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May 27, 2007 • Pentecost

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## Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak  
michaelr@stmoside.org  
758-4100 x100

### "A Pentecost Prayer"

"Creator and All-Powerful God, who has accepted Christ as the spotless Lamb, the Lamb who has taken away the sin of the world, we pray for the Church, the Bride of the Lamb.

From the scandal of her compromises with the world, purify her. In spite of the sin of her division, unite her. In the shame of her apathy, vivify her. Fill her again with your Spirit!

Creator and All-Powerful God, you who have given your only Son to be the Suffering Servant who bears the sins of many, we pray for the ministry, for Pastors and Teachers, Elders, and Deacons. Heal them from every form of sin or inclination toward sin. We pray for Apostles who have denied you, for Ministers who failed you, and for Teachers who have misunderstood your Word. Fill them again with your Spirit!

Creator and All-Powerful God, who loved us while we were yet sinners, and gave for us your most precious Son, we pray for the world in the midst of its oppression and perversion, in the midst of its anger and pride and selfishness. Take away the sin of the world and take away our sin. Fill us with your Spirit, that the face of the world might be renewed, and that we may be the humanity you intended.

Creator and All-Powerful God, we pray for our Nation, purge out the leaven of sin from the land. Remove scandal and dishonesty from our government. Remove degeneracy from our intellectual life.

Creator and All-Powerful God, who has accepted Christ as the spotless Lamb that bore away the sin of your people, we pray for our congregation, for all of us who, like sheep, have strayed, and have taken our own way, for those suffering from the sins of others, for those suffering from their own sin, for all of us who are angry with you, for all who are ashamed to enter your Presence. Grant us your peace. Bring us home and seat us at your table!

Come Holy Spirit! Renew the face of the Earth!"

—Prayer adapted from "*Leading in Prayer*" by Hughes Oliphant Old