LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN
There will be NO Liturgy of the Word for Children next Sunday, May 5, for First Communion and Sunday, May 12, for Mother’s Day. We will resume on May 19 through June 9.
**MASS SCHEDULE**
Monday thru Wednesday..........................6:30am
Thursday and Friday.................................8:00am
Holy Days Consult bulletin
Saturday: .............................................8:00am and 5:00pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, and 11:00am

**CONFESSIONS**
Saturday 4:00 to 4:45pm or by appointment

**EUCHARISTIC CHAPEL HOURS**
Weekdays: 12am to 6am and 9am to 12 midnight.
Saturdays: 12am to 7am
Chapel will close at 7am Saturday until 9am Monday.
Holy Days: Please consult the bulletin.

**EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION**
Wednesdays after 8 a.m. Mass until Noon (closing with Benediction). Confessions 1st Wednesday.

**BAPTISMS**
Baptism Class for parents/godparents is normally held on the first Monday of the month at 7 PM in the Church. To register for the meeting and/or to arrange for a baptism, call Karen Rychlewski.

**MARRIAGE**
Couples planning marriage contact the pastor at least six months in advance.

**COMMUNION CALLS**
Please call the Parish Office to request Communion if someone is unable to attend Church.

**HOSPITAL VISITS**
Please notify the Parish Office concerning hospitalization.

**REGISTRATION**
New parishioners may register at Parish Office or see one of the priests after Mass. New information e.g. address, phone numbers or moving from the parish, please call Parish Office.

**BULLETIN INFORMATION**
Please submit information for the bulletin by Noon TWO Fridays before publication. Include name, daytime phone number of person submitting information, Commission and group name. Items can be e-mailed to mwelsh@holyspiritstl.org.

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**OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS**
Stewardship for April 8-14, 2019
Sunday Envelopes, 261 utilized $ 12,518.00
Loose Collection $ 653.00
Online Donations, 51 families $ 3,113.00
Total $ 16,284.00
Weekly Budget $ 20,000.77
Weekly Surplus (shortfall) ($ 3,716.77)
Hand$ Parish Improvements
$ 151.00 $ 224.00

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**WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, April 28**
9:00 am—Liturgy of the Word for Children, Rm. 105
—Mass, Confirmation Rite of Enrollment, Church
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Community Rm.

**Monday, April 29**
6:00 pm—Quilting, Annex
7:00 pm—VBS Adult Volunteer Mtg., Parish Office

**Tuesday, April 30**
9:00 am—Quilting, Annex
2:00 pm—Ladies Club, Rigali Rm.
7:30 pm—Fire in the Spirit, Community Rm.

**Wednesday, May 1**
9:00 am—Exposition/Benediction, Church
—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.
7:00 pm—Food Addicts, Rigali Rm.
—Home & School Mtg., Parish Hall
7:30 pm—Teen/Ensemble Choir Practice, Church

**Thursday, May 2**
9:00 am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Rm. 2

**Saturday, May 4**
4:30 pm—Hanging Basket Sale

**Sunday, May 5**
2:00 pm—First Communion, Church
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Community Rm.

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**THANK YOU**
Our community changed lives this Lent, and CRS Rice Bowl wants to say THANK YOU!
Don’t forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl.

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**VBS NEWS**

**ADULT LEADER MEETING**
There will be a very important adult VBS leader meeting Monday, April 29, 7pm, Rectory Basement. Please bring your supply lists to turn in. We will begin gathering supplies from the VBS storage area.

**YOUTH HELPER MEETING:**
**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**
There will be a VBS Youth Helper Meeting Monday, June 3, 7pm in the Parish Hall.
Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you!

Blessings to you on a wonderful celebration of Holy Week and the Triduum. It was a beautiful testimony of our parish’s great spirit and dedication to building up the Kingdom of God here at Holy Spirit. Thank you to everyone who had a part in the celebrations. Thanks to our choirs, cantors, and musicians. Thanks to our lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, hospitality ministers, deacons, and servers. Thanks to our church decorators and all the heavenly gardeners who planted so many flowers on Holy Saturday. Thanks to our RCIA catechists. Thanks to our PSR families for cleaning up the grounds and spreading so much mulch! And thanks to all of you for your prayerful witness. God bless you all!

