

~From the Administrator~

Dear Parish Family,

May 23, 2010

Today is the Solemnity of Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church. And so to each and every one of us, HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Remember, the Church is the members of the faithful united in the divine life of the Holy Trinity, and filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Let us recognize, not only in today's feast, but also in our baptism, the call to go and tell the Good News.

Congratulations to Hannah Steffke, who not only won the Spelling Bee a couple of weeks ago, but was the first place runner for the Girls on the Run event a week ago Saturday. Our elementary school girls participated with 22 other teams. Through their encouragement, I was able to train with them and also ran and finished the 5K run.

Congratulations to our new priests, who were ordained Friday at the Cathedral in Saginaw. Please pray for all priests as we move toward the close of the Year for Priests.

Also, please continue to pray for Father Patrick Jankowiak, our incoming pastor here at St. Joseph the Worker. Your prayers are always a tremendous help for your parish priest.

I'm glad to see that our students are coming up to me to ask to have religious articles blessed. Please feel free to approach me at the parish or after any of the Masses if you need to have anything blessed.

We will continue to pray the Rosary before all of the Masses both on weekends and during the week. Please begin praying approximately 25-30 minutes before the scheduled time of Mass. This is a great opportunity for the students who received Rosaries for First Communion or Confirmation to "break them in."

Let us continue to pray for the needs of the parish – especially invoking Our Lady's intercession during her month of May. See you at church, in town, at school, or on the playground! God bless you!

Fr. David

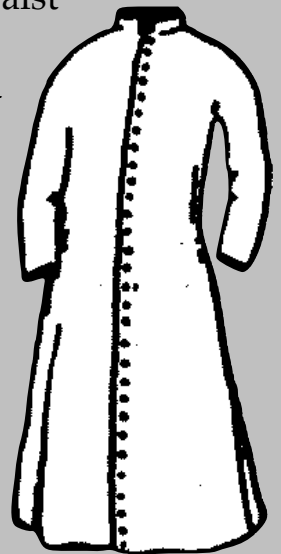
Word of the Week: CASSOCK

cas·sock[kas'-uhk] – *noun*: an ankle-length garment with a close-fitting waist and sleeves, worn by seminarians, deacons, priests, and bishops.

•The cassock or soutane comes in a number of styles or cuts, though no particular symbolism attaches to these. A Roman cassock often has a series of buttons down the front, sometimes thirty-three symbolic of the years of the life of Jesus. A French cassock also has buttons sewn to the sleeves like a suit. An Ambrosian cassock has a series of only five buttons under the neck, with a sash on the waist. A Jesuit cassock, has a fastener below the collar and is tied at the waist with a black cincture.

•The ordinary cassock is black except in tropical countries, where it is white. Colored piping and buttons are added to the specific cassock of Monsignors (purple), bishops (amaranth red), and cardinals (scarlet red).

[French *casaque*, long coat, from Old French, perhaps from Italian *casacca*, from Persian *kazhāgand*, padded garment : *kazh*, raw silk + *āgand*, stuffed.]



Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are enumerated in Isaiah 11:2-3. They are present in their fullness in Jesus Christ but are found in all Christians who are in a state of grace. We receive them when we are infused with sanctifying grace, the life of God within us—as, for example, when we receive a sacrament worthily.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes, "They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them." Infused with His gifts, we respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as if by instinct, the way Christ Himself would.

Wisdom is the first and highest gift of the Holy Spirit, because it is the perfection of faith. Through wisdom, we come to value properly those things which we believe through faith. The truths of Christian belief are more important than the things of this world, and wisdom helps us to order our relationship to the created world properly, loving Creation for the sake of God, rather than for its own sake.

Understanding is the second gift of the Holy Spirit, and people sometimes have a hard time understanding (no pun intended) how it differs from wisdom. While wisdom is the desire to contemplate the things of God, understanding allows us grasp, at least in a limited way, the very essence of the truths of the Catholic Faith. Through understanding, we gain a certitude about our beliefs that moves beyond faith.

Counsel, the third gift of the Holy Spirit, is the perfection of the cardinal virtue of prudence. Prudence can be practiced by anyone, but counsel is supernatural. Through this gift of the Holy Spirit, we are able to judge how best to act almost by intuition. Because of the gift of counsel, Christians need not fear to stand up for the truths of the Faith, because the Holy Spirit will guide us in defending those truths.

While counsel is the perfection of a cardinal virtue, fortitude is both a gift of the Holy Spirit and a cardinal virtue. Fortitude is ranked as the fourth gift of the Holy Spirit because it gives us the strength to follow through on the actions suggested by the gift of counsel. While fortitude is sometimes called courage, it goes beyond what we normally think of as courage. Fortitude is the virtue of the martyrs that allows them to suffer death rather than to renounce the Christian Faith.

The fifth gift of the Holy Spirit, knowledge, is often confused with both wisdom and understanding. Like wis-

dom, knowledge is the perfection of faith, but whereas wisdom gives us the desire to judge all things according to the truths of the Catholic Faith, knowledge is the actual ability to do so. Like counsel, it aimed at our actions in this life. In a limited way, knowledge allows us to see the circumstances of our life the way that God seems them. Through this gift of the Holy Spirit, we can determine God's purpose for our lives and live them accordingly.

Piety, the sixth gift of the Holy Spirit, is the perfection of the virtue of religion. While we tend to think of religion today as the external elements of our faith, it really means the willingness to worship and to serve God. Piety takes that willingness beyond a sense of duty, so that we desire to worship God and to serve Him out of love, the way that we desire to honor our parents and do what they wish.

The seventh and final gift of the Holy Spirit is the fear of the Lord, and perhaps no other gift of the Holy Spirit is so misunderstood. We think of fear and hope as opposites, but the fear of the Lord confirms the theological virtue of hope. This gift of the Holy Spirit gives us the desire not to offend God, as well as the certainty that God will supply us the grace that we need in order to keep from offending Him. Our desire not to offend God is more than simply a sense of duty; like piety, the fear of the Lord arises out of love.



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.

Let us pray: O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.