

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

This Sunday is the Feast of the Ascension. Symbol of the disciples becoming responsible for the mission of Jesus. The Apostles had to wait for the promised coming of the Holy Spirit. In this time of the pandemic lockdown, we are also in a period of waiting. Uncertain what to expect, not in control of what is happening in our lives. Very much like the disciples after the death and resurrection of Jesus. They were uncertain what to expect, not clear what they were to do, and were waiting for guidance.

As we are in this time of waiting, we may want to join in the traditional Pentecost Novena Prayer to the Holy Spirit. Like the disciples we use the 9 days before Pentecost to be ready to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. You can find many samples of such a Novena to the Holy Spirit on-line, but we have placed a sample on our home page that you can use over the next 9 days.

We are waiting with uncertainty as to what the future will look like, when we will be able to gather as church again, and what such gatherings will look like. But, Jesus has promised to remain with us and we trust that the Holy Spirit will come to guide us, to fill our hearts with a fire that leads us to new ways of being. We do not need to be afraid, for God the Holy Spirit is able to change any difficult situation into something new.

We are to wait with hearts opened, with an enthusiasm to be part of the new life that the Holy Spirit is creating and forming in the world, in the church, and in our lives.

Waiting is also a way of praying. But, we wait with expectation that the Holy Spirit is going to bring about something new.

Today, I want to conclude my weekly update with a Prayer to the Holy Spirit from St. Catherine of Siena.

O Holy Spirit  
Come Into My Heart

O Holy Spirit, Come into my Heart;  
by your power draw it to yourself, God,  
and give me charity with fear.  
Guard me, Christ, from every evil  
thought, and so warm and inflame me  
again with your most gentle love that every  
suffering may seem light to me.  
My holy Father and my gentle Lord,  
help me in my every need.  
Christ love! Christ love!