Next Sunday sees our parish and school celebrating the major sacrament in the lives of our children. Our First Communion Class will receive Our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time in our church at 2:00 pm. May we pray for these young members of our parish community and their families. As they receive our Lord for the first time may it also be a reminder to all of us of the great gift we have been given. A gift that nourishes us and builds us up so that we might have life in Him. Congratulations to all our children and their families as they continue to grow in their faith.

This weekend we begin the Annual Catholic Appeal pledge drive in our parish. We welcome Ms. Marie Kenyon, Director of the Archdiocesan Peace and Justice Commission, who will speak about the appeal. As in previous years the pledge drive will take place before and after all the weekend Masses in the Gathering Area.

Last year our parish pledged $153,229.00 to the ACA! Thank you! Over the past several years our parish and our school have benefited greatly through support from the ACA in the form of grants for our teachers, the Catholic Family Tuition Assistance Endowment and through the debt reduction matching grants. This year those grants have exceeded $100,000!

We also received benefits through programs funded by the ACA. Couples participated in a Marriage Day of Renewal Workshop hosted by the Office of Laity and Family Life. Engaged couples also participated in Marriage Preparation Classes which are also presented by the Office of Laity and Family Life. Our school children and parents attended a REAP Retreat. Our seminarians, Gregory Hilzendeger and Luke Schmitz, attend Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, which is also supported by the ACA. This year our goal is $153,229. Thank you for your generosity and prayerful consideration of this appeal.

Let’s pray for each other this week.

Peace,

Father Bob
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Sunday, April 28**
- 7:30am: Glennon F. Audrain
- 9:00am: Christopher Klugesherz
- 11:00am: For Our Parishioners

**Monday, April 29**
- 6:30am: Lordes Domingo

**Tuesday, April 30**
- 8:00am: Michael Farley

**Wednesday, May 1**
- 6:30am: Richard Rath

**Thursday, May 2**
- 8:00am: Jean Vogler

**Friday, May 3**
- 8:00am: Ann Sinovich
- 5:00pm: Jack & Pat O’Connor

**Saturday, May 4**
- 8:00am: Carlo Cafferata
- 5:00pm: For Our Parishioners
- 7:30am: David Fennewald

**Sunday, May 5**
- 7:30am: David Fennewald
- 9:00am: For Our Parishioners
- 11:00am: For Our Parishioners

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

In your prayers, please remember all the sick and home-bound parishioners and those who care for them.

- Irene Biggins
- Becky Bonner
- Nancy Brand
- Jim Brockmeyer
- Phil Brusca
- Connie Buenemann
- Ed Cody
- Matthew Cody
- Peggy Cody
- Dorothy Faebner
- Till Fehrenbacher
- Dee Graff
- Joe Greco
- Gerald Grinstea
- Velda Gross
- Steve Hirschmugl
- Kenneth Jordan
- Al Katzler
- Frank Kekeisen
- Clyde Klump
- Marie Knox
- Audrey Konopka
- Mary Ann Koperski
- Tim Koperski
- Charles Kraemer
- Mike Lemp
- Jerry McGuire
- Karen Newcomb
- Matt Niedringhaus
- Brian Ponder
- John Rizzello
- John Roberson
- Bill Schneider
- Rudy & Brenda Torricelli
- Nanci Van Amburgh
- Joe & Jean Wangler
- Gene Weckherlin
- Bill & Joan Weinzirl
- Tom Zemblidge

**Sick Relatives and Friends:**

- Leo Bachinski II
- Jackie Craven
- Colton Christian
- Betty Halpin
- Diane Hermann
- Joe Hull
- Shane Katzer
- Al & Pearl King
- Sharon Knoppe
- Irene Lee
- Libby Long
- Dolores Mangogna
- Vito Mangogna
- Cameron Meyer
- Christine Meyer
- Luke Meyer
- Ron Meyer
- Mike Mitra
- Melinda Oeth
- Mark Pearia
- Rosalie Provost
- Anthony Pyzdrowski
- Paula & Dave Schneider
- Rick Searway
- Janice Subracco
- Steve Subracco
- Wanda Wade
- Sue Weckherlin

**FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE**

We express our deep sympathy and assurance of our prayers to the family of John Markham, husband of Eileen; Anne Forrester, daughter of Jean Donahue; and Paul Dydo, husband of Brenda, father of Sabrina and Ashley.

