

The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin

PENTECOST SUNDAY

MAY 23-24, 2026



Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary Sat. 5:00 pm Sun. 10:30 am  
Sacred Heart Sun. 7:30 am  
St. James Sun 9:00 am

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary Sat. 4:15 pm—4:45pm

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941 Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable- "Come, Holy Ghost . . . And Love light up our mortal frame, Till others catch the living flame."  
 —Saint Ambrose

Pentecost Sunday				May 30-31, 2026
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, May 30 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, May 31 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, May 31 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, May 31 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Galen Fritz Dave Emling Gery Wright Bob Schultz	James Mallaney David Kirkpatrick	Jerry Ogrentz Dave Ladehoff Dan Forsythe Duane Papineau	Kris Landeck Dustin Truetner Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler
Lector	Hillary Smith	Cindy Gagnon	Jeff O'Connor	Dana Masching
Eucharistic Minister				
Servers				
Greeters			Greeter—C. Forsythe R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	The Lovells

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, May 25 (SMM)**  
 9:00 am +For all who gave their life in service to our country

**Tuesday, May 26 (SH)**  
 8:00 am +Sara Feller (Don/Marie Feller)

**Wednesday, May 27 (SJ)**  
 8:00 am +Marie Costigan (Michael Costigan)

**Friday, May 29 (SMM)**  
 8:00am +Joe King (Craig/Marsha Crawford)

**Saturday, May 30 (SMM)**  
 5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

**Sunday, May 31**

7:30 am (SH) +Sondra Hertz (Tom/Gene/Kathy O'Connor)  
 +Rhonda Harris (Jackie Cross)

9:00 am (SJ) +Joan Smith (Rita O'Connor)

10:30 am (SMM) +Rudy Splear (His Family)

**Looking Ahead**

**Monday, May 25**— Memorial Day Mass SMM 9 am  
**Monday, May 25**—Memorial Day Program at Herscher American Legion 2:00 pm  
**Tuesday, June 2**—SH Parish council meeting 7pm

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550  
 Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com  
 Home—815-933-4077  
 Parish Email – smm\_sja\_sh@yahoo.com  
 TriParish web page – [www.triparishcatholics.org](http://www.triparishcatholics.org)  
 Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities  
**Tri Parish Church office** –Barb Riker 426-2550  
 Julie Bisailon 426-2550  
**Bulletin** – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550 debjen04@gmail.com  
**Religious Education** –  
 St. MM – Jill Fulton [jfulton.stmm@gmail.com](mailto:jfulton.stmm@gmail.com)  
 Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015  
 St. James—Tanhya Osenga [tosenga81@gmail.com](mailto:tosenga81@gmail.com)  
**Parish Nurse** – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048  
**Prayer Line**—  
 SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 [jdstreefarms1@gmail.com](mailto:jdstreefarms1@gmail.com)

**Question of the week—**  
 • Have I felt the Holy Spirit's movement in my life in both powerful and gentle ways?

## Collections Weekend of May 16-17, 2026

St. Margaret Mary—\$ 1,643

St. James—\$1,349

Sacred Heart— \$ 1,245

Thank you for your generosity!

### Gospel Shorts Breathing Life Into the Church

Jesus breathed the “breath of life” into the church. We see a need for this today. The church no longer plays such a prominent role in society as it once did. There may be good reasons for this. Nevertheless, God is still working through the church. God does this work in the same way God always works: through the earthy, human, sweating, groaning, physical life of this world.

### A Stewardship Moment

Pentecost Sunday

May 24, 2026

This weekend we celebrate the feast of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit among the believers of the early Church. Saint Paul reminds us of the special power the Holy Spirit has bestowed upon us and how that power gives us the potential to live extraordinary lives of faith. Good stewards recognize this power and use their gifts, through God’s channel of grace, to transform their lives and the lives of others, and thus hasten God’s Kingdom. Good stewards know that it is through the Holy Spirit that they can proclaim: “Jesus is Lord.” Do we believe that Jesus is Our Lord? If so, how do

### Reflection— The Secret of Happiness

If you want to be happy for an hour, take a nap.

