

June 5, 2022
Pentecost Sunday C
Bulletin Reflection
Fr. Ed Smith

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

Welcome back to Junefest! After a few years of an enforced break from our annual Christ the King Parish festival, we are back together in the school parking lot, enjoying the fun and the company of this wonderful parish tradition. It seems fitting that this celebration occurs on the feast of Pentecost, which is a moment that changed the Church forever, that united us together in God's love, and that gave each of us gifts to live out our faith as God's people. And even if a festival in a parking lot does not really compare with what happened at Pentecost, it reminds us of how blessed we are to have our faith, to share it with one another, and to have celebrations when we can rejoice, give thanks and praise God for all the gifts in our lives. We are told that, at Pentecost, the disciples were gathered together; while there, they experienced a strong, driving wind; then they saw tongues of fire resting on each one of them; and finally, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit! It is a beautiful recounting of one of the most important events in the history of our faith, and it is rich with symbolism. The gathering of the disciples prefigures our gathering as members of the Church. The word for "wind" is also the same word in Greek and Hebrew for "Spirit." The symbol of fire means that they are purified by God, and that God penetrates the deepest parts of our being so that we will burn with love for Him. Pentecost brought forth a Church of immensely gifted people, each member brilliant in his or her own way. This is the Church we live in now, and although at times we see the flaws in it more clearly than the gifts, it is the Holy Spirit, the ultimate gift, that is still supreme, and that provides our family of faith with all it needs to be the people of God who witness to Christ in the world. So, whether it is JuneFest, or just another June day, we are the inheritors of this feast, this gift, and this Spirit, who renews the face of the earth. Let us rejoice!