Pentecost is a very ancient feast. It goes back long before Christianity. The name simply means 50 days. It was celebrated in ancient Israel 50 days after Passover. It celebrated God’s giving the law to Moses on Mount Sinai. By this covenant the Jewish people knew what they would have to do to please God and be his people.

Understanding the background of this feast in the Old Testament helps us to understand its significance in the New Testament. God could not have chosen a better day to send the Holy Spirit on the early Church. The new covenant would not be written on stone, nor would it be listed as a set of commandments. Instead, it would be the living presence of God’s spirit in our hearts. The Holy Spirit is the love of God, and love would be our only commandment. As Jesus states in John 13:34: “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” The source of that love was His Spirit, and on Pentecost His Spirit was given to us.

The gift of the Spirit is described in today's first reading as a mighty wind. This is a very good image since Jesus Himself spoke of the Spirit as a wind. You cannot see the wind, but you can feel its power and experience its effects. And the power of the Spirit is certainly experienced at that first Christian Pentecost.

There are three principal signs reflected in today's readings. The first sign is the unity created among a diverse crowd by their being able to understand the preaching by Peter and the others. Although they came from many countries and spoke different languages, they heard the same message in their own tongue. In the story of the tower of Babel in the Book of Genesis, the people are punished by God for their pride in trying to reach heaven. Their punishment is the confusion of their tongues so that they can no longer communicate with one other. The moral of this Old Testament story is that sin divides people. In the Book of Acts, we read that the sign of God’s love unites those of different tongues.

The second sign of the presence of the Spirit is that He unites individuals while leaving them with their own identity. The spirit does not destroy our individual character or talent, but takes us together with many other unique individuals and makes of us one body. That is the lesson of St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians. Look at the Church which was born on Pentecost Day. It has become a huge family of many nations, cultures, and gifts.

The third sign of the presence of the Spirit is the power of forgiveness. Forgiveness reunites people who were divided. Where there is a Spirit of love, there is the desire to do away with anything that may separate us. Forgiveness is an essential element in this process. That is why Jesus, in today’s gospel, breathes on His disciples and says: “Receive the Holy Spirit, whose sins you forgive they are forgiven.”

In the three readings for today’s liturgy, God’s word is instructing us on this gift of the Spirit. We will know whether the Spirit is active in our lives if we see a great desire for unity, which will forgive all offenses to reunite people, and which will respect the individual differences which reflect the diverse gifts of God.

Look around today, on this feast of Pentecost. Can we find signs of the presence and power of the Spirit? If we cannot, then let us pray for a new experience of Pentecost. Let us beg the Father for an outpouring of the Spirit on each of us individually, on our parish, our Church, and on our nation as a whole. “Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!”

– Rev. Ugo Nacciarone, S.J.
Associate Pastor
Change for Change: Thank You!

Throughout Lent we accepted donations of “coins and cash” for Hopeworks ’N Camden. Because of the generosity of our Parish Community, $1,800.00 was raised. Thanks to all who so generously contributed!

The Parish Ministry Council cordially invites St. Ignatius Parishioners active in Ministry to the Ministers’ Night Annual Supper Social

The Ignatian Way: Our Parish, Our Mission

Tuesday, June 4th
7:00 PM – Wallace Hall

RSVP by Sunday, June 2nd:
212-288-3588 or church@stignatiusloyola.org

Please leave both your name and your ministry.

We look forward to sharing a meal together!

Now on Sale at the Parish House!

10 Things Pope Francis Wants You to Know

Pope Francis has captured the hearts of the media and the people. Fascinated by his charisma and the many firsts of his papacy – first pope from the Americas, first Jesuit pope, and first to be named Francis – people are eager to know him personally.

In 10 Things Pope Francis Wants You to Know, John L. Allen, Jr., senior Vatican analyst for CNN, author, and senior correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter, writes with clarity about the Pope’s vision and values. Using recent and archived interviews with Pope Francis and those who know him, the author describes Pope Francis’ vision of leadership and evangelism, and his desire for the Church to be close to the people, especially the poor.

Cost: $3.00

The Stewardship Appeal supports many important ministries and programs. Your gifts are allocated towards religious education programs, youth ministries, local charities, the education of seminarians, retired clergy, and all of the services provided by the Archdiocese.

Gifts can be made online at www.cardinalsappeal.org

Thank you for your generosity!

Stewardship Appeal
Meeting Christ in Prayer:
Reunion Gathering
Wednesday, May 29th
7:00 – 8:30 PM in Wallace Hall

This gathering is open to all those who have participated at any time in the Meeting Christ in Prayer program. It is an opportunity to renew and deepen your desire to continue to “meet Christ in your prayer” and life as well as to reconnect with your companions on the spiritual journey. Refreshments following.

RSVP to Sr. Kathryn King at kingk@stignatiusloyola.org by Monday, May 27th.

