



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.

ACTS 2:3-4

PENTECOST

SUNDAY

MAY 23, 2021

Feast of Faith

Liturgy: Work of the Spirit

The Spirit of God who hovered over the waters at the dawn of creation—the Holy Spirit who descended upon the disciples at Pentecost in ever-changing forms in the sound of a mighty wind or tongues of flame—hovers also over our celebration of the liturgy, giving it life, making it real. It is the Spirit of God who draws us, gathering us together, Sunday after Sunday. It is the Spirit of God who called loudly to the inspired writers of the scriptures and who continues to whisper to us, revealing ever-new facets of God’s word, granting insight just when we need it. It is by the Spirit’s power that, when Christ’s words are uttered by the priest, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. And it is surely the Spirit who inspires us—that is, breathes in us—when, sent forth from the assembly, we seek ways to serve our brothers and sisters, to allow the gospel to come to life in the world. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

A Prayer To The Spirit

Holy Spirit,
who sent Christ Jesus
to carry the Good news to the poor,
we pray to you:
Help us to continue your work
by serving the poor, our brothers and sisters.

—From Come, Lord Jesus by Lucien Deiss, CSSP, copyright © 1976, 1981, Lucien Deiss. Published by World Library Publications. p.181

Lord, Send Out Your Spirit

In today’s responsorial psalm the Church sings out: “Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.” All three readings describe how God has answered that prayer already.

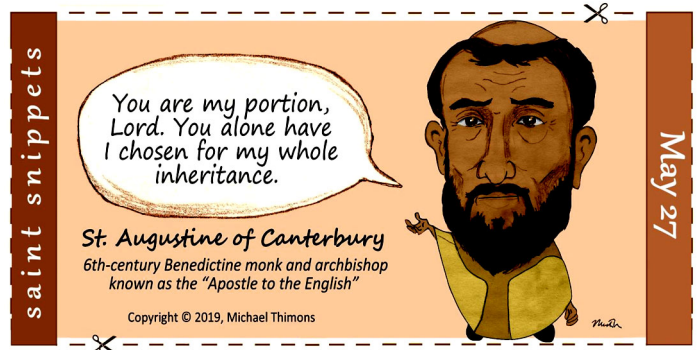
In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles and in the Gospel passage from John, we read of astonishing events that called cowering disciples to step out of hiding and proclaim news that would condemn them and change the world forever! In the second reading Paul’s words reach out into the future to us: “we were all given to drink of one Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

It is our task to truly pray today’s psalm response. Let us together beg the Holy Spirit to renew the earth by renewing the Church, sending many more men and women to serve in its various ministries.

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Readings for the Week

- Monday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Ps 87:1-3, 5-7; Jn 19:25-34
- Tuesday:** Sir 35:1-12; Ps 50:5-8, 14, 23; Mk 10:28-31
- Wednesday:** Sir 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Mk 10:32-45
- Thursday:** Sir 42:15-25; Ps 33:2-9; Mk 10:46-52
- Friday:** Sir 44:1, 9-13; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Mk 11:11-26
- Saturday:** Sir 51:12cd-20; Ps 19:8-11; Mk 11:27-33
- Sunday:** Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Ps 33:4-6, 9, 18-20, 22; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20



Saints and Special Observances

- Sunday:** Pentecost Sunday
- Monday:** The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church; Eighth Week in Ordinary Time
- Tuesday:** St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII; St. Mary Magdalene de’Pazzi
- Wednesday:** St. Philip Neri
- Thursday:** St. Augustine of Canterbury
- Saturday:** St. Paul VI; Blessed Virgin Mary

Today’s Readings

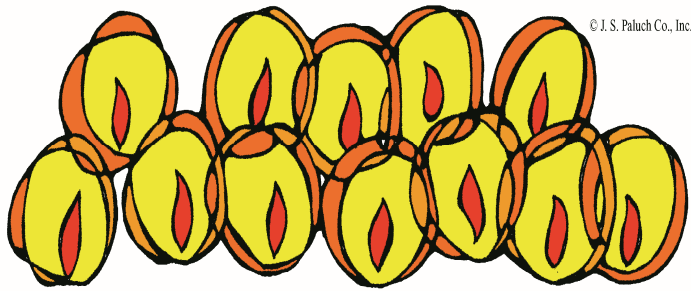
First Reading — They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in different tongues (Acts 2:1-11).

