

HEART OF CATECHESIS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

The feast of Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the Church. It is called that because Pentecost is when the apostles went out among the people and began spreading the Good News, thus establishing the beginning of the Church.

"The Church was made manifest to the world on the day of Pentecost by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Spirit ushers in a new era in the 'dispensation of the mystery' the age of the Church, during which Christ manifests, makes present, and communicates His work of salvation through the liturgy of his Church, until He comes." (CCC # 1076)

Pentecost is Greek for "50th day" and was originally a Jewish feast that concluded the 50 days of Passover celebrating the end of the harvest and the gift of The Law to Moses at Mt. Sinai.

BIBLE RIDDLE...

During Pentecost the Holy Spirit used many languages to communicate the Gospel to many people. Can you think of a Bible story when many languages were used to confuse people?

(Hint Genesis 11:1-9)

PENTECOST

OUR CATHOLIC CHURCH--THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST LESSON 3



The Pentecost
Fernando Gallego

PARENTS' & CATECHISTS' READING REFLECTION & PRAYER

Sacred Scripture

ACTS 2:1-41

Catechism of the Catholic Church

#691-716, 731-741

#1285-1289, 1293-1305

STUDENTS' READING REFLECTION & PRAYER

Sacred Scripture

Grades K-1	The Illustrated Acts of the Apostles	p. 9	The Descent of the Holy Spirit
Grades 2-4	Bible for Young Catholics	pp. 282-283	The Coming of the Holy Spirit
Grades 5-12	ACTS 2:1-41		

Catechism

Grades K-2	First Communion Catechism	pp. 16, 35-38
Grades 3-6	Baltimore Catechism #1	pp. 48-53, 120-121
Grades 7-12	Catechism of the Catholic Church	#691-716, 731-741 #1285-1289, 1293-1305

TEACHING STRATEGY & OBJECTIVES

THEME: ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST, THE SPIRIT OF THE PROMISE WAS POURED OUT ON THE DISCIPLES (CCC #2623) ...AND THAT SAME SPIRIT CONTINUES TO WORK WITHIN AND THROUGH US, CHRIST'S MYSTICAL BODY THE CHURCH.

Objectives:

Read and discuss the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
 Using the Creed, explain what and who the Holy Spirit is
 Review the Sacrament of **BAPTISM**
 Discuss the Sacrament of **CONFIRMATION**
 Link the Scripture passage in Acts to the Gospel

OPENING PRAYER:



The Descent of the Spirit
 Simon Bening, 1500-1525
 Museum Meermanon

**THIRD GLORIOUS MYSTERY
 OF THE ROSARY:
 THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

REVIEW:

**RESURRECTION
 HOLY SPIRIT**

**HOLY TRINITY
 BAPTISM**

**DIVINITY
 MYSTERY**

READINGS FROM SACRED SCRIPTURE: PENTECOST ACTS CHAPTER 2:1-41

WHAT IS PENTECOST?

“Pentecost” means “50 days.” It was an important Jewish Feast, observed 50 days after Passover, in which they celebrated the grain harvest by offering the first loaves of bread made from this new grain to Yahweh. In this great Feast they also remembered their days at the foot of Mt. Sinai, when Yahweh descended upon the mountain and first gave them the Law.

The Jewish Feast of Pentecost is shared by Catholics and Christians as well...since on that particular Pentecost, 50 days after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Church was born.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE RUSH OF A MIGHTY WIND?

The rush of a mighty wind reminds us of the opening lines of the Bible in Genesis...

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland and darkness covered the abyss while a mighty wind swept over the waters [Genesis 1:1—2]

This passage may be a “hint” that God’s Holy Spirit is there in the beginning.

Jesus also used the symbol and image of wind when He spoke of the Holy Spirit;

THE WIND BLOWS WHERE IT WILLS AND YOU CAN HEAR THE SOUND IT MAKES, BUT YOU DO NOT KNOW WHERE IT COMES FROM OR WHERE IT GOES; SO IT IS WITH EVERYONE WHO IS BORN OF THE SPIRIT. [JN 3:8].

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE TONGUES OF FIRE?

Fire reminds us of God and God’s Love for us. We remember when God [Yahweh] first appeared to Moses in the Burning Bush...which was engulfed by flames, but which was not consumed.