If you want to be happy for a day, go fishing.

If you want to be happy for a week, take a trip.

If you want to be happy for a year, inherit money.

If you want to be happy for a lifetime, serve others.

### The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.” Then he showed them his hands and side.

The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: “Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you.”

Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. “Receive the Holy Spirit,” he said. “If you forgive someone’s sins, they’re gone for good. If you don’t forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?” (from John 20).

### Parish News:

#### All Parishes—

⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

#### St. Margaret Mary-

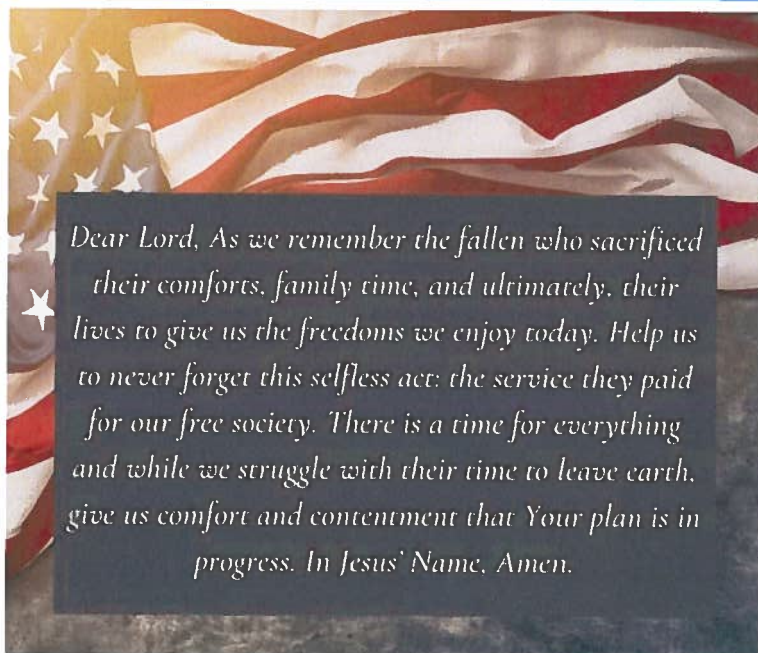
#### St. James

⇒ The Rosary Committee is looking for a volunteer to chair the committee. Directions for purchasing supplies and making the rosaries is available. The funds are provided by the St. James CCW. If you're interested in either leading the committee or in helping make the rosaries please contact Bea Papineau

#### Sacred Heart—

⇒ The week of May 25th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer and in gratitude for the brave souls who have sacrificed their lives for our nation

⇒ We are hosting a Free parish breakfast on Sunday May 24 following the 7:30am Mass. Everyone is welcome. We hope to see you there! Menu on page 6.



**CLASS OF  
2026**

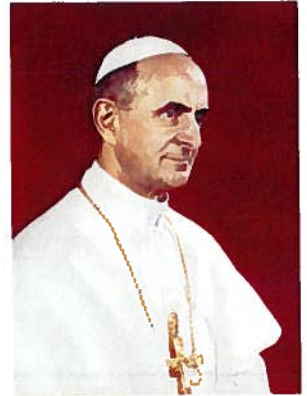
**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR  
GRADUATES—**

**JR HIGH, HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE**

**BEST OF LUCK IN ALL YOUR FUTURE  
ENDEAVORS!**



**Saint of the week: St. Paul VI (May 29)** was the son of a prominent newspaper editor. He was ordained in Brescia, Italy on May 29, 1920. He continued his studies in Rome and became part of the Vatican secretariat of state in 1922. One of two pro-secretaries to Pope Pius XII. Later he became the archbishop of Milan from 1954 to 1963 where he worked on social problems and improving relations between workers and employers. Paul was created cardinal-priest of Santi Silvestro e Martino ai Monti on December 15, 1958, and then was elected the 262<sup>nd</sup> Pope in 1963.