Psalms — Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth (Psalm 104).

Second Reading — There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13) or Galatians 5:16-25.

Gospel — As the Father has sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit (John 20:19-23) or John 15:26-27; 16:12-15.

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Pentecost Sunday

May 23, 2021

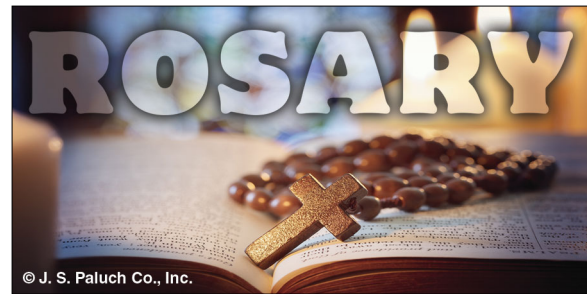
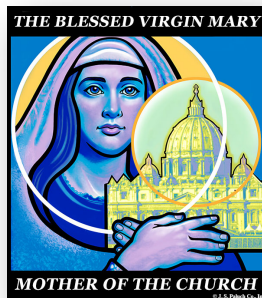
There are different kinds of
spiritual gifts but the same Spirit.

—1 Corinthians 12:4

Treasures From Our Tradition

The roots of today's "birthday of the Church" are in an ancient Jewish festival of springtime harvest, seven weeks after Passover. Now, seven weeks after Easter, our great fifty days of rejoicing come to an end. In the countries where the Church first came to life, this is a time of harvest, and the first fruits appear: apricots and lemons, cherries and strawberries. Even in our gardens, herbs are abundant and asparagus, that close relation of the Easter lily, comes fresh to our tables. The earth is laden with so much new life, and that has always been a sign to Christians of Easter's glory. Pentecost means "fifty" and our fifty days of Easter joy are complete. This Sunday is a day to savor the glory of Easter once more: picnics and cookouts, walks by the water, time in the garden—are all ways of extending the feast. Notice the paschal candle today, still burning during Mass. Our Easter celebration now complete, the candle will soon be moved to a place near the baptismal font, and be lighted at baptisms and funerals as a silent witness to Christ's abiding presence.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Caution: Spirit at Work

If Pentecost celebrates the gifts of the Spirit, it can tempt us to separate the Spirit from the Father and Jesus. Sometimes we think of the Father as the God of the Old Testament, Jesus as center of New Testament, and the Spirit as God of the present age, almost as if the Father and Jesus were enjoying their retirement. Actually, all three persons share one God-life. Instead of three gods debating the fate of the universe, we have one God who is over all and in all.

The Spirit has been active in all ages. The prophets were empowered by the Spirit to proclaim God's word to Israel. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led Jesus into the desert at the beginning of his ministry. (Search the word "spirit" in the four gospels and it appears 75 times.) Jesus was filled with the Spirit as he preached and worked miracles. Then at Pentecost the disciples were filled with the Spirit. So what about Pentecost? It is really about using our gifts and sharing the good news. The Spirit gives us the power, courage, and energy to do this. The Spirit's gifts are meant to be shared. The prophets could not help proclaim God's message. Jesus shared all he knew with his disciples. The disciples went out to the world to spread the news of Jesus' death and resurrection. So we, too, are given gifts to be shared.

The greatest gift we have been given is the news of our salvation. This feast reminds us to share that with others. We may do that by example, as when we worship together, forgive others, give to the poor or help someone in need. We can also share that news by teaching our children about God and his love for them, teaching them to pray, or sharing our faith with other adults. As we come to realize how much God has done for us and how close he is to us, we will want to share that with others. Obviously, we can't make everyone believe in Jesus. But how sad would it be if someone we know was looking for the truth and we neglected to offer it?

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ACTS 2:3-4



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PENTECOST SUNDAY

MAY 23, 2021

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME!