Jesus once said, *“I HAVE COME TO SET THE EARTH ON FIRE, AND HOW I WISH IT WERE ALREADY BLAZING!” [LK 12:49].* Certainly He must have been referring to the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Also, a Flame reminds us of the **HOLY TRINITY**. The **FLAME** reminds us of the **FATHER**. The **LIGHT** which shines forth reminds us of the **SON** who said *“I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.”* The **HEAT** which radiates from the Flame reminds us of the **HOLY SPIRIT**, the **LOVE** of God which burns forever without consuming. **THE HOLY TRINITY: THERE IS ONE GOD WHO IS THREE DIVINE PERSONS, GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

WHAT AND WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

WHAT the Holy Spirit is... He is a Divine Person... He is **GOD**.

WHO the Holy Spirit is... He is the Eternal Relationship of **LOVE** between the Father and the Son. **THE HOLY SPIRIT: THE THIRD PERSON OF THE HOLY TRINITY, WHO PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON.**

WHAT OTHER NAME DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HAVE?

Sometimes the Holy Spirit is called the *“Paraclete.”* People often misunderstand and think that the word is ‘parakeet’ [like a bird]. Paraclete means, “advocate,” “consoler,” or “helper.”



Jean II Restout : Pentecôte 1732

HOW DOES OUR CREED EXPLAIN THE HOLY SPIRIT?**“I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE LORD, THE GIVER OF LIFE”**

When we call the Holy Spirit “**LORD**” we are recognizing that He is **God**. He is the “GIVER OF LIFE” because He helps us to live in Christ.

“WHO PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON, WHO WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON IS ADORED AND GLORIFIED”

The Son is **BEGOTTEN** of the Father; the Holy Spirit **PROCEEDS** from the Father and the Son as their Love for one another.

“WHO HAS SPOKEN THROUGH THE PROPHETS...”

God the Holy Spirit inspired prophets in Old Testament times to speak the Word of God. The Prophets spoke to men of their own time...and also spoke of things which were in their future. Over centuries the words and writings of Prophets and Kings and others were set down in 46 Books...**SACRED SCRIPTURE: THE BIBLE...THE WORD OF GOD INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WRITTEN BY MEN IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT.**

WHAT WAS UNUSUAL ABOUT HOW THE APOSTLES SPOKE TO THE CROWD?

The Apostles were uneducated men from Galilee. But men from all over the world...from many different nations...heard the Apostles speaking the languages of their own nations. This was a sign that the Gospel would soon be preached to the ends of the earth.

WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT STATEMENT WHICH PETER MAKES BEFORE THE CROWD?

He tells them that Jesus is Lord and Messiah, and although the people of Jerusalem had Him crucified, that He is Risen from the Dead.

WHY DOES PETER QUOTE SO MANY PASSAGES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT, AND WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

Keep in mind that Peter was speaking to a large crowd of faithful Jewish people who had waited all their lives for the coming of the Messiah who was foretold by the Prophets of old. Many of them would certainly have been in the crowds on Palm Sunday welcoming Jesus of Nazareth with their loud, “**Hosannas!**”. It is also likely that some of them may have been crying, “**Crucify Him! Crucify Him!**” on Good Friday.

They did not yet know or understand who Jesus was. Many thought that He was still dead. Peter had to get their attention, and used words and reasoning familiar to them to prove that Jesus was the Messiah, and that He had risen from the dead...and that this was foretold by their own prophets. So Peter quotes the Scriptures...

THE PROPHET JOEL: Verses 17—21 to explain the coming of the Holy Spirit and how the world would be changed

KING DAVID: Verses 25—28 to show that the Messiah would overcome death itself

KING DAVID: [again] Verses 34—35 to show that Jesus, the Messiah, is not merely David’s son, but David’s Lord [GOD!]... and that He would triumph over His enemies

Peter did for the Pentecost crowds what Jesus had done for the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus and for the Apostles... **“Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them what referred to Him in all the scriptures” [LK 24:27].**

“From the beginning until ‘the fullness of time’, The joint mission of the Father’s Word and Spirit remains hidden, but it is at work. God’s Spirit prepares for the time of the Messiah. Neither is fully revealed but both are already promised, to be watched for and welcomed at their manifestation. So, for this reason, when the Church reads the Old Testament, she searches there for what the Spirit, “who has spoken through the prophets,” wants to tell us about Christ. By ‘prophets’ the faith of the Church here understands all whom the Holy Spirit inspired in the composition of the sacred books, both of the Old and the New Testaments.” (CCC #702)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN PETER SAYS, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit.” [2:38] ?

The people must ask for forgiveness for their sins—especially the sin of killing Jesus. Then, as the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles, so He will come upon all who are Baptized. The Holy Spirit enters a person and abides within him deeply. He is “the soul of the soul,” and gives us the ability to live in Christ.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us, “**God is Love and love is His first gift, containing all others. God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us**” [CCC #733].