As Pope, Paul continued the reforms of John XXIII. He re-convened the Second Vatican Council and supervised implementations of many of its reforms, such as the vernacularization and reform of the liturgy. He instituted an international synod of bishops; bishops were instructed to set up councils of priests in their own dioceses. Powers of dispensation devolved from the Roman Curia onto the bishops, rules on fasting and abstinence were relaxed, and some restrictions on inter-faith marriage were lifted. A commission to revise canon law was established.

In 1964, Paul made a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands, becoming the first pope in over 150 years to leave Italy. That was followed by trips to India in 1964, the United States in 1965, where he addressed the United Nations, Africa in 1969, and Southeast Asia in 1970. Relations between the Vatican and the Communists improved, and Communist leaders visited the Vatican for the first time. Paul met with leaders of other churches and in 1969 addressed the *World Council of Churches*. Limited doctrinal agreements were reached with the Anglicans and Lutherans. Paul issued frequent reassertions of papal primacy in the face of growing dissent within the Roman Catholic Church itself. He enlarged the college of cardinals and added cardinals from third world countries.

In the 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, Paul reaffirmed the church's ban on contraception, a disappointment to many liberals. It led to protests and many national hierarchies openly modified the statement. Liberals raised questions about priestly celibacy, divorce, and the role of women in the church, but Paul held to traditional Church positions.



**Other obscure saint of the week: St. David of Scotland (May 24)** was the youngest son of King Malcolm III Canmore and Saint Margaret of Scotland; the brother of Saint Matilde in whose court he grew up and was educated. David was made the prince of Cumbria in 1107. He married and later ascended to the throne of Scotland in 1124. David fought in the border wars with England and in 1138 participated in the armistice that halted the fighting. Devoting himself to the welfare of his people, he re-organized the system of landownership and implemented both new laws and a new legal system. He worked to bring the faithful in Scotland closer to the Vatican, founded convents and monasteries, supported monastic work and the organization of five new dioceses. David was the spiritual student of Saint Aelredo of Rievaulx.



Do you have a quiver full of arrow prayers?

The devil hates arrow prayers because they reveal the faith of the one praying them

What is an "arrow prayer"?

An arrow prayer is a short, simple prayer, often just a sentence, that lifts the soul quickly into the presence of God. It is a way of calling out for help, offering love, or expressing trust in a single moment. These prayers have long been part of the Church's tradition and are especially helpful in times of weakness, fear, or uncertainty.

There are moments when longer, more structured prayer is not possible. A sudden difficulty arises. Anxiety sets in. A temptation appears without warning. In those moments, the heart still needs to turn to God, even if only for a second. That is where arrow prayers become so powerful. They cut through distraction and bring the mind and heart back to Him immediately.

The name itself is fitting. An arrow is direct and purposeful. It travels quickly and reaches its target. In the same way, these prayers are meant to be sent straight to heaven, without delay or complication. They are small, but they are not insignificant. In fact, their simplicity is part of their strength.

There is a scene in the film *Paul, Apostle of Christ* that captures this well. While imprisoned and burdened by suffering, Paul lifts his face and cries out, "Thy grace is sufficient!" It is brief, but it expresses everything. Trust. Dependence. Faith. That is the essence of an arrow prayer. These prayers can also be a form of spiritual defense. In moments of fear or temptation, turning immediately to God is not only an act of devotion, but an act of resistance. The soul refuses to remain in darkness and instead reaches for the light. And the devil hates arrow prayers because they reveal the faith of the one praying them!

The Church gives us many examples of prayers that can be shot up in a moment:

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

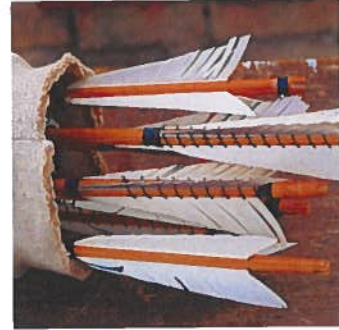
"My Lord and my God."

