

May 25, 2021

Dear Blessed Trinity + Spirit of Christ Parishioner:

When the time of Pentecost was fulfilled,
they were all in one place together."
The Book of Acts 2:1

It has been a long fourteen months, but now the "Spirit of Truth" is calling us to gather again around the Lord's Altar to enter the mystery of the Risen Christ and be nourished at the table of Christ's word and body. Through these long months many could not gather but we were never alone—Christ is always with us; deep in our hearts we have been together. As we make our way back to Mass, we affirm the faith which has nourished us through these many months.

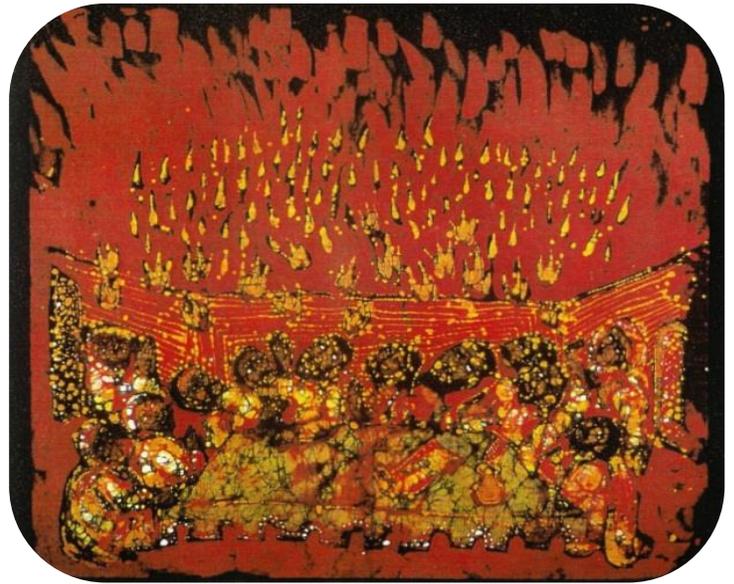
Bishop Vetter, in his May 13, 2021 letter reminded us that *"we need the Eucharist, we need each other. Mass places us face to face with each other... Sunday Mass is an essential part of our faith..."* Complete text of Letter available on the parish website. We know and feel that this is true. This past year has enlivened that belief. We have all missed *"being together in one place!"*

Now we can begin gathering again, though still with some caution and concern. Some may feel uncomfortable being together in one place due to continued health concerns, while others feel safe and ready. This is a choice each person must discern in their own conscience. We remember with Saint Paul that *"To each individual is the manifestation of the Spirit"* given for some benefit.

We continue to be "in this together."

Blessed Trinity and Spirit of Christ, with most parishes in the Diocese of Helena, will implement new "guidelines" for our current celebrations of Sunday Eucharist on **June 5/6, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.**

Facial masks will no longer be "required" but will continue to be highly recommended, especially by those who have not yet been able to receive the vaccine. All parishioners are encouraged to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, both



for one's own safety, and as a caring service for others, especially those most vulnerable.

A **"Pfizer vaccine clinic"** will be available at Blessed Trinity Church on **June 7, 3-6pm**. Ages 12 and up are eligible. **Second vaccine June 28.**

Social distancing at Mass will be provided but with less space between chairs and aisles. The Social Center will continue to be opened for seating, but the back portion will be set up for tables and chairs.

Holy Communion will continue to be distributed in accord with current practice. Communion of the Blood of Christ, an integral and necessary aspect of Holy Communion, will be reinstated at a later date.

The Sign of Peace, for the time being, will be shared in the same manner as these past many months.

The Collection will continue in the same manner (**please be thoughtful and generous!**).

Coffee and donuts after Mass began on Pentecost (May 23) and will continue each Sunday. We may even schedule a parish breakfast this summer!

As we continue our journey toward a "full opening," the reinstatement and enhancement of ordinary parish ministries must be undertaken. Every area of parish service must be expanded, which means more persons must hear the call to serve the Body of Christ in this place in most every area of parish ministry. As the summer progresses more details will be provided.

The Liturgy: Readers/Lectors; Eucharistic Ministers; Cantors; Choir; Musicians; Bread-bakers; Liturgy Commission members; Environment, etc. (Many more persons are needed especially at the 5pm & 8am Mass).

Pastoral Care: Holy Communion Ministers to the Homebound—many are needed to serve; Ministers to bring Holy Communion to Community Hospital patients on a regular basis; Communion Ministers to the various care centers in our parish (Village Health Care; Village Senior Residence; Beehive, Hillside, and others).

Faith Formation: Catechists for children, youth ministries; Vacation Bible School volunteers.

Social Outreach Team. This group needs to be expanded.

Maintenance Team: Persons to assist with ongoing maintenance and upkeep needs in the buildings.

Parish Social Teams (e.g., coffee, donuts; Funeral luncheons, etc.)

Funeral Ministry. Many funeral Masses have necessarily been postponed due to the pandemic. As we begin to schedule these important and necessary services, it is a good time to review the **Diocese of Helena Funeral Policy.** This document is available at Church entrances and on the parish website.

Click on Worship tab, scroll down to Funeral liturgy

As we heard this past Pentecost Sunday, *“There are different forms of service but the same Lord...”*

The weekly/monthly Stewardship offering to the parish is important to consider as we return. While we have been able to maintain our parish budget, it has often been challenging. This means that we will all need to reflect on the offering we present at the Lord’s Table each Sunday as a “sacrifice of praise.” Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

+ HONOR THE PAST + SERVE THE PRESENT + PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE. A great testament to Blessed Trinity has been the generous and consistent offering to the parish capital campaign. We have reached 71% of our goal

with 57% of parishioners participating. **THANK YOU.** Because of this generosity we have been able to begin our “project,” first with the new lighting system, a new organ, and then with the new sound system. During the summer more progress will be made (updates are published in the bulletin and always available on the parish website (blessedtrinitymissoula.org)).

As we begin to “return to normal,” our shared faith and deep commitment has not wavered throughout these many months. *“...we were all given to drink of the one Spirit,”* and finally, again, we can all gather together in one place.

“Send us good summer, O Lord; winters have chilled us, and stilled us too long. Give us loves own fire. Send us your Spirit, O Lord.”

Concluding hymn, Pentecost Sunday.

The fire and Spirit of Pentecost is filling us with new hope as we begin to gather again “in one place.”

“The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

Romans 8: 16, Second Reading Feast of the Holy Trinity

God’s Peace and Summer Blessings,



Fr. Ed Hislop, Pastor



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