WHAT ARE THE “GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?”

There are Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit...

Wisdom: the ability **to see** things as God sees them

Understanding: the ability **to perceive** quickly the relationships between Truths

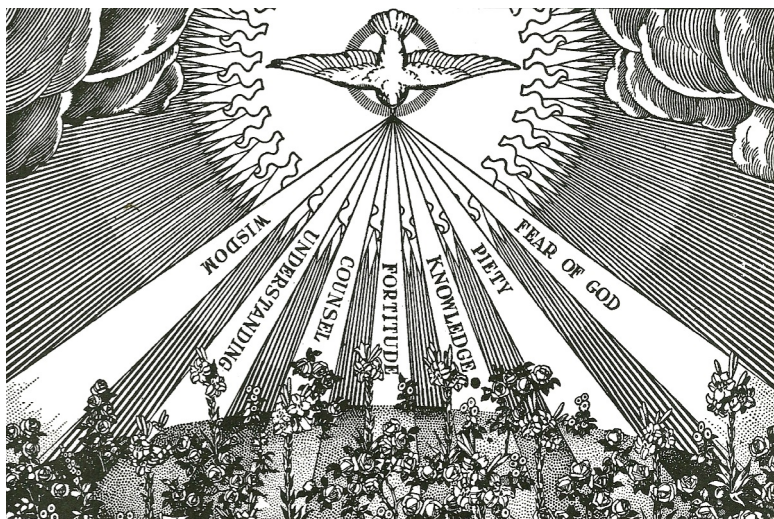
Counsel: the ability **to listen** and **to advise** wisely and well

Knowledge: the ability **to recall** facts and information

Fortitude: the ability **to stand with courage** before adversity and evil

Piety: the ability **to conduct oneself** with reverence and grace in the Presence of God

Fear of the Lord: the ability to behold God with a sense of awe and wonder



HOW MANY PEOPLE DID THE APOSTLES BAPTIZE ON PENTECOST SUNDAY?

3,000 souls [persons]. Remember a **PERSON** is **IN THE CREATED WORLD...ONE WHO IS IN GOD’S IMAGE AND LIKENESS. NATURE** refers to **WHAT A PERSON OR A THING IS.**

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

BAPTISM

THE SACRAMENT IN WHICH THE GUILT OF ORIGINAL SIN IS WASHED AWAY, WE BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD, AND THE INDWELLING PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS BREATHED INTO OUR SOULS.

[A CITATION FROM SACRED SCRIPTURE WHICH HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND BAPTISM IS MATTHEW 3... THE SCENE OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD].

WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?

SACRAMENT

AN OUTWARD SIGN FROM JESUS WHICH GIVES GRACE.

WHAT IS GRACE?

GRACE

THE LIFE AND LOVE OF GOD WITHIN US.

WHAT SACRAMENT IS LINKED WITH PENTECOST SUNDAY?

CONFIRMATION

THE SACRAMENT IN WHICH THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS STRENGTHENED WITHIN US AND WHICH HELPS US TO BECOME MATURE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH

ACTS 2 is a citation worth memorizing so that we can readily read about this Sacrament.

WHY IS THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION LINKED TO PENTECOST [RATHER THAN BAPTISM]?

Although 3,000 people were Baptized on Pentecost, the Apostles and Disciples, and many of Jesus' other followers had already been Baptized. On Easter Sunday Jesus had breathed on them and had given them the Holy Spirit [JN 20:22—23]. But they had not yet received the Holy Spirit in its fullness.

At the time of His **Ascension** Jesus had told them, "**YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES UPON YOU, AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, THROUGHOUT JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**" [ACTS 1:8].

And this is what began on Pentecost. Those same men who had denied Jesus and abandoned Him when He most needed them...who had behaved like **cowards**, were now **courageous**! The Sacrament of Baptism emblazons a character on the soul giving the one baptized the ability to **WORSHIP**. The Sacrament of Confirmation emblazons a character on the soul giving the one confirmed the ability to **WITNESS**. And the Apostles...the first "Bishops" of the Church, would now spend the rest of their lives bearing **witness** to the Truth that Jesus Christ is Risen from the dead. He is our Savior, our Lord, and our God.

WHO IS THE MINISTER OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION IN OUR TIME?

The Bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation.

WHAT ARE THE **MATTER** AND **FORM** AND **EFFECTS** OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation, like every sacrament, involves **MATTER** and **FORM**.

MATTER: WHAT IS USED TO MAKE A SACRAMENT PRESENT.

