

monthly calendar which asks for prayers for our diocesan priests in the parish bulletin. Distribute a prayer for vocations to be prayed at Mass and at home. Ask parishioners to offer “spiritual bouquets” for their priests, by praying or fasting for a specific priest, and thanking them for their service.

- August also brings the feasts of Saints Monica and Augustine. Promote family prayer—many families have members who have left the Church, or who are not practicing their faith. Publish prayers for families in the bulletin or online (see Blessed Mother Teresa’s prayer on the back page). Publicize websites such as: www.catholic-family.org and www.oncecatholic.org.
- “Make us worthy, Lord, to serve those people throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands, this day, their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give them peace and joy.” So taught Blessed Mother Teresa, whose “birthday” into eternal life is Sept. 5th. Her commitment to service was a complete abandonment to the ways of Jesus. Service to others is the ultimate witness to a life in Christ. Hold up Blessed Teresa as someone who, through prayer, reconciliation and devotion to the Eucharist, was able to live for others. Encourage parishioners to take advantage of the sacraments to strengthen their own faith lives and be a light for Christ.

Even small changes can make a big difference in our hearts. St. Therese of Lisieux taught us that “the little way” can be the way to our Lord. For her feast day, print a list of little changes people can make in their lives to bring them one step closer to Jesus. Simple ideas such as offering up an illness for someone, being cheerful when we are tired or depressed, accepting the trials of the day with grace, or preparing a special meal or treat for a family member, are all tiny paths to holiness. We need to learn “to do ordinary things with extraordinary love”. *Blessed Mother Teresa*

The season after Pentecost calls us to fullness in the life of the Spirit and should re-energize and animate us to touch others’ lives with the love God has bestowed upon us. May we all become the light of Christ and salt of the earth which the Holy Spirit intends us to be.

BLESSED MOTHER TERESA'S PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

Heavenly Father, you have given us a model of life in the Holy Family of Nazareth. Help us, O loving Father, to make our family another Nazareth where love, peace and joy reign.

May it be deeply contemplative, intensely Eucharistic, and vibrant with joy. Help us to stay together in joy and sorrow through family prayer.

Teach us to see Jesus in the members of our family, especially in their distressing disguises.

May the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus make our hearts meek and humble like his, and help us to carry out our family duties in a holy way. May we love one another as God loves each one of us, more and more each day, and forgive each other’s faults as you forgive our sins.

Help us, O loving Father, to take whatever you give and to give whatever you take with a big smile.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, cause of our joy, pray for us. St. Joseph, pray for us. Holy Guardian Angels, be always with us, guide and protect us.
Amen.

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**Evangelization
And
Pentecost Time**

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Come, Holy Spirit!

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

The headlines of the chapters in the Acts of the Apostles read: the Mission in Jerusalem; the Need for Assistants; the Missions in Judea and Samaria; the Inauguration of the Gentile Mission; and the Mission of Paul to the Ends of the Earth. In each section there are references to the communal living of the early believers; various speeches and debates; great signs and miracles; the need for councils to settle disagreements or set policies; the reality of persecutions and imprisonments and, through it all, a fervor and joy to be of service to the Lord Jesus.

This was how the Holy Spirit advanced the Gospel and the Kingdom of God 2,000 years ago. A first reading of these events, these "Acts", may indicate contrasts with our own experience. However, a deeper meditation may reveal definite similarities. Many things change over 2,000 years. But the human heart remains the same. The heart desires ultimate meaning and truth and, according to St. Augustine's phrase, is "truly restless until it rests in God".

Evangelization or the spread of the Gospel in our own time requires, first of all, the reception of the impulses of the Holy Spirit which directs us to go out in mission. Today, this "going out" means to the workplace, the neighborhood and the public square where the great issues and questions of the day are debated. The Acts of the Apostles saw all these "missions" from the perspective of a person-to-person witness, as well as the example of the life of the community.

With this pamphlet, we would like to stimulate ideas for how this Pentecost mission may continue through us today.

- Pentecost is the Church's birthday—celebrate it! Have a cake on the parish lawn so even passersby can see that it's a special occasion. Decorate a chair as a "seat of honor" and leave it empty next to the cake to symbolize the absence of the people we need to reach out to in our own lives.
- "What you have received as a gift, give as a gift." (Matthew 10:8). Birthdays bring gifts—in our case we have received the gift of a relationship with Christ. Our own people need continual "re-evangelization" to make them aware that this gift needs to be shared, to be given away. Make a point of catechizing about the dismissal at the end of Mass. For example: "When the Mass ends, our mission begins. That is, our mission to bring Christ and his Good News to those we meet each day during the week."
- The Feast of Corpus Christi is a time of great significance for the evangelization activity of the Church. The Body and Blood of Jesus sustains us and brings us new life, which we should share with others. A procession outside of the church will take on new meaning as our people are sent forth to witness to the world.
- June 13th brings the feast day for Saint Anthony of Padua. Bless rolls or small loaves of bread at Mass, symbolizing St. Anthony Bread. Include a small prayer for St. Anthony's intercession. Ask parishioners to take one home and share it with a neighbor, perhaps over a simple meal. This will encourage person-to-person witness, which is crucial to evangelization.
- The Feast of the Sacred Heart proclaims the love of Christ. As Jesus opened his heart to us, let us do so to others. Become

a parish known for its Outreach! Celebrate a day of awareness by asking parishioners to bring non-perishable goods to Mass for donation to your own parish's Outreach or a local soup kitchen. Bring some of these gifts up to the altar in baskets to offer them up to God. Ask parishioners to make a loving sacrifice of themselves that week to a friend or neighbor by making a visit, bringing food, offering a small service (yard work, a car ride, etc.) or in some way to show God's love to another. At the Family Mass or at the Children's Liturgy of the Word on the Sunday nearest the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, distribute paper hearts on which the children may write the gift they have been given by God to share with others.

- John the Baptist, the first true evangelist, preached the coming of Christ to the crowds. The feast of his nativity in June usually brings the type of weather where an outdoor "Jesus Rally" on the lawn of the church or some public spot, is possible. Have live music which people can sing along to, read scripture and pray aloud, and ask parishioners who truly live their Christianity to give testimonies on their faith to those assembled. Have balloons or small give-aways for children.
- We celebrate the feast day of Saint Camillus, who gave his life to work with the sick, on July 18th. Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus, are honored on July 26th. Remind people to honor the sick and elderly in their own lives by taking a stand against euthanasia in all its forms and pledging respect for life. Have literature available in the church which supports Christian views to empower people to speak out on this important issue.
- St. John Vianney, whose feast day is August 4th, is the patron saint for parish priests. Our priests need our prayers and sacrifices. Consider publishing the