



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY June 9 & BEYOND”

“Power from on High”



Pentecost. It is a primary and functional centerpoint for the whole Church, the complete body of Christ. But it is not always adhered to. And so it is something of a litmus test for me regarding the clergy of the Church. How any one ordained deacon, priest or bishop (or lay teacher) uses an illustration to illuminate what happens at Pentecost is kind of "make it or

break it" for me.

For Pentecost 2 years ago, in 2017, Father Stephen L. Schuneman, wrote the reflection for All Saints'. He did an excellent job with that illustration and I want to share it with you this year, 2019.

One illustration is usually less than necessary, so I've included a new one of my own. One or the other, or both, the point is to get the power. And God is offering it. Just ask.

"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. "

The other analogy is the credit card or debit card that is already yours from a valid bank or other institution. All the power for financial purchases is in that card. But one thing remains.....you have to call the phone number on the adhesive notice to have the card "activated."

Realize and recognize what has been provided for you to do in ministry, and ask God to give it to you. Then do like the disciples; expect the Holy Spirit to show up with power in your life, and ministry will follow.

Do it now.
Come Holy Spirit.

Fr. Robert G. Eaton, Interim Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Day of Pentecost — Whitsunday
Joel 2:28-32 Psalm 104:25-32 Acts 2:1-11, John 14:8-17

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: The Day of Pentecost — Whitsunday

8:30a Low Mass (Church)
10:30a Solemn High Mass (Church)

*—The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—
Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.*

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

FRIDAY AA Meetings
8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY Trinity Sunday
8:00am Low Mass
10:30am Solemn High Mass