

Kidane-Mehret

Ge'ez Rite Ethiopian Catholic Church



May 2018

Rev. Abayneh Gebremichael, M.A., B.C.C., Pastor

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am at St. Vincent de Paul, 14M Street SE Washington, DC 20003.

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Important Parish Information

Newcomers to the parish: Please fill out your full names and addresses on the Registration Form. The Catholic Church requires that each member of a parish, to the extent allowed by his income, support the day-to-day running of the parish's pastoral activities.

Sacraments and Pastoral Care

Baptisms: Please telephone your pastor at the office to make an appointment to fill out the form and make the necessary arrangements. **Marriages:** It is the policy of the Archdiocese of Washington that couples proposing to marry must first contact, or see, a priest or deacon at least six months prior to the date on which they intend to marry for Marriage Preparation classes. All Catholics are bound to observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage. **Confessions:** are heard before the start of the Divine Liturgy, and any other times by appointment. **Funerals:** Contact your pastor at the parish office to make arrangements. **Hospital Visits:** Notify the pastor if a family member is hospitalized. **Mass Intentions (Stipend):** \$25.00. This is for Memorial Masses, thanksgivings, or petitions.

From the Pastor's Desk

Pentecost

We are awaiting to celebrate Pentecost, or the Feast of the Holy Spirit on May 27, 2018. Let us be vigilant in prayer and open our hearts to be filled with the Holy Spirit, the Third



Person of the Most Holy Trinity. It is called Pentecost because in the Jewish calendar there is a feast that has been celebrated since the time of Moses and it falls 50 days after the Passover feast. It is one of the most important feasts designated by God when He gave the Mosaic Law comprising the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He promised His disciples to send them the Holy Spirit. While our Lady Mary and the disciples prayed together, in obedience to Jesus' command to wait for the Holy Spirit, they heard first a loud rushing wind, then tongues of fire descended, anointing them and all were filled with the Holy Spirit. In obedience to God's command to Moses we still call the feast Pentecost but it honors the Holy Spirit Who is called Parakletos in Greek, so we call it the feast of Pentecost or Paraclete. They were also all given the gift of speaking in tongues so that when they preached to foreigners, they were heard by those people in their native languages. This is just one of the gifts they received from the Holy Spirit. They were also filled with the love of the Spirit prompting them to serve on another such. For this they also received wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, piety, and fear of God. Jesus had a full measure of all these gifts and, through the work of the Holy Spirit, we each have a share in them. The word Paraclete has several meanings but the two most commonly used are Counselor and Comforter. It was only with the help of the Holy Spirit that the Apostles came out of their fear and started to preach in the public area. We also call this feast day the birth of Church because through the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus, followed by the descent of the Holy Spirit, God has brought unity out of diversity. At the time of the Tower of Babel, the people were spoke one language and were one people. They decided to build a city and a tower that would reach up to Heaven. God was not pleased that in their pride they had undertaken a project of this nature without Him so he divided the people into national and language groups. On the Day of Pentecost, people came together from different nations and languages. They began to

understand the language of love that would bring them together as one church, as the people of God.

This apostolic mission that began in the hills of Judea rapidly spread the Gospel all over the world. His disciples did as Jesus commanded them. They baptized in His name and made disciples of everyone who would listen with an open heart. Still today the work goes on. Through the ministry of the Church people are baptized, confess their sins, are confirmed by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and nourished by the Body of Christ.

This year, with the entire church, we rejoice that God has granted us an abundance of grace in our parish. This moment May 6, 2018, we will celebrate with 26 children who have so diligently prepared for their First Holy Communion and Confirmation. On this occasion Bishop Lesanochristos Semahun will be with us to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

To all those children who are receiving Holy Communion and Confirmation, their families, bishop, priests, catechism teachers, and all our congregation wish you great blessings and Joy.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy. Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy. Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy. Amen

Sunday Readings for May

May 6:	Rom 4:14-25	Acts 2:36-42	John 21:1-14
May 13:	Rom 6:1-10	1Peter 4:4-11	John 21: 15-25
May 20:	Rom 10:1-10	1Peter 3: 15-22	Luke 24: 45-53
May 27:	1Cor 15: 20-40	1Peter 1 1-12	John 20 1-18

Psalm 104:31, 34.

