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## Solemnity of Pentecost: *the Gifts of the Holy Spirit*



**Wisdom** is the first and highest gift of the Holy Spirit, because it is the perfection of faith. Through wisdom, we come to value properly those things which we believe through faith. The truths of Christian belief are more important than the things of this world, and wisdom helps us to order our relationship to the created world properly, loving Creation for the sake of God, rather than for its own sake.

**Understanding** is the second gift of the Holy Spirit, and people sometimes have a hard time understanding (no pun intended) how it differs from wisdom. While wisdom is the desire to contemplate the things of God, understanding allows us grasp, at least in a limited way, the very essence of the truths of the Catholic Faith. Through understanding, we gain a certitude about our beliefs that moves beyond faith.

**Counsel**, the third gift of the Holy Spirit, is the perfection of the cardinal virtue of prudence. Prudence can be practiced by anyone, but counsel is supernatural. Through this gift of the Holy Spirit, we are able to judge how best to act almost by intuition. Because of the gift of counsel, Christians need not fear to stand up for the truths of the Faith, because the Holy Spirit will guide us in defending those truths.

**Fortitude** While counsel is the perfection of a cardinal virtue, fortitude is both a gift of the Holy Spirit and a cardinal virtue. Fortitude is ranked as the fourth gift of the Holy Spirit because it gives us the strength to follow through on the actions suggested by the gift of counsel. While fortitude is sometimes called courage, it goes beyond what we normally think of as courage. Fortitude is the virtue of the martyrs that allows them to suffer death rather than to renounce the Christian Faith.

**Knowledge** is often confused with both wisdom and understanding. Like wisdom, knowledge is the perfection of faith, but whereas wisdom gives us the desire to judge all things according to the truths of the Catholic Faith, knowledge is the actual ability to do so. Like counsel, it is aimed at our actions in this life. In a limited way, knowledge allows us to see the circumstances of our life the way that God sees them. Through this gift of the Holy Spirit, we can determine God's purpose for our lives and live them accordingly.

**Piety**, the sixth gift of the Holy Spirit, is the perfection of the virtue of religion. While we tend to think of religion today as the external elements of our faith, it really means the willingness to worship and to serve God. Piety takes that willingness beyond a sense of duty, so that we desire to worship God and to serve Him out of love.

**Fear of the Lord** (often called "Awe and Wonder of the Lord") The seventh and final gift of the Holy Spirit is the Fear of the Lord, and perhaps no other gift of the Holy Spirit is so misunderstood. We think of fear and hope as opposites, but the fear of the Lord confirms the theological virtue of hope. This gift of the Holy Spirit gives us the desire not to offend God, as well as the certainty that God will supply us the grace that we need in order to keep from offending Him. Our desire not to offend God is more than simply a sense of duty; like piety, the fear of the Lord arises out of love.

### **NO Mass on Mondays**

Please consider joining fellow parishioners, and of course myself, for daily Mass as we journey through the year by reflecting on a different saint of the day. ~ Fr. Irek

### **Tuesday, June 11**

8:00 am + JANI MARIAM PILLAI - Sheone  
+ JIM MIKLOS - Mary Ann

### **Wednesday, June 12**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 pm and concludes with Benediction at 7:00 pm  
7:15 pm + MARIA deLURDES LOURA - Elsa and family  
- for the intentions of Josie and Francis and family  
Sacrament of Reconciliation 6:00 - 7:00 pm

### **Thursday, June 13**

8:00 am + ANN WIPP - Bridget O'Toole  
- for the intentions of Manuel and Theresa and family

### **Friday, June 14**

8:00 am + FRANK PEREIRA - Elsa and Manuel  
+ SHIRLEY WOODFIELD - Nick and Teresa

### **Saturday, June 15**

8:00 am + JAMES BURR - St. Anne school staff  
5:00 pm + ANTONIO & FRANCISCA DUTRA - their children  
+ JOAO deALMEIDA and MARIA VIVEIROS - Maria Borges

### **Sunday, June 16 - Holy Trinity Sunday**

9:00 am + JOAO TEIXEIRA - Maria and family  
11:00 am - the intentions of all parishioners (pro populo)



### **Gentle Exercise Class**

**Tuesday and Thursdays in St. Ambrose Church Hall**  
11am to 12 noon You can still join us ☺

Regular gentle exercise contributes to overall health and well being; management of chronic conditions; prevention decrease of falls; improved mental health. Men and Women welcome ☺ Enter the hall through the South Street side entrance. Facilitated by a qualified instructor. For more information please contact Myra at 519-621-2013 or myra@stambrosecambridge.ca

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**Join us to say farewell to  
Father Irek  
Sat. June 22 and  
Sunday, June 23**

Join us after Mass to enjoy a refreshing ice cream sundae while saying good-bye to

Father Irek, who will be moving to St. Clement's, Ontario on June 25th.