May his soul rest in the Peace of Christ.

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE — MAY 4-5**

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4 | Second Sunday of Easter, April 28, 2019
SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to our April 15 Red & Blue winner of $25; Michael Coffey; and our April 22 winner of $25, Lindsay Kueker. Thank you for supporting our school!

Friday, May 3, is a half day and FIELD DAY!

Wish List: Pipe Cleaners, New or gently used Legos & Tinker Toys, Duct Tape, Cookie Trays, Electric Pencil Sharpener, Clear Packing Tape.

Prayers go up blessings come down,
Mrs. Hewitt

PSR NEWS

PSR UPCOMING CALENDAR
Ongoing to May 31: EARLY REGISTRATION BEGINS, DISCOUNTED FEES
April 30: class; Community Prayer Grade 5
May 7: Last Night of PSR
May 31: Last day to get Early Registration Discount

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION REGISTRATION FOR 2019-20
The Parish School of Religion has religion classes on Tuesday evenings, from 6:45-8 p.m. for students in grades 1-8 who attend public schools. PSR sessions focus on the message of Jesus, experienced within a community of faith with opportunities to pray, worship and do service for others. The students are also prepared to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Confirmation is a parish wide program coordinated by our Youth Minister, Donna Eisenbath. All families will register and make payments for PSR through our online program, www.holyspirit.prsrenroll.com or PSR registration is one of the quick links on the parish website, www.holyspiritstl.org. Detailed information was also sent by email to each returning family. Families registering from now until May 31st will receive discounted pricing.

CONFIRMATION
7th grade – Session 6 TODAY!
Today, April 28: Rite of Enrollment, 9 a.m. Mass. Families and candidates should plan to attend. Sponsors are invited to come to Mass & stay for our session, Session 6: Relationships, from 10:10-12:30 at the Annex. Your sponsors are invited to attend both the Mass and the session with us.

IMPORTANT! We have a service day planned May 14. This day is for the young people and an adult – parent, sponsor, aunt, brother, etc. Please Let Donna E. know if you will attend so that we can gather enough projects and supplies, and so that I can communicate the details with you.

HS YOUTH FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS AND SENIORS ALL ARE WELCOME!
Join us from 7-9pm on Thursdays in the Resource Center for food, social time & faith discussions on issues that affect you. Come when you can, & feel free to bring a friend. All are welcome.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MADNESS FOR 6th – 8th GRADES
Our last MSM before summer break is Fri., May 10, 7 p.m., Annex. Incoming 6th grade students (so current 5th grade) are invited. Bring a friend, & be there for the fun!

WE NEED YOU!
WE ARE PLANNING FOR SPRING/SUMMER GATHERINGS & EVENTS, AND WE NEED PGC ADULT VOLUNTEERS. We need your help to make all these things possible to our young people. Young adults, parents and empty nesters are all welcome. Our young people benefit from your life of faith and appreciate your help.

Interested? Want to help our teens encounter Jesus through participation in our parish community? Contact Donna Eisenbath.

Summer service events in July: Wanted – drivers & chap- erones. Must be willing to help with service & spend time in discussion afterwards.

DON’T FORGET TO CHECK OUT & TO REGISTER FOR F3, HOLY SPIRIT’S SUMMER PROGRAM FOR JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. We’ll have a game night, a service night, time for prayer and reflection with lots of food and fun. Don’t miss it. Look for info on our parish website.
Older Adult Excursion

Join us Wednesday, May 29th for a tour at the newly renovated Soldier’s Memorial

WWI: St. Louis and the Great War

Afterward enjoy a delicious buffet lunch at Angelo’s Taverna

Complete the day with a tour of St. Louis Central Library!

Motor coach will leave from the Annex 10 am & return at 4 pm
Cost is $33 (Lunch included)

Return the registration form, with payment, to the Parish Office by 5/17
Space is limited so register early!!