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray for:

The newly baptized:

Ruhama Birhanu, child of Berhanu Demeke and Selamawit Tesfamariam

Yordanos Solomon, child of Solomon Gizaw and Meron Gebremedhin

All baptized Christians throughout the world that we will show the world that we are Christians by our love for Christ and one another. Especially for the protection of those in war-torn lands.

The Parish of Kidane-Mehret: for Peace, Unity, Harmony and Charity in the Parish.

For the World: That the King of Peace will reign in every nation and in every heart.

“The glory of God is man fully alive.”

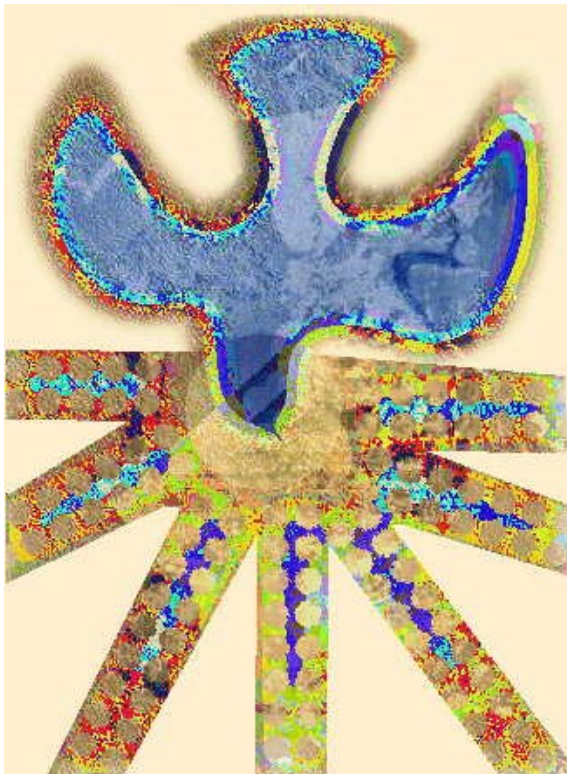
‘Saint Irenaeus, a disciple of Polycarp, who in turn was a disciple of St John, wrote these startling words within a hundred years of Christ’s death. The first question that comes to mind about the above statement is a simple one, “How can this be?”

On one level the meaning refers to Jesus because He is the only man Who has ever been fully alive, if to be fully alive is to be free of sin, totally filled with the Holy Spirit, true Man and true God. On another level, the words emphasize what God wants us to be: free of sin, filled with the Holy Spirit, and as like God as man can ever be through the indwelling of sanctifying grace from the Sacraments. A person like this fully reflects the goodness of God and attracts others to come to know God through him. Like Mary to the Angel Gabriel, we also ask, “How can this be?”

Jesus has the answer: *“I am the way and the truth* and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* (Jn 14:6). He goes on to explain how it works: *“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it.”* (Jn 14:12-14)

In these words we have God’s plan laid out for us. First of all, Jesus is the way. From this we gather that to become like Jesus is a lengthy process. A decision to follow Jesus can happen in the blink of an eye, but there is still the narrow path to follow to the Promised Land. Throughout life we encounter problems. It is through these that we learn Who God is as we encounter His Mercy. Then as we come to trust in the goodness of God, we begin to apply this to our everyday life. As time goes by, our lives change from frenetic to peaceful and joy-filled. We begin living life to the fullest here on earth, as a prelude to life in Heaven with Jesus and all the saints who have gone before us.

However, Jesus makes it clear that we are not getting a free ride! We have to get out there and work. *“Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do.”* In the Luminous mysteries of the Rosary we learn that Jesus’ work was the proclamation of the Kingdom of God and that is also our work. Just before He ascended into Heaven, He commanded His disciples to go and make disciples of all people.



