



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY June 4 & BEYOND

Power from on High



Suddenly our house was silent, and that's not a good thing. I looked over at the clock on my dresser and saw nothing. The screen was blank which meant the power had gone out. This has happened before, in fact, it has happened several times recently without warning. The mobile home park where we live has had an electrical

problem for some time. Old wiring has led to frequent power outages.

There isn't much to do when that happens, just keep the refrigerator closed and wait for them to fix the problem. Truthfully, in those times I tend to take a nap, in hopes that it will be a short outage. I can't do anything that requires electricity, unless it's battery powered, like my iPad. I'm always amazed at how much I rely on things that charge up.

That makes me think of Pentecost. Right after the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, I imagine that the disciples felt the power had gone out of the church. They had looked to Jesus to give them energy and direction. They watched in awe as Jesus left them, ascending into heaven. Angels in white robes spoke to them saying, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

What are you standing around for? Because it was one of those interim times when it seemed that the power had gone out. They didn't know what to do because it was as if the power had been drained out of them. I understand this, it was like my experience at home. Everything was silent, nothing worked, so save the perishables.

But that interim low was not even half the story. The disciples returned to Jerusalem and devoted themselves to prayer. They knew that something was coming. The "power from on high" (Luke 24:49) that Jesus had promised when he ascended into heaven. Pray and wait.

On the day of the Pentecost that prayer was answered, and they received more than they could have imagined. It is described so powerfully in Acts 2: “ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”

The power is on. Jesus has risen and ascended into heaven, and the church is alive with him. Called the Birthday of the Church, Pentecost is the lights coming on, and the Spirit of God present and overflowing among the disciples.

It is one of the most exciting feasts of the Church. It is a time for us to be renewed in our hearts, and rejoice over the power that God has given us.

The question remains: How will we respond to the power of God that dwells in us?

Father Steven L. Schuneman

CALENDAR

SATURDAY: 4:00p High Solemn Mass celebrating the Day of Pentecost (Church)
 5:30p Parish Dinner (Parish Hall & Courtyard)
 —*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—
 Note: Child care is provided at the 4:00pm Mass

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors’ Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

THURSDAY 6:30p Evening Prayer (St. Mary’s Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary’s Chapel)
 9:30a Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies’ Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men’s Group (Parish Hall)