sup> from 7: 00 pm to 9:30 pm, all teens ages 12 to 18, are invited to attend a dinner and movie night here in Shaker Hall. Food, and beverages will be provided. It is important that all those wishing to attend sign up by May 15<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet is located outside in the foyer. For more information see Tim Mulcahey.

### ✳ Graduation Mass

To all who have graduated this year or are about to graduate from high school, or college, we would like to invite you to a celebration on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 Mass. After Mass, we will cut the cake, and enjoy some refreshments in the Shaker Hall (a small gift from the church to congratulate all the newly graduated.) Please contact the office to let us know if you are graduating this year, or fill out the sign-up sheet outside in the foyer, after church. Names must be listed by no later than May 22.

## Let us remember

And pray for our Beloved Ones who died during the month of May

✠ Sophie Nahra	✠ Barcha E. Lebbos	✠ Agnes Dumit	✠ Alexander Rash
✠ John Bomrad	✠ Rocco Pietrandoomo	✠ Fouad Amawis	✠ Eli Joe Jage
✠ Amelia Lutfy	✠ J. Herbert Flagh, Sr.	✠ Fred Guttas	✠ John Jage
✠ Naseem Tahel	✠ Fred A. Malouf	✠ Reine Charto	✠ Colette Woods
✠ Dixie Haddad	✠ Frances Zamito		

## **COLLECTION**

**Sunday May 08, 2016: \$ 1,716.00**

“Generosity is giving more than you can,  
and pride is taking less than you need.”

**(Kahlil Gibran, Sand and Foam)**