Questions? Contact Karen Rychlewski, 739-0230, Ext. 108, krychlewski@holyspiritstl.org

Older Adult Excursion: Soldier’s Memorial, Angelo’s, Central Library—$33 per person

Name ___________________________
Address __________________________
Phone ___________________________
Email ___________________________

Make checks payable to Holy Spirit Parish

Holy Spirit 5th Grade Class presents the

Annual Hanging Flower Basket Sale

A variety of flowering baskets will be offered for sale, available in time for Mother’s Day!

Saturday May 4, 2019 after 5:00pm Mass &
Sunday May 5, 2019 after each Mass until sold out

Please help us raise funds for 6th Grade Camp!

Prices: two for $35 or $18 each
(cash or checks accepted, made payable to Holy Spirit Catholic School)

Questions? Please contact Karey Schwetz (314) 330-0435
Holy Spirit FS – Food, Faith & Friends

Sunday - Thursday
June 23 -27, 2019
7-9pm
For Grades 6-12

This companion program to VBS is for YOUTH only!!

Come see how God is Good in all situations!

Registration form is available ONLINE only – on the parish website

https://holphspiritstl.org/Education/FS-Food-Faith-and-Friends

Cost is $30 per camper, payable by check (made to Holy Spirit Church and put FS-2019 in the memo line) or cash.
Payments must be received by the first day of VBS.

Registration deadline is May 20, 2019

For more information, contact Sharon Kaufman, 314-734-0230 or skaufman@holphspiritstl.org

Holy Spirit Day
at Busch Stadium
Friday, May 24, 2019

Come join the fun of baseball at Busch Stadium.

The Holy Spirit Choirs will be singing Take Me Out to the Ballgame during the 7th Inning Stretch. Come cheer on your parish choirs as well as the St. Louis Cardinals when they play the Atlanta Braves! We have 300 left field pavilion seats available. Tickets sold on a first come, first served basis. As a bonus, this is a promotion night at the stadium. All children will receive a free ticket to Six Flags. Fans 16 and older will receive a Marcell Ozuna Bobblehead!

Order early so you don’t miss out on the fun! Tickets are $17.00 each (printed price on the ticket is $58). Use the order form below and return to any choir member or Joan Maher at the Parish Office.

All orders need to be received by Friday, May 3rd.

Holy Spirit Night
St. Louis Cardinals vs.
Atlanta Braves
May 24, 2019 @ 7:15 pm

Return this form to any choir member or Joan Maher at the Parish Office.

Name: __________________________

Phone Number: __________________________

Make checks payable to Holy Spirit Parish.

Number of Tickets________@ $17.00 each =

Total________________________________

Holy Spirit Vacation Bible School
June 24-28, 2019 9-noon daily

Life is wild. God is Good!

This epic African adventure engages the whole herd. At Peace, kids explore God’s goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life!

Registration forms for campers, teen helpers and adult volunteers are available ONLINE only – on the parish website

https://holphspiritstl.org/Education/Vacation-Bible-School

Cost is $30 per camper, payable by check (made to Holy Spirit Church and put VBS 2019 in the memo line) or cash. Payments must be received by the first day of VBS.

Registration deadline is May 20, 2019

For more information, contact Sharon Kaufman, 314-734-0230 or skaufman@holphspiritstl.org
Vacation Bible School Needs YOUR Help!

Donations would be appreciated to help us as we CELEBRATE at Roar VBS this summer. The list will be updated in future bulletins as we finalize our plans.

Gift cards: Sam’s, grocery stores, craft stores
Please bring gift cards to the rectory by June 14
or contact Sharon Kaufman 314-739-0230 or skaufman@holyspiritstl.org

FORMED Pick of the Week

Divine Mercy

Experience the Power of God’s Mercy

Join Fr. Michael Gaitley on a breathtaking journey to uncover the reality of God’s merciful love as he weaves together history, Sacred Scripture, the prophetic apparitions of Fatima, and the world-changing witness of St. Faustina, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and Pope St. John Paul II.

Watch on formed.org

Social Justice

“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.”

~ John Bunyan

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with first fruits of all your produce; then will your barns be filled with grain, with new wine your vats will overflow.

~ Proverbs 3:9

“The kindly man will be blessed, for he gives of his sustenance to the poor.”

~ Proverbs 22:9

Giving Witness

“Forces that threaten to negate life must be challenged by courage, which is the power of life to affirm itself in spite of life’s ambiguities. This requires the exercise of a creative will that enables us to hew out a stone of hope from a mountain of despair.”

~ Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Marriage Encounter

Celebrate as an Easter couple this year, & find more for your relationship than you ever dreamt was possible from just one weekend together. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend as a celebration of your couple relationship. Next weekend is Jun. 21-23, Chiara Center, Springfield, IL. More info, call 649.7317 OR https://stl-wwme.org/schedule.php.

Stephen Ministry

Do you want someone to listen to you talk about issues that are bothering you, let you say what you want to say, meet with you once a week, AND keep everything you say confidential?! Consider calling Stephen Ministry, 739-0230, ext. 130, & leave a confidential message, it may be the answer to the wholeness you seek.

Room at the Inn Breakfast Fundraiser

Breakfast with the INN Crowd, breakfast & auction, Fri., May 10, 8–10 am, Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel. All proceeds from this event help the homeless women & families who find shelter with Room at the Inn. In collaboration with nearly 50 interfaith congregations, Room at the Inn helps clients identify & address the barriers that contributed to their homelessness & gain self-sufficiency. Tickets are $40/person or $45 at the door. To purchase reservations or more info, please visit www.roomstl.org/events, or Mary, 209-9181, maryk@roomstl.org. We are also seeking items for auction, baked goods & event volunteers.

Pro-Life News:

The Defenders of the Unborn Spring Gala and Silent Auction is on Sunday, April 28th at Orlando’s Banquet Center (2050 Dorsett Village in Maryland Heights-next to Schnuck’s). Doors open at 5PM. The featured speaker is Melissa Ohden, an abortion survivor. A very generous Holy Spirit couple has paid for a table of 10! If interested in attending, please call Pat or Dick Gill at (314) 434-8323 to reserve your seat!

Mother’s Day Cards to support Birthright Hillsboro will be available after April 27/28 weekend Masses. The cards are free, with optional donation information inside. A donation to Birthright in honor of that special woman in your life makes a great gift!
AROUND TOWN

OPEN WIDE OUR HEARTS ON RACISM
Rigali Center in Shrewsbury, 7 pm, Thurs., May 2.
This will help give us tools to implement the pastoral letter of the Catholic Bishops on Racism.

~ Social Justice Team
Clare Duffy, 291-2144

THE LOVE OF CHRIST FOR YOU!
All are Invited! The Sodality of the Most Sacred Heart invites you to join them on First Friday, May 3rd, St. Clement of Rome Church, 1510 Bopp Road, Des Peres, 63131, 4:30pm: Reconciliation, Exposition, & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; 5:30pm: Celebration of Holy Mass with Fr. Mirco Sosio, AVI; & 6:15pm: Dinner (free will offering) & Reflection in school cafeteria. *Activities for youth & babysitting will be available during Reflection. For more information or to RSVP: info@mostsacredheart.net.

DAVID HAAS IN CONCERT — MAY 4
7:30 pm at Sts. Joachim and Ann Parish, 4112 McClay Rd., St. Charles,
Tickets at www.stsja.org/davidhaas
($10/general admission or max of $40/family).
“I Will Bring You Home: Songs of Prayer, Stories of Faith” Haas’ works include liturgical favorites: “Blest Are They,” “You Are Mine,” “We Are Called,” & more. In his only St. Louis area appearance, Haas will take you on a musical journey of his more than 30 years of liturgical composition Sts. Joachim and Ann Music Ministry will host a reception following the concert.

ST. ANN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Presents: "No noose is Good Noose" A murder Mystery incl. dinner, wine, beer, soda, May 4, doors open 6 p.m. $25/person - RSVP by Apr. 30, Larry Parent, 941-8629, Sign language interpreter available.

THE IMPACT OF SUFFERING:
PATHWAYS TO RESTORATION
Sat., May 11, 9 am—4 pm, Mercy Conference & Retreat Ctr
This workshop teaches skills & compassionate methods for our own emotional, physical & spiritual restoration & healing. It is designed for all who would like to increase their awareness & learn these skills, whether for personal or professional reasons. Presented by Sr. Jean Abbott, CSJ, MSW. Sr. Jean is a Sister of St. Joseph, a therapist, & an expert in working with victims of trauma. For more information, http://www.mercycentersstl.org

TV MASS FOR THE HOMEBOUND
KPLR channel 11 (CW), 8:30 a.m. & KTVI channel 2.2 (antenna TV), 9:00 a.m.
Please invite anyone you know who cannot get out to church to tune in Catholic Mass on TV or watch online anytime on Sundays at www.HeartoftheNation.org.