"Jesus, Mary, I love You! Save souls."

"God, come to my assistance; Lord, make haste to help me."

"Lord, I believe; help me in my unbelief."

"May the Holy Cross be my light."



The beauty of arrow prayers is that they can be woven into the ordinary rhythm of daily life. They can be prayed while driving, working, caring for others, or simply moving through the day. Over time, they begin to shape the interior life, making it easier to return to God again and again.

Sometimes, something as simple as a daily reminder can help keep that habit alive.

Even a small moment in the morning, with coffee in hand, can become an opportunity to begin the day with prayer, sending that first "arrow" to heaven before everything else begins.

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Memorial Day  
Remember & Honor

**Questions Catholics Ask  
Who or what is the Holy Spirit?**



The spirit of God is part of the story from the beginning.

We're primed to think of the Holy Spirit as the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, "preceding from the Father and the Son," who debuts at Pentecost and inaugurates the church. This last idea overlooks that the spirit of God is part of the story from the beginning. God's spirit is a divine wind or breath blowing over the waters of chaos at Creation. This same breath brings humanity to life. As such, spirit is hardly a latecomer to the party. (Don't be alarmed by the lower case "s": neither Hebrew nor ancient Greek employed case distinctions.)

Spirit suggests a subtle and immaterial being, in contrast to the tangible Jesus. But the original spirit in Scripture may not be a being at all: "a principle of action, not a subject," as scholar John McKenzie describes it. Early references to the divine spirit involve a communication that variously clothes, pours out, leaps upon, or fills up the one who receives it. The spirit can be given or removed, at God's desire. The spirit can possess a person, as it does to judges in the Book of Judges, who are suddenly snatched up for divine service. This possession isn't experienced in the negating way of a demon who eliminates the will of the host. Spirit enhances the recipient's abilities, enabling the person to do feats beyond his or her skill. Such a person is charismatically charged for divine action, literally "inspired".

Examples of the spirit at work include: the ecstasies of prophets in Saul's time; the spirit passing from King Saul to David after his anointing; Elisha acquiring a double portion of the spirit given to his predecessor Elijah; Ezekiel's trances; the bestowal of divine gifts like wisdom and counsel; the divine spirit released on the servant of God in Isaiah's poems; the promise of a new heart and spirit rejuvenating Israel after the exile.

The Spirit shows up in the gospels as early as the Annunciation. Mary is told, "The holy Spirit will come upon you... therefore the child to be born will be called... the Son of God." Christian writers perceive more than a communicating action here; rather, a manifestation that modern translators honor with uppercase distinction. John the Baptist foretells a baptism of Spirit. At Jesus' baptism, the Spirit descends dove-like upon him. This Spirit drives Jesus into the desert to encounter temptation. Spirit drives the action in Luke and Acts, showing up fifty-six times as the principal actor. Jesus promises that the arrival of this Advocate ensures that we'll not be orphans through the end of the age.

**Scripture:** Genesis 1:2; 2:7; Exodus 31:3; Numbers 11:17, 25; Judges 6:34; 14:6, 19; 1 Samuel 10:10; 19:20-24; 2 Kings 2:9; Psalm 51:13; Isaiah 11:2-3; 42:1; 61:1; Ezekiel 36:26-28; Mark 1:8, 12; Luke 1:35; 3:22; John 14:16-18, 26; Acts 2:1-18

Heavenly Father, thank you for equipping each graduate with the strength, endurance, and work ethic they needed to accomplish this milestone in their academic journey. Thank you for protecting them thus far and I ask for a grateful heart as they continue in their next steps. May they always love and honor you in prayerful gratitude. In the name of your son Jesus, Amen.