ANNOUNCED MASSES AND READINGS
FOR THE WEEK

Monday, May 20th (St. Bernardine of Siena)
Sirach 1:1-10 Psalm 93 Mark 9:14-29
8:30 MEM Alice & Winthrop Rutherfurd
12:10 MEM Alfred Ziccardi
5:30 MEM Zahi Abou-Monsour

Tuesday, May 21st (St. Christopher Magallanes & comps.)
Sirach 2:1-11 Psalm 37 Mark 9:30-37
8:30 MEM Francis Coyne
12:10 MEM Gloria Lemme
5:30 ANN Nathan Davidson

Wednesday, May 22nd (St. Rita of Cascia)
Sirach 4:11-19 Psalm 119 Mark 9:38-40
8:30 MEM Paula Cristina Perez Tenreiro
12:10 MEM James Gallacher
5:30 MEM Richard Nolan

Thursday, May 23rd (7th Thursday in Ordinary Time)
Sirach 5:1-8 Psalm 1 Mark 9:41-50
8:30 MEM Elizabeth O’Connor & James Caren
12:10 MEM Dottie Warner
5:30 MEM Living & Deceased Members of the Wallace Family

Friday, May 24th (Our Lady of the Way)
Sirach 6:5-17 Psalm 119 Mark 10:1-12
8:30 MEM John B., John A., & Elizabeth A. Rooney
12:10 MEM Sally Caren
5:30 MEM James Waters

Saturday, May 25th (St. Bede the Venerable & St. Mary Magdalene de’ Pazzi)
Sirach 17:1-15 Psalm 103 Mark 10:13-16
8:30 MEM Dr. Emil Wittek

Sunday, May 26th (Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity)
Proverbs 8:22-31 Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15
Resume Clinic: Monday, May 20th and Thursday, May 23rd. Free private sessions will be held at St. Francis House, 135 West 31st Street, to assist unemployed individuals, as well as others facing possible layoffs, or career transitions. Volunteers will be available to assist in updating/editing resumes. Call 212-736-8500, x357 for an individual appointment. Participants should email a rough draft to resume@stfrancisnyc.org. Because of the preparation work that is necessary, no walk-ins can be accepted.

2013 Bernardin Award and Murnion Lecture: Shaping Parish Life: Ongoing Influences of Vatican II and the Catholic Common Ground Initiative. Friday, June 7th at 6:00 PM. American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway. This evening will feature the presentation of the annual Cardinal Bernardin Award to Dr. Zeni Fox, Professor of Pastoral Theology at Seton Hall University. The award presentation will be followed by the annual Philip K. Murnion lecture, given by Sr. Katarina Schuth, O.S.F., of St. Thomas University, St. Paul, Minnesota. The 50th anniversary of the ordination of priesthood of the late Msgr. Murnion will be marked with a special remembrance. Free and open to the public. Register online at: catholiccommonground.org by Monday, June 3rd. For more information, call 773-371-5432.

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

We have the privilege at St. Ignatius of welcoming many visitors and new parishioners. We especially welcome those who may be thinking of becoming Catholic. If you feel attracted to the Catholic faith, we want you to know about a program at the Parish which will begin in September. A group will meet here during the year to inquire into the Catholic faith, to come to know Jesus through the Gospels, and to pray and to prepare for the Easter Sacraments. This process is also open to those Catholic adults who have not received the Sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation.

For more information about this process, which is called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), contact Maureen Fullam at 212-288-3588 or email church@stignatiusloyola.org

Weekday Masses
Monday-Friday
8:30 AM, 12:10 PM and 5:30 PM
Saturday: 8:30 AM

Masses for Next Weekend:
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM Fr. Marina
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Witt
9:30 AM Fr. Witt
Wallace Hall: 11:00 AM Fr. Judge
Solemn: 11:00 AM Fr. Martin
7:30 PM Fr. Martin

Music Information: (212) 288-2520 Email: music@stignatiusloyola.org

Religious Education for Children
Joanne Cunneen, M.A., M.S.
Director
(212) 861-4764

St. Ignatius Loyola Grammar School
Ms. Mary Larkin, M.S. Ed.
Principal
48 East 84th Street
New York, NY 10028
(212) 861-3820 Fax: (212) 879-8248

St. Ignatius Loyola Day Nursery
Ms. Theodora Crist, M.S.
Executive Director
240 East 84th Street
New York, NY 10028
(212) 734-6427 Fax: (212) 734-6972

Children’s Liturgy of the Word:
Sundays: 9:30 AM Mass (all ages)

Centering Prayer:
Mondays at 6:30 PM

Confessions:
5:00 PM Saturday or by appointment.
Communal Penance Services are celebrated during Advent and Lent.

Baptisms: Please call Joanne Cunneen at the Parish House to arrange for a Baptism and the preparation given prior to Baptism.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults: Contact Maureen Fullam, M.A., Director, at the Parish House.

Marriages: The Bride or Groom should call Joanne Cunneen at the Parish House to begin preparation for Marriage, normally one year in advance.

Visits to the Sick: Please contact the Parish House between the hours of 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.