**FIVE SEMINARIANS** will be ordained as transitional Deacons, which is the last step before being ordained to the priesthood, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. *Paul Edmondstone, Pawel Stankiewicz, Hayden Starczala, Francisco Sordo, and Robin Mendonca.* God willing, they will then be ordained to the priesthood next year. Please pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

**An Appeal from the Society of St Vincent de Paul:**

Cambridge is in a desperate state when it comes to rental properties, especially for larger families searching for housing, let alone affordable housing. This being said, a family with 7 young children needs a new home by the end of June at the latest. They are a Syrian refugee family that came to Cambridge approximately 3 years ago. There has never been any issue with meeting rent payments. They have proof showing a good credit rating, reference letter from the current landlord, reference letter from the father's employer and income statements. A 3+ bedroom home is required. If there is anyone that has or is in knowledge of rental accommodation where the landlord would be willing to take a chance on a family this size, please call the St. Ambrose parish or the SSVP help line at 519 623-8764 and leave a message with your contact information or that of the potential landlord. Thank you for caring.

**Retreat for Girls ages 11-15**

The **Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate** are hosting their annual **Hearts Set ABLAZE Retreat** for young girls aged 11 - 15 years. The retreat will be from June 21-23 at Camp Brebeuf, near Rockwood, Ontario. There will be games, conferences, time for prayer, talks and lots more. To register or find out more information about the retreat please contact Sister Viola at [retreats@solisisters.ca](mailto:retreats@solisisters.ca) or visit [solisisters.weebly.com](http://solisisters.weebly.com)

*Let us pray...Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle us the fire of your love. O Lord, on this day of Pentecost, give us the grace and strength to go forth from our homes and parishes to bring the Gospel message to the world we encounter each day of our lives. Amen.*

**Sisterhood of Saint Elizabeth  
From Minsk, Belarus**

**Visiting St. Ambrose on Wed. June 19 at 7:15 pm Mass**

At the request of, and with permission from, Bishop Crosby, a Sister from the Order of the Sisterhood of Saint Elizabeth will be visiting St. Ambrose on Wednesday, June 19th. This Order is located in the Diocese of Minsk, Belarus. Belarus is a former Russian state, who achieved independence in 1991.

The Sisters provide spiritual, social, and financial assistance to the sick and suffering at the National Psychiatric Clinic; boarding home for children and adults with special needs; rehabilitation centre for mentally challenged children and a TB clinic.

Their representative, Sister Catherine, will be bringing with her some handmade religious items from the Sisters, and the people whom they assist, to sell after Wednesday night Mass.

**Our Lady, Mary, Undoer of Knots  
Presentation - Saturday June 29 at St. Ambrose  
8:45 am in the Church hall**

What are OUR knots?

They are the problems and struggles we face and for which we do not see any solution.

Knots of discord in your family, disrespect, violence, the knots of deep hurts between husband and wife, the absence of peace and joy at home. They are also the knots of anguish and despair, dissolution of the family, the knots of a drug addict son or daughter, sick or separated from home or God, knots of alcoholism, depression, unemployment, fear, solitude...oh, the knots of our life! How they suffocate the soul, beat us down and betray the heart's joy and separate us from God.

**Temporary Adorers needed for the Adoration Chapel:**

**Tuesdays** 9:00 am - 10:00 am

**Thursdays** 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm (from June 27 to Sept 12)

**Fridays** 9:00 am - 10:00 am

**Saturdays** 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm (May to July)

**Sundays** 8:00 am - 9:00 am (July 7 to Aug 18)

If you can assist, even temporarily, please contact the office so that we know the time is filled.

With vacation season starting we will require temporary people to fill-in when others are away. If you want to add your name to our "temporary fill-in list" of adorers, please contact Barb at the parish office.

**Coming in July....Babysitting Course** for students age 11 and older - Wednesday, July 4 at St. Ambrose Church Hall. Conducted by qualified St. John Ambulance instructor. More details in the weeks ahead, or contact Myra for more information [myra@stambrosecambridge.ca](mailto:myra@stambrosecambridge.ca)