How can we creatures with all our insecurities and sinfulness get to the point that we can attest to the all-encompassing Mercy of God? Jesus assured us that He would not leave us orphans. He also said that He had to ascend to the Father so He could send us the Holy Spirit Who would teach us all truth and Who would even prompt us in what to say to people. Primarily, of course, the Holy Spirit works through the sacraments, but He gives us extra gifts to help us use those graces we receive. These gifts, in turn, help mark us as adopted children of God Whose light shines through us, attracting people to His Way of blessedness and joy.

The work of the Holy Spirit is never-ending. One of His works is, of course, teaching us to pray. Without personal prayer, we will never understand how to stay on the Narrow Way. One of the requisites of prayer is recognizing and listening to the voice of God. In 1Kings19:1-13, we are shown that even the great prophet Elijah had to be taught to recognize the voice of God. *“Then the LORD said: Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will pass by. There was a strong and violent wind rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD—but the LORD was not in the wind; after the wind, an earthquake—but the LORD was not in the earthquake; after the earthquake, fire—but the LORD was not in the fire; after the fire, a light silent sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. A voice said to him, Why are you here, Elijah?”*

Elijah was there not only for his own benefit but for the common good of God’s people, Israel. Mother Teresa of Calcutta echoes Elijah’s experience, *“We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls.”*

As we, in our life of prayer answer that question God posed to Elijah, and then put the answers into action in our lives, we gain confidence in Divine Mercy. Life becomes something to marvel at as we see even the difficult aspects of our lives turn into shining beacons of trust in His Divine Mercy that call to others. This is how the Kingdom of God expands on earth and gives life to Jesus’ words, *“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”* (Jn10:10.)

News from around the World...

Apostolic exhortation on holiness



Just before Easter this year, Pope Francis issued his latest apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*. The document takes its name from the first words of the document. “REJOICE AND BE GLAD” (*Mt 5:12*), Jesus tells those persecuted or humiliated for his sake. The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence. The call to holiness is present in various ways from the very first pages of the Bible. We see it expressed in the Lord’s words to Abraham: “Walk before me and be blameless” (*Gen 17:1*).

Pope Francis then leads us through Church time-tested ways of achieving the goal that Our Lord lays out for us. Pope Francis’ advice is all-encompassing and teaches a holiness that flows from our state in life. He ends it with these words: “It is my hope that these pages will prove helpful by enabling the whole Church to devote herself anew to promoting the desire for holiness. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us a fervent longing to be saints for God’s greater glory, and let us encourage one another in this effort. In this way, we will share a happiness that the world will not be able to take from us. *Given in Rome, at Saint Peter’s, on 19 March, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, in the year 2018, the sixth of my Pontificate.*”

May the Month of Mary

Imitate Mary – Fr. Ed. Broom OMCV

If we truly love somebody, then we want to get to know them better, follow them more closely and finally to imitate their good qualities that we call virtues. St. Louis de Montfort in his classic *True Devotion to Mary* gives us a list of the ten principal virtues of Mary. Imitate them and you will be on the Highway to holiness. Here they are:

- Her deep humility,
- lively faith,
- blind obedience,
- unceasing prayer,
- constant self-denial,
- surpassing purity,
- ardent love,
- heroic patience,
- angelic kindness,
- and heavenly wisdom!



St. Louis teaches us: “The greatest saints, those richest in grace and virtue will be the most assiduous in praying to the most Blessed Virgin, looking up to her as the perfect model to imitate and as a powerful helper to assist them.”

Avowal of Bavarian identity

Crosses to be placed on all Bavarian government buildings

Bavaria's new state premier, Markus Söder, has ordered that crosses be hung up in all state buildings in the southern German state. He called the move an "avowal of Bavarian identity." Söder, who took over the Bavarian government from CSU leader and political rival Horst Seehofer in March, took to social media to call the move a "clear avowal of our Bavarian identity and Christian values," before adding that, after the cabinet meeting, he had immediately gone out to hang a cross in the lobby of the state chancellery in Munich. His move is causing consternation among many politicians in Germany who consider it unconstitutional, saying Germany is a secular country.

