

About Pentecost Sunday

The word “Pentecost” comes from a Greek word which means fiftieth. Pentecost Sunday is the fiftieth day of the Easter Season. For fifty days we have celebrated and focused on Jesus rising from the dead.

Pentecost, which is the Jewish feast of harvest (Shavout), which also commemorates the giving of the Law of Moses, was the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles:

“When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room,
when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit”
(Acts 2: 1, 4).

Pentecost Sunday



How can we apply the Solemnity of Pentecost to our lives?

The joy of this Solemnity of Pentecost is that the Risen Christ breathes upon the Church and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22).

On this day we celebrate the birth of the Church. Just as the Apostles received the Holy Spirit (as Jesus promised He would send to them), so too, we must use the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives, so that our lives become a daily witness to the Risen Christ.

Before making important decisions in our lives we should pray to the Holy Spirit for His guidance that we will do what is God’s will, what is right for our lives and the lives of those around us.

The Collect

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast
sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation,
pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit
across the face of the earth
and, with the divine grace that was at work
when the Gospel was first proclaimed,
fill now once more the hearts of believers.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading John 20:19-23

As the Father sent me, so am I sending you: receive the Holy Spirit

In the evening of the first day of the week,
the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them.
He said to them,
'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord,
and he said to them again,
'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Antiphon

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

Hymn for Pentecost Sunday

Holy Spirit, Hear Us As We Sing

Holy Spirit, hear us as we sing our song of joyful love.
Come, renew the ravaged face of earth with blessings from above.
Without your life-giving presence, we would die, to dust return;
but if you are present in us, your love makes our hearts burn.
When you water hills and valleys with your soft refreshing rain
then earth comes to life with beauty bright and Eden blooms again.

Holy Spirit, hear us as we sing our song of joyful praise.
You protect and guide God's holy Church until the end of days.
Make her leaders strong but gentle, holding fast to what is true,
may they lead your faithful people on paths both old and new.
Fill the hearts of Christian people with faith, hope and charity:
may we praise the Blessed Trinity for all eternity.

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