**SACRED HEART  
PARISH BREAKFAST  
SUNDAY, MAY 24 AFTER MASS**

**MENU: EGGS, BACON, HAM,  
FRUIT, CASSEROLES, DONUTS,  
BISCUITS AND GRAVY, COFFEE,  
JUICE, & MILK.**



**EVERYONE IS  
WELCOME!  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

May 24, 2026

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11 | 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 | Jn 20:19-23

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

The Solemnity of Pentecost is about the gift of the Spirit in our lives. St. Paul reminds us that despite the variety of gifts we have received, we are one Body. To make sense of this, consider that on a human level, some of us are introverts, while others are extroverts. Each personality type has particular gifts and struggles. Sometimes, our differing personality types can grate on each other, causing tension. And yet, how often do others who are our “opposites” remind us of truths we often forget? (Speaking as an extrovert, I need introverts to remind me that you can often learn more from quiet listening than talking out loud.) So, too, with spiritual gifts! As we consider the ways God has gifted each of us, let us remember that the differences between us have a specific purpose: to equip all of us to grow and experience the fullness of life in Christ.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

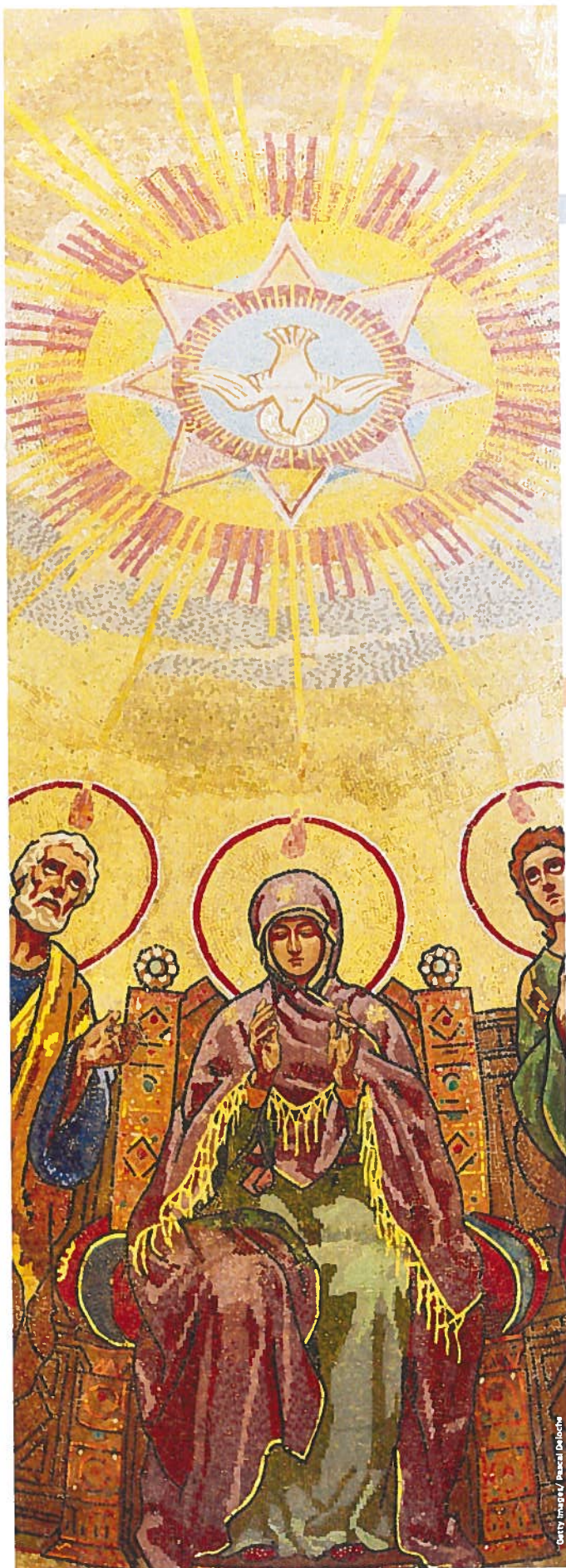
#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

In our first reading, we see that the Holy Spirit enables the disciples to speak in languages they did not know. While they were given an extraordinary spiritual gift to do so, today's missionaries serving in foreign lands must learn the local language to effectively minister among the people they serve. No matter where we find ourselves, perhaps we, too, can learn a new “language,” or find new ways to live our faith and share the Gospel. Effective evangelization happens when we can look to the “signs of the times” and propose, “in language intelligible to each generation,” that Jesus Christ is the answer to the “perennial questions” which arise in each human heart.