2ND ANNUAL HOLY SPIRIT GOLF TOURNAMENT
JUNE 1ST, 2019
Riverside Golf Course
1210 Larkin Williams Rd.
Fenton, MO 63026
Four Person Scramble—Shotgun Start

Cost is $75 per golfer and includes green fees, cart, prizes, beverages, and lunch.

Tee off: 8:00am(Check in at 7:00am)

100% of the proceeds go directly to help fund activities of the Holy Spirit Athletic Association.

Entry Form

Please send payment to: HSAA
Attn: Golf Scramble Registration
3129 Parkwood Ln, Maryland Heights, MO 63043
Or Online at: http://hsaastl.org/HOME.aspx

Name

Phone/Email

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Questions: Pete Kielhofner (kielhopj@yahoo.com)
Bill Peroutka (peroutkajr@hotmail.com)
Shawn Benedict (bread05@sbcglobal.net

Second Sunday of Easter, April 28, 2019 | 9
2nd Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy

Acts 5:12-16
Ps 118:1-4,13-15,22-24
Rev 1:9-13,17-19
John 20:19-31

Monday April 29
St. Catherine of Sienna
Acts 4:23-31
Ps 2:1-9
John 3:1-8

Tuesday April 30
Acts 4:32-37
Ps 93:1-2,5
John 3:16-21
or Matthew 13:54-58

Wednesday May 1
St. Joseph the Worker
Acts 5:17-26
Ps 34:2-3,4-5,6-7,8-9
John 3:16-21
or Matthew 13:54-58

Thursday May 2
St. Athanasius
Acts 5:27-33
Ps 34:2-8,17-18,19-20
John 3:31-36

Friday May 3
Sts. Philip and James
1 Corinthians 15:1-8
Ps 19:2-3,4-5
John 14:6-14

Saturday May 4
Acts 6:1-7
Ps 33:1-2,4-5,16-19
John 8:16-21

The Gospel reading sets the stage for Pentecost. Prior to giving us the full gift of the Holy Spirit, Jesus provides the gift of peace, the gift of his heart. A supernatural gift, it penetrates deep into our own hearts. It is the calming presence of Christ when we face challenges and difficulties.

Jesus bestowed it upon his first apostles twice in the same meeting shortly after his resurrection. Then he gave them the life-breath of God, the Holy Spirit, and commissioned them with the priesthood of forgiving the sins of others — another gift that brings peace.

This gift of peace has been distributed by Jesus ever since, through the ordained priesthood in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And to hold us steady in our efforts to remain holy, Jesus gives us the breath of God. This breath, this life-sustaining presence of God’s Spirit, which created the world and keeps us spiritually alive, is the Holy Spirit — God’s holiness activating us and dwelling within us.

Whatever is not holy — not of the Spirit — is sinful and destructive. Jesus, who is the embodiment of Divine Mercy, died on the cross and gave us his Spirit so that we could live in the forgiveness of God.

When you pray the “Our Father”, do it slowly and intentionally. During the words, “forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us,” think of people who have irritated you or hurt you without remorse. Consciously forgive them. Otherwise, your unforgiveness could affect their eternal souls as well as your own, because you’re denying them an opportunity to understand God’s forgiveness through your example, and you’re denying God the opportunity to forgive you for your sin of Unforgiveness.

Forgiveness doesn’t mean approving of the sin nor forgetting. It means letting go of the desire to retaliate. It means choosing to love whether it’s deserved or not. It means entering anew into Christ’s gift of peace.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Who in your life is hardest to forgive? Perhaps yourself? What sins are you retaining by refusing to accept that God has already made his forgiveness available? What are you going to do to let go of the unforgiveness?

2. Name a situation that illustrates the resurrection power of forgiveness. How did the Holy Spirit help make forgiveness easier?

3. What changed when forgiveness was given? How did this bring the kingdom of God to earth?
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