



Sunday, May 24, 2026  
The Solemnity of Pentecost

Stewards of God's Gifts:  
Building the Kingdom of God  
in the Diocese of Belleville

### The Power of the Holy Spirit

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit changes all things.

As an infant is brought to the living waters for the Sacrament of Baptism, the water itself is blessed, as it was in the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, but each time by the power of the Holy Spirit. "May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord, we pray, come down through your Son into the fullness of this font, so that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him." The Spirit's presence moves one from the darkness of death to the hope of the resurrection.



Daily, in churches throughout the Diocese of Belleville and in the Church around the world, the power of the

Spirit is called down by priests upon humble bread and wine. "Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ." In that moment, as the Church has believed through two millennia, the simplicity of the gifts, first given by God, becomes our hope for salvation: the Body and

Blood, Soul and Divinity of the One who came in the flesh to set us free.

The Holy Spirit regularly changes the lives of young people in the Sacrament of Confirmation, too. As the Spirit's precious gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord are poured out upon those already reborn from water and the Holy Spirit, we trust that these gifts will assist them in leading blameless lives, with the hope of eternal life in the joy of the Kingdom of God as they strive to live more obviously as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Again, as a young man is ordained for service as a Priest of Jesus Christ, we call upon the same Spirit. "May he be a trustworthy co-worker with our Order, so that by his preaching and through the grace of the Holy Spirit, the words of the Gospel may bear fruit in human hearts and reach even to the ends of the earth." These are amazing requests, made possible by the cooperation of the priest with the presence and propulsion of the Holy Spirit.



Let us recall, too, that first Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit drew people from many places into one. The Spirit's presence was known in the sound of a driving wind, in the appearance of tongues of fire, in the proclamation of different tongues. The power of the Spirit demolished the division of various dialects and languages and allowed them all to hear as they were able of the mighty acts of Jesus Christ in their own time and place.

Since January 7, 1887, the day Pope Leo XIII established the southernmost 28 counties in Illinois as the Diocese of Belleville, and even