For the Sacrament of Confirmation, the **Matter** is **Chrism**, which is blessed Olive Oil mixed with a fragrant perfume called "balm."

FORM: WHAT IS SAID AND DONE WITH THE **MATTER TO MAKE A SACRAMENT PRESENT.**

The **Form** for Confirmation; the Bishop, using Chrism, anoints the person being confirmed on the forehead, making the sign of the Cross and saying, "Name"... *be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.*"

EFFECT: WHAT A SACRAMENT DOES FOR THE ONE RECEIVING IT.

1. THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS STRENGTHENED WITHIN THE PERSON BEING CONFIRMED
2. IT HELPS US TO BECOME MATURE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH...
"SOLDIERS OF CHRIST"
3. WE RECEIVE A "CHARACTER" OR AN INDELIBLE SEAL ON OUR SOUL, WHICH GIVES US THE POWER TO **WITNESS** TO OUR FAITH.
[THE "CHARACTER" OF BAPTISM IS ORDERED TOWARDS **WORSHIP**
IT IS WORTH POINTING OUT THAT BOTH CHARACTERS BEGIN WITH "**W**"]

Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." (CCC#1285)

“DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME” ***MOMENTS FROM THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST***

THE HOLY TRINITY IS THE DEEPEST AND MOST CENTRAL MYSTERY OF OUR FAITH. IT IS OFTEN VERY HARD TO UNDERSTAND MATTERS INVOLVING OUR BELOVED THREE DIVINE PERSONS WHO ARE ONE GOD.

ONE CITATION FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND A BIT BETTER...

“THE OLD TESTAMENT PROCLAIMED THE FATHER CLEARLY, BUT THE SON MORE OBSCURELY. THE NEW TESTAMENT REVEALED THE SON AND GAVE US A GLIMPSE OF THE DIVINITY OF THE SPIRIT. NOW THE SPIRIT DWELLS AMONG US AND GRANTS US A CLEARER VISION OF HIMSELF. IT WAS NOT PRUDENT, WHEN THE DIVINITY OF THE FATHER HAD NOT BEEN CONFESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE SON OPENLY AND, WHEN THE DIVINITY OF THE SON WAS NOT YET ADMITTED, TO ADD THE HOLY SPIRIT AS AN EXTRA “BURDEN”, TO SPEAK SOMEWHAT DARINGLY...BY ADVANCING AND PROGRESSING FROM “GLORY TO GLORY” THE LIGHT OF THE TRINITY WILL SHINE IN EVER MORE BRILLIANT RAYS” [CCC #684].

JESUS EXPLAINS A BIT MORE IN HIS PROPHECIES...

JN 16:5—7

“NOW I AM GOING TO THE ONE WHO SENT ME....BUT I TELL YOU THE TRUTH; IT IS BETTER FOR YOU THAT I GO. FOR IF I DO NOT GO, THE ADVOCATE WILL NOT COME TO YOU. BUT IF I GO, I WILL SEND HIM TO YOU.”

JN 14:25—26

“I HAVE TOLD YOU THIS WHILE I AM WITH YOU. THE ADVOCATE, THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT THE FATHER WILL SEND IN MY NAME—HE WILL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING AND REMIND YOU OF ALL THAT I TOLD YOU.”

JN 14:15—17

I WILL ASK THE FATHER AND HE WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER ADVOCATE TO BE WITH YOU ALWAYS, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH WHICH THE WORLD CANNOT ACCEPT, BECAUSE IT NEITHER SEES NOR KNOWS IT. BUT I KNOW IT, BECAUSE IT REMAINS WITH YOU AND WILL BE WITHIN YOU.”

THE WAY THAT THE HOLY TRINITY DRAWS MANKIND TO ITSELF IS THREE-FOLD:

GOD THE FATHER CALLS ALL THE UNIVERSE INTO COMMUNION WITH HIM.

GOD THE SON WAS SENT BY THE FATHER TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS... TO TEACH, TO SUFFER, TO DIE, AND TO RISE; GOD BECAME MAN, SO THAT MAN MIGHT BECOME GOD. AFTER COMPLETING HIS MISSION ON EARTH, JESUS NEEDED TO ASCEND TO THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER SO THAT BOTH THE FATHER AND THE SON COULD SEND...

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BE THE SOUL OF THE **MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST [THE CHURCH]** WHOSE MEMBERS WE ARE. IN AND THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLING WITHIN US, JESUS IS NOT MERELY PRESENT IN GALILEE OR JUDEA OR JERUSALEM, BUT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD...FROM THE RISING OF THE SUN UNTO ITS SETTING, EVEN UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD!!! AMEN.

