

**“Jesus answered, ‘Those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring which will provide them with life giving water and give them eternal life.;; (John 4:13-14**

### **Brief Outline**

- A. Living the new life God has begun in us through the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, confirmation and Eucharist) involves falling in love with Jesus. The word “believe” comes from a German word meaning to falling love. Just as Jesus abandoned himself to the Father and the Spirit with complete trust, so must we. Jesus gives us the gifts of faith, surrender, repentance and attentiveness to the Spirit.
- B. Following Jesus involves turning toward God and away from all those things which block our relationship with God. Jesus must be our only Lord. God gives us the Sacrament of Reconciliation to help us return to God.
- C. As we turn toward God and surrender our lives, then the Spirit fills us with new life. There is a new fire that burns within our hearts, and a river of life in our souls which constantly refreshes and sustains us. Mary is an example of surrender to God.
- the Catholic understanding of receiving the Spirit is based in the events of Easter and Pentecost, as well as a dynamic understanding of the Sacraments of Initiation, especially confirmation. In this way we receive the fullness of the Spirit along with the seven gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fear of the Lord, fortitude, knowledge and piety. (Next week we will pray for a deeper experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit.)

### **Questions to Consider:**

1. What importance do repentance, conversion or reconciliation have in your family?
2. What mental picture do you have of the

disciples on Pentecost?

3. What do you expect to happen when we pray for baptism in the Spirit next week?
4. How could charisms like healing, prophecy, wisdom, the gift of tongues help in daily life?

**Prayer:** The Novena to the Holy Spirit. **Begin 30 May or 2 June.**

**Study:** This week the two chapters we will read are about the life of the Spirit and the power of God in us: John 14, Acts 8

### **Daily Words of Life**

**Day 1** - God has a new life for you, because he loves you. It is a gift. You cannot earn it or deserve it. God's word says:

*When the kindness and love of God our savior for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our savior. (Ti 3:4-6, JB)*

**Day 2** - The new life in the Spirit is a gift, but you have to turn to Jesus to receive it. All those who come to him receive new life abundantly. Jesus says:

*If any man is thirsty, let him come to me? Let the man come and drink who believes in me? As scripture says, From his breast shall flow fountains of living water. (Jn 7:37-38, JB)*



# **WEEK 4**

# **Receiving**

# **God's Gift**

**Day 3** - To turn to Jesus you turn away from everything incompatible with the life he is offering (repentance) and accept the promises he is making (belief and faith). When you turn to Jesus in repentance and faith, he can give new life to you. Jesus says:

*"The time has come" he said "and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News [the gospel]." (Mk 1:15, JB)*

**Day 4** - This new life is for everyone who will turn to the Lord. The gift of the Holy Spirit is for you. Satan will try to deceive you into thinking that you are someone who cannot be baptized in the Spirit, but the word of God says:

*You must repent...and every one of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself. (Acts 2:38-39, JB)*

**Day 5** - You cannot earn or deserve the gift of the Holy Spirit, but you do have to put away everything in your life which is incompatible with the Christian life. The new life means that you will be holy as God is holy. God's word says:

*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor sexual perverts, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God. (adapted from 1 Cor 6:9-10, RSV)*

**Day 6** - Faith means relying on what God has promised. You know that God can do anything. You know that he does not lie. Rely on God's promise and claim them from him as Abraham did, and you will see him work in a new way in your life. God's word says:

*Since God had promised it, Abraham refused either to deny it or even to doubt it, but drew strength from faith and gave glory to God, convinced that god had power to do what he had promised. (Rom 4:20-21, JB)*

**Day 7** - When you turn to the Lord in repentance and faith, all you have to do is ask the Lord for the fullness of life in the Holy Spirit. We know that we can have the Holy Spirit, because God loves us and wants to be fully united to us as possible. Jesus promises that the Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.

*So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you... What father among you would*

*hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of fish?...If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him? (Lk 11:9-13, JB)*

Commitment Prayer
<p>Jesus, I know now that I am Yours and You are mine forever.            Thank You for sending Your spirit to me that I might have the power to live this new life with You.            Stir up Your Spirit in me. Release Your Spirit in me.            Baptize me with the fullness of Your Spirit that I may experience Your presence and power in my life.            That I may find new meaning in your Scriptures.            That I may find new meaning in the sacraments.            That I may find delight and comfort in prayer.            That I may be able to love as you love and forgive as You forgive            That I may discover and use the gifts you give me for the life of the Church.            That I may experience the peace and the joy that you have promised us.            Fill me with Your Spirit, Jesus. I wish to receive all that You have to give me.</p> <p>Amen</p>
Resources:
<p><b>Songs:</b>            Open The Eyes of My Heart (Micheal W. Smith)  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idQ1n3cdgfo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idQ1n3cdgfo</a></p> <p>How Great is Our God (Chris Tomlin)  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTCwYNOGb_g">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTCwYNOGb_g</a></p> <p>Set A Fire by Jesus Culture: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Jzqa4B8H2Q&amp;t=41s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Jzqa4B8H2Q&amp;t=41s</a></p>
<p>Talks from the Pentecostal Renewal version of Life in the Spirit are on our website at: <a href="https://www.stmva.org/liits.html">https://www.stmva.org/liits.html</a>            (Talk 4 Receiving God's Gift)</p>
Helpful Passages
<p>Isaiah 11:2, Galatians 5:22, 1 Corinthians 12:8, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:4, James 4:13-14</p>