

May 23rd – The Solemnity of Pentecost

The great feast of Pentecost is here! Alleluia! We begin our prayer: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Proclamation: The Holy Spirit is the Gift that Jesus promised to send me from the Father. I will celebrate that Gift today and ask the Father to fill me with more of His Spirit.



Scripture: Acts 2:1-11 First Reading from Mass

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? . . . (verse 11) yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

Praise and Prayer: "Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth" from *responsorial psalm, Psalm 104*

Lord, open wide our hearts and pour in your Holy Spirit.

Worship the Lord: LET THE FIRE FALL

REST ON US UPPERROOM

YOU SHALL BE CLOTHED WITH POWER

COME DOWN O LOVE DIVINE Here is a [LINK](#) to the words

Lectio Divina for Acts 2:1-11: *Lectio Divina* is praying with God's Word in the Holy Bible. Go to a quiet place and take a few minutes to enter into prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you. Slowly read the Scripture reading a few times. Pay attention to all the details. Put yourself into the story. Answer the suggested questions. Listen and look carefully because God will speak to you!

Background: It must have been very difficult for the Apostles when Jesus ascended into heaven. They still did not understand everything Jesus had told them. The Gospel tells us that at the Ascension the apostles worshiped Jesus but that some of them doubted (see Mt. 28: 17b). They were still fearful. How were they going to make disciples of all nations? But Jesus told them that it was *better* for them if He left! Why was it better? So that He could send the Holy Spirit! He told them to go to Jerusalem until they were "clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49b). The Apostles obeyed Jesus and waited for 9 days in Jerusalem. Today's first reading tells us the story of what happened on Pentecost day when they were waiting with Mother Mary in the upper room.

Suggested questions:

1. What are signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the upper room?
2. Can you think of other times in Scripture where fire and wind showed the presence of the Holy Spirit?
3. It says that they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Can you think of some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that the Apostles used on that first Pentecost? (The **gifts of the Holy Spirit** listed in Isaiah 11:2 are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. **Other gifts** that St. Paul tells us about are wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues. 1Cor 12:8-10)
4. What were the Apostles speaking of? (hint, see verse 11)
5. Peter stood up and preached to the crowd. Read Acts 2:41. Why do you think we say that Pentecost is the "Birthday of the Church?"
6. How do you think they received "Power from on High?"

Visio Divina: *Visio Divina* is praying with a piece of sacred art. Go to a quiet place and take a few minutes to enter into prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you. Carefully look at the painting. Pay attention to all the details. Put yourself into the picture. Answer the suggested questions. Listen and look carefully because God will speak to you!



Descent of the Holy Spirit by Anton Raphael Mengs (1751)

Many people like this painting of Pentecost because of all the action shown.

- What things can you see in this picture that were described in the reading?
- Can you imagine what sounds there might have been?
- Look carefully at each person. What do you think they are experiencing?
- What are some of their responses?
- Who is at the center of the painting?
- Why do you think she is placed at the center?
- Would you like to have been at the first Pentecost? Why or why not?

Called to Greatness:

Jesus promised that his Father would give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asks! (see Luke 11:13 if you want proof). This is great news! So, go ahead and ask. And did you know that children do not get a "mini" Holy Spirit? Kids like you get the same BIG Holy Spirit as the adults do.

Here's an idea: Pray with your family and ask for more of the Holy Spirit. Choose a gift (see page 2) or fruit of the Spirit that you would like the Spirit to give you more of. Continue to pray for this in your daily prayer and expect the Father to answer you.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Closing Prayer:

"Divine Spirit, renew your wonders in our time, as though for a new Pentecost, and grant that the Holy Church, preserving unanimous and continuous prayer, together with Mary the Mother of Jesus, and also under the guidance of St. Peter, may increase the reign of the Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Amen." *Pope John XXIII's Prayer to the Holy Spirit (1961)*

Celebration Ideas:

1. Fly a kite or blow bubbles outdoors to remind you of the Wind of the Holy Spirit.
2. Make a birthday cake to celebrate the birthday of the Church. Sing Happy Birthday!
3. Have dinner by candlelight, or make a bonfire later to remind you of the Fire of the Holy Spirit. (Ask your parents for permission and help.)
4. Make Pentecost headbands by using a strip of paper to fit around your head. Use colored construction paper or color white paper to make a flame to glue or staple onto the front. Be as simple or fancy as you like!
5. Sing *The Fruit of the Spirit* song. Here is a [**FUNNY VERSION**](#)