



St. Joseph Catholic Church

Parish Bulletin
May 24, 2015

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SACRED GROUNDING - Fr. Leroy Clementich, CSC

Out on the plains of North Dakota there once stood a church, a building of severe Gothic style that served my German-Catholic ancestors. It is gone now, demolished! Those who once worshipped there have gone elsewhere. I was deeply saddened when I learned of its passing, because it was on the very grounds of this modest sacred edifice that my faith took first root. Nonetheless, I was determined to return to that small plot of land and recover my memories. So there I stood, some 80 years into my adulthood, on the very foundations of the church of Saint Henry, reminiscing how mysteriously and unostentatiously it all began, this sacramental life that I still ferociously cling to. I will defend and treasure it as long as I am able.

It has often occurred to me that many people, of whatever religious persuasion, retain a fierce rootedness to the church of their origins.

True enough, many also lose touch with their first encounter with the sacred. I hold neither rancor nor enmity. God's spirit moves in inexplicable ways. I can only speak of the manner the Spirit has moved strangely and mysteriously through my own antiquity.

My point is that deep in their memories, most people will always retain a love affair with the church of their origins, and although now only a memory, they will defend it with a certain ferocity.

This is also the sense I have in reading the Gospel of Saint John for this Third Sunday of Lent. Here we also read the story of someone who has a fierce attachment to the temple in Jerusalem where, as a young man, he first encountered the sacred texts of the Torah and even engaged the scribes over their elucidation. It was also here, in these precincts made holy by centuries of faith and worship that he found men engaged in the secular trade of coins, sacrificial animals and occasional quarrels. The text relates that Jesus "made a sort of whip out of cords and drove them all hence." An amazing incident to recall: the Son of God defending the temple, the very sacred edifice which he first encountered as a small child.

"In his fury, he drove them all out." Reading it, I am inclined to say, "Bravo, well done, Jesus!"

In this moment of our history there is still much love and serious contention regarding a high point of land in the Old City of Jerusalem that Jews claim as the exact spot of Solomon's magnificent temple, the Temple Mount and what Muslims know as Haram el Sharif (the Sacred Noble Sanctuary). It is not too much even to imagine this site as a fierce battleground of faith, a place of religious and cultural divide. One has the sense that it is not simply a piece of dirt, this bulge in the land that is precious to nations and people, but a physical focal point of human and religious discourse that has occurred in this spot through the centuries. People will stand firm on memories of their faith; it is that which has formed their very identity and bound them resolutely to one another, never to become unhinged!

Remember in your prayers

Those who are ill or in need of prayer: Francis Alvanna, Elsa Bronson, Jens Hildreth, Joe Kunnuk, Ben Mercurief, Megan Mackiernan, Nancy McGuire, Charles Tunley, Alex Oyoumick, Bryce Warnke-Green, Rylan Lewis

Those in the military: Souther Board, Bryan Braswell, Jake Froehle, Travis Kayouktuk, Andy Lean, Christina McGuire, Michael Miller, Jennifer Thomas

Those who have died: Damian Anowlic-Seeganna, Evita Samuels, Clarence Trigg

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass 10:30 am

Monday Mass 8:00 am

Tuesday Mass 8:00 am

Wednesday—AMCC

Thursday Mass 8:00 am

**Friday Hospital Mass
12:10 pm**

**Saturday Vigil Mass
5:30 pm**

**Confessions Saturday
4:30 pm**

**Father Vince Burns
443-5527**

**Deacon Bob Froehle
443-3750**

**Mo Koezuna
304-1492**

Parish Council:

Rebecca Callahan

Patrick Callahan

Angela Gorn

Megan Mackiernan

Nancy McGuire

Tom Moran

Three new members will be added following commitment Sunday...think about adding your name to the list!

Sunday Connection to the Gospel - taken from Loyolapress.com

The season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. The account in today's Gospel, John 20:19-23, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Yet the event in John's Gospel takes place on Easter Sunday. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts. It is enough to know that after his death, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world.

In the context of the feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' act of breathing the Holy Spirit upon the apostles mirrors God's act of breathing life into Adam. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for "spirit" can also be translated as "breath." This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiveness of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.

A Special THANK YOU to David Dodman for playing for us this weekend. It is such a treat and a blessing to have the expertise of someone like you accompanying us at Mass. We are always looking for experienced musicians to accompany our liturgies; if you can help out even once a month we would be extremely grateful!

Dear Father, we thank you for sending the Holy Spirit. Help us to remember that the Holy Spirit still fills the church with power today, just as he did on the day of Pentecost. Amen.

LECTOR / EMHC SCHEDULE

Saturday May 23	5:30 p.m.	No Service
Sunday May 24	10:30 a.m.	Lector: many!! EMHC: Sylvia Paniataaq
Saturday, May 30		Tom Moran
Sunday, May 31	10:30 a.m.	Lector: Kitty Scott EMHC: Gretchen Froehle
Saturday June 6	5:30 p.m.	Lector: Elsa Bronson
Sunday June 7	10:30 a.m.	Lector: Julie Farley EMHC: Chris Agloinga, Kitty Scott

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

- ◆ Sunday, May 24 - Pentecost Sunday - Pancake Breakfast after 10:30 mass
- ◆ Confirmation class at 5pm
- ◆ Monday, June 15 - Fr. John Hinsvark comes to Nome for 2 weeks