*(Gaudium et spes 4)*

### **INVITATION**

The word Catholic comes from a Greek word meaning, “according to the whole” or “universal.” As we see in today's first reading, from the beginning of our Church, the Spirit's desire was to gather people of every nation, tribe, and tongue into the one Body of the Church. The Catholic Church is a global communion, consisting of the Latin Church and 23 Eastern Churches that worship according to their particular rite, customs, and language. Each of these Churches has unique spiritual gifts that enrich the wider Church. Plan to visit another Catholic Church in your area that worships in a different language or rite than your own to experience the manifold gifts of the Spirit that exist in every place where the Church is.



**SPIRITUALITY**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*R.* Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

*R.* Alleluia, alleluia.



**Gospel**

John 20:19-23; L63A

**On the evening of that first day of the week,  
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,  
for fear of the Jews,  
Jesus came and stood in their midst  
and said to them, "Peace be with you."**

**When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.**

**The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.**

**Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.**

**As the Father has sent me, so I send you."**

**And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,  
"Receive the Holy Spirit.**

**Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,  
and whose sins you retain are retained."**

**Reflecting on the Gospel**

"The day will come when," wrote Teilhard de Chardin, "after harnessing the winds, the tides, and gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of Love. And on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, [humankind] will have discovered fire" (*Toward the Future*). Teilhard's likening our ability to harness the forces of love to that of controlling fire for good purposes taps into one of the metaphors used by Luke in today's first reading.

In the Acts of the Apostles, the metaphor of tongues of fire is used to describe the divine power unleashed in the disciples at Pentecost. Although some Christian artwork depicts this literally, with little flames hovering over the heads of the disciples, Luke is clearly using symbolic language that evokes the same earth-shattering experience of the Holy One by the Israelites at Sinai. Moses had brought the whole of the twelve tribes to the foot of the mountain to encounter God. The mountain was then "completely enveloped in smoke, because the Lord had come down upon it in fire" and "the whole mountain trembled violently" (Exod 19:18).

So, too, at Pentecost, the whole entourage of Jesus's followers were gathered together in one place (Acts 1:14). The believers numbered 120 persons (Acts 1:15), a symbolic number for the full people. A strong driving wind fills the house, much as the mighty wind that swept over the chaotic waters at creation (Gen 1:2). The wind and fire are symbols evocative of re-creation, not only on a personal level, emboldening frightened followers, but also signals of a re-birth on a cosmic scale that will result from their mission to ignite Christ's love everywhere.

Images of rebirth are strong in Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Paul speaks about the groaning of the whole of creation, still in the throes of labor, as God's work of birthing new life continues unceasingly. He speaks also of how our groaning joins that of the cosmos, as we experience the pangs of redemption and hope coming to fruition through the Spirit's movement in and through us. Paul affirms that the Spirit herself echoes these inexpressible groanings, as she acts as a midwife, drawing forth the new life longing to emerge.

What is notable about the image of birthing that Paul uses to speak about the unleashing of the power of the Spirit is that it concurs with the direction in which the power of the cosmos moves. The movement of birth from inside the womb outward to life in the world mirrors the dynamic of the universe that is ever expanding, exploding with life from the center outward, in gorgeously creative, chaotic, irreplicable patterns. Pentecost, then, is not so much about the power of God coming from outside us down onto us but a releasing of the power that is already within us, breathed into us by God at creation (Gen 2:7) and by the risen Christ still among us (John 20:22). As the gospel affirms, it is particularly through acts of forgiveness that we can harness for God the energies of love, setting a contagious fire for the re-creation that is groaning to emerge.