

Message for Pentecost.

In his homily last Sunday, Father John spoke about the instruction of Jesus to the disciples at the Mount of the Ascension to wait. Stay in Jerusalem and wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. And he related that instruction to the demand on us at this time to wait out the burdens of the pandemic and in particular the burden of having to wait for the churches to reopen and the resuming of public worship.

I have to admit that as I was praying at the beginning of the week, with the nice weather and the birds singing I was in no mood for waiting. And as the news for Ontario was not getting any better, I was beginning to realize that the waiting would continue. Lord this is getting to be too much. I am tired of it all. Can we not at least have a sign of hope?

On Tuesday of this week we celebrated the memorial of St. Philip Neri, who was known as the Apostle of Joy. He always rendered his priestly service in a joyous manner, in a spirit of good cheer. The reading from the breviary for his feast came from a sermon by St. Augustine. "Rejoice in the Lord always". To quote, "So, friends, rejoice in the Lord, not in the world. That is, rejoice in the truth, not in wickedness; rejoice in the hope of eternity, not in the fading flower of vanity. That is the way to rejoice. Where you are on earth, however long you remain on earth, **the Lord is near; do not be anxious about anything.**"

"The Lord is near; do not be anxious about anything." I needed to hear those words this week.

Last week, in preparation for Pentecost, I encouraged everyone to pray some sort of novena to the Holy Spirit and in particular to pray for wisdom for our leaders. Some of the latest news for our own province of Ontario has not been very positive. Our leaders certainly need wisdom to navigate the gravity of the situation at this time. So let us pour out our hearts in prayer, as we say "Come Holy Spirit" in these last days before Pentecost.

Again, we have no news about any form of reopening. The state of emergency has been extended again, so the office will remain closed.

Make sure to join us for Mass on the parish Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulTheApostleBurlingtonOntario/> at 9 am on Sunday mornings. It is great that so many of you are coming together as a parish at that time.

Father John and I are available to hear confessions by appointment. Call the parish office at 905-332-5115 or email jschnurr@hamiltondiocese.com or ehenhoeffer@hamiltondiocese.com. We will make sure to observe a proper distance. This time of year we can meet outside.

We are also available for the Sacrament of the Sick in a serious case. We would observe proper precautions, wearing a mask, etc. Don't hesitate to contact us. We are not allowed to enter health care institutions so receiving the sacrament once you receive a poor diagnosis and have to go to the hospital would be best.

I would also like to thank all of those who have continued their financial support of the parish at this time. Please check out the parish website, www.stpaultheapostleburlington.com, for ways to contribute and for other updates about the parish.

We continue to offer Mass each day so if you would like a Mass offered for any intention we can still do that for you. Email or call

If you know of anyone in need of some financial assistance they can contact the Saint Vincent de Paul help line at 905-522-8222. And for those who would like to donate to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society you can follow the link on the parish website.

This time of year would have been our annual 'baby bottle drive for Shifra House.' I was talking to the director this week and their donations are way down so if normally supported this campaign please consider going on-line to make a donation.

God bless everyone and see you Sunday as we pray, "Come Holy Spirit"

Father Ed