



The Announcement of the Year of the Holy Spirit

“Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

2026 - PENTECOST - 2027



Catholic Diocese of
SAGINAW

The culmination of the Easter season now leads us to celebrate this great solemnity of Pentecost in which the promised Holy Spirit was sent into the world. The Holy Spirit was given for three important reasons.

- It is the final part of God’s plan of love, as God completed his work of salvation and Christ’s Paschal Mystery was brought to completion. The sending of the Holy Spirit allows this love affair between God and each of us to continue;
- So that Christ may continue to be present in the sacramental life of the Church;
- So that the mission of Jesus, ever present in his Church be continued through her members – each one of you. “As the Father has sent me, so I send you....Receive the Holy Spirit” (Jn 20:21-22).

In the Sacred Scriptures, especially in the Gospels, we clearly see how Christ’s whole work is in fact a joint mission with the Holy Spirit. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

The entire mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit, in the fullness of time, is contained in this: that the Son is the one anointed by the Father’s Spirit since his Incarnation — Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah.¹ Though he alluded to the Spirit little by little in his earthly life through his teaching, Jesus does not reveal the Holy Spirit fully until he himself has been glorified through his death and resurrection.

“In effect, Jesus’ whole mission was aimed at giving the Spirit of God to [us] and baptizing [his disciples] in the ‘bath’ of regeneration. This was realized through his glorification, that is, through his death and resurrection. Then the Spirit of God was poured out in a super-abundant way, like a waterfall able to purify every heart, to extinguish the flames of evil and ignite the fire of divine love in the world.”²

This happened on the day of Pentecost when the divine person of the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the human heart, within human history. This Holy Spirit, the love that unites the Father and the Son, came to each of us in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation in order to do the work of Christ. But, is the Spirit alive in us? Do you know the Holy Spirit personally?

We need to reclaim the power of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our own lives. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the voice that guides us in the mission of Jesus, through good times and bad times. The Spirit brings clarity out of confusion; unity where there is division; love where there is hate; healing where there is sickness; strength where there is weakness; light where there is darkness; hope where there is despair, and I could go on.

For this reason, I proclaim a **Year of the Holy Spirit** in the Diocese of Saginaw beginning today on the Solemnity of Pentecost, May 24, 2026 and concluding on the Solemnity of Pentecost 2027.

Dear brothers and sisters, as we become a diocese on mission – one heart and mind – I have often thought of how the Lord Jesus desires to reawaken the Holy Spirit in us, individually and communally; to fan into flame the gifts given in our Baptism and Confirmation – sources of grace always present; to renew this love affair between the Lord and each of us in an intentional way.

The *Year of the Holy Spirit* invites each of us into a deeper experience of the 3rd person of the Holy Trinity, who has sent us on mission, one heart and mind, “carrying forward the work of Christ under the lead of the befriending Spirit. And Christ entered this world to give witness to the truth, to rescue and not to sit in judgment, to serve and not to be served.”³ Without the Holy Spirit, the Church is merely a human institution. With the Holy Spirit, she is the living Body of Christ.

In the words of our Holy Father, Pope Leo: *“The surprise of Pentecost is repeated when we do not presume to control God’s timing, but place our trust in the Holy Spirit, who “is present, even today, as in the time of Jesus and the Apostles: is present and at work, arriving before us, working harder than us and better than us; it is not for us to sow or awaken him, but first and foremost to recognize him, welcome him, go along with him, make way for him, and follow him. He is present and has never lost heart regarding our times; on the contrary, he smiles, dances, penetrates, engulfs, envelops, and reaches even where we would never have imagined.”⁴*

Throughout this Year, there will be numerous events in the Diocese celebrating the *Year of the Holy Spirit*. I encourage all pastors and directors of parish life to let the Holy Spirit be creative in your own parishes through your own prayer and discernment. The Diocese will provide resources on our Year of the Holy Spirit website page at saginaw.org.

The Holy Spirit is the power, breath, and fire of the Church. The Spirit is the One who makes Christ present, breaks the chains of sin, heals wounds of the heart, restores hope, strengthens virtue, ignites courage, and awakens holiness.

The Spirit does not merely improve us—He recreates us. He forms Christ within us until we can say with St. Paul: *“It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”⁵* To rediscover the Holy Spirit is to rediscover the heart of Christian life.

As we begin this Year of the Holy Spirit, may the Church in the Diocese of Saginaw—and each of us—pray with renewed longing:

*“Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
Kindle in us the fire to proclaim the living gospel.*

*Lord, send forth your spirit,
so that you may lead your people
to salvation through your healing, love, and mercy.*

*Come, Holy Spirit, renew the hearts and minds
of the people of the Diocese of Saginaw.” Amen.*

Proclaimed on May 24, the Solemnity of Pentecost, in the year of our Lord 2026, in the Diocese of Saginaw.

+ *Robert D. Gruss*

✠ Most Rev. Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of Saginaw

¹ Catechism of the Catholic Church, #727

² Pope Benedict XVI, in his *Regina Caeli* address on the Solemnity of Pentecost (11 May 2008)

³ Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes*, #3

⁴ Pope Leo XIV, Chrism Mass 2026

⁵ Galatians 2:20

