

*You are cordially invited to a Mass of Thanksgiving
celebrating the priestly ordination
of a son of St. John's Parish, Father Alexander Witt,
next Sunday, June 11th at 11 a.m.
A reception follows in the cafeteria.*

FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

The Church has continually prayed for the Holy Spirit's working presence in every aspect of the world and the Church since that first Pentecost. One may wonder why, if Christ sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we need to continually pray for guidance and action in the Church and the world, not to mention in our own lives? It is not that Christ has weakened in the continued gift of the Holy Spirit, or that the Spirit Himself ebbs and flows in our lives. Rather, the issue is really one of us recognizing the need of the Spirit in our world and acknowledging it, and the need of humanity to open our hearts to receive the Spirit and His gifts – to surrender our hearts and minds to the saving action He does for us. When we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit to transform ourselves or the world, we are really asking for Him who is already present to break through the interior barriers of human making which exclude Him from working in our minds and hearts. God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – presents to us the fullness of life and love, but they are offered, not forced upon us. This Pentecost, and every day thereafter, let us pray not only for the workings and gifts of the Holy Spirit, but also realize that we need to open ourselves to receive what we ask for, and be willing to respond to the promptings of the

Spirit in our lives. To beg for the gift of the Holy Spirit and then to refuse to accept Him is a slap in the face to God, and a waste of the very life of God meant for each of us and all of us. A reflection from St. Cyril of Jerusalem

But why did Christ call the grace of the Holy Spirit water? Because all things are dependent on water. Water comes down from heaven in as rain, and although it is always the same in itself, it produces many different effects, one in the palm tree, another in the vine, and so throughout all of creation. It does not come down, now as one thing, and then as another. Rather, it is always the same in its essence, yet adapts itself to the needs of every creature that receives it.

In the same way... the Spirit strengthens one person's self-control, shows another how to help the poor, trains another person for martyrdom. His action is different in different people, but the Spirit himself is always the same. "In each person," Scripture says, "the Spirit reveals his presence in a particular way for the common good."

How is the Spirit at work in you?

A blessed Pentecost! – Fr. Jeff