

Lean into the Spirit: A reflection on Pentecost

A Gospel Reflection from Brian Wigger

I have heard the story of Pentecost thousands of times: from the pulpit, during confirmation, spiritual reading and while working on my Master's degree in theology and many other times. I have always been drawn to its focus on human experience and divine revelation.

I love imagining the dimness of the upper room and the way the disciples huddled together embodying human fear to which we can all relate. I love imagining what it felt like to feel the wind break through the windows, to rub away the shock from their eyes and see tongues of fire over each of their heads. I love thinking about the way in which the Holy Spirit was coursing through their veins, the glances that they gave each other before bursting out of this darkroom into the light of day.

Pentecost is a moment in history that continually unravels itself within our lives. In a day and age when we are marked by social evils and systemic injustice, we need to lean into the Spirit. We need to find and help others find liberation in the movements and the rhythms of a Spirit that 2,000 + years ago burst through an upper room and changed the course of history forever - a Spirit that convicts us to stand with the marginalized, reminds us of the unlimited diversity of God, and gives us strength when our human flesh fails to speak and act in accordance with the love and liberation that is gifted to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

That same spirit is alive and well in the faces at SSC. St. Stephen Parish is truly a community—of a Body of Christ—that does not restrain the Spirit but rather embraces its restless and wild nature.