Come, Holy Spirit! Today we celebrate Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the first disciples and on all who are baptized. We also commemorate the birth of the Church. Before Pentecost, the disciples remained hidden and uncertain; at Pentecost, those who were gathered were filled with the Spirit and proclaimed the wonders of the Good News of Christ to all. The Spirit guides us to the truth of Christ's love and mercy and strengthens us to live as disciples. Without the Holy Spirit, we would perish; with the Spirit, we have life to the full. Relying on the Spirit, we are given the grace to turn away from the many temptations that we face each day and prefer instead what is good and holy. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

As followers of Jesus, we are called to direct our minds and hearts to Christ's love, turning away from all that is not of God in order to be more Christ-like in our daily lives. The more we invite the Holy Spirit to draw us close to God's heart, the more readily we will avoid sin and choose life, faith, and love. In the letter to the Galatians, we hear a list of things that those who live in the Spirit are to avoid. Things like immorality, hatred, jealousy, and selfishness. At first glance, we might think to ourselves, "of course I want to avoid those things," and yet, if we are honest with ourselves, we likely recognize some of those patterns in our lives. Upon further reflection, however, we also see that these negative behaviors pose temporary pleasure while the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—lead to a life of deep and lasting fulfillment.

NOTHING WILL STAND IN THE WAY

The Jewish people who had gathered in Jerusalem for the festival of Pentecost came from every corner of the world. They spoke many languages and yet were drawn to hear the message of Christ from the disciples who had just experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. They were astonished by what they heard—not only the message, but the way in which it was conveyed, in their own language, and by the messengers, people whom they would have considered ordinary and unremarkable, rather than the acknowledged religious leaders of their time. We, too, are called to share the love and mercy of Christ through word and action, even when we feel small and insignificant. We need only to look at the witness and experience of those first disciples and all the saints who have preceded us to know that we are capable of much when we place our lives in God's hands. Nothing can stand in the way of the incredible love of God when we are filled with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit!

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34
Galatians 5:16-25
John 20:19-23 or
John 15: 26-27; 16:12-15

Prayer of the Faithful

**The Holy Spirit comes and fills us with life.
We therefore can pray for the needs of all the people in the world.**

**For God's holy Church to be renewed by the
Holy Spirit and so continue the work of renewing the face of the earth,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For peace in the world, and a new spirit of international
cooperation and mutual support among nations,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all those who have celebrated sacraments
of initiation this Easter season, may their faith flourish
with the gifts of the Holy Spirit,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For students ending their school year and entering
into a summertime of rest and renewal, and for
their teachers and the administrators of their schools,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For those who are discerning vocations to the
priesthood or religious life in response to the call of the Holy Spirit,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all those who are sick, for all who suffer from
COVID-19, and for all who have died,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of
our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken,
let us pray to the Lord.**

**Loving God,
may your Spirit fill us with the fire of your love
so that we may do your will on earth.
Grant this and all of these our prayers
through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.**

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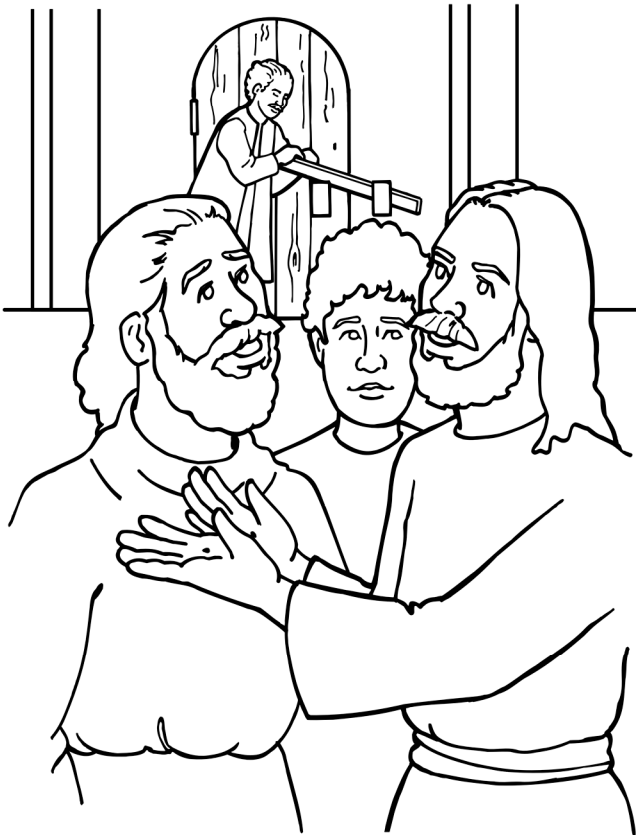
Jesus said to his disciples: "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. Jn 16:12-13

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God's Word for Children

Pentecost
Do you know what the fruits of the Holy Spirit are?
Some are listed below.
Cross out the words that don't belong here.

love selfishness generosity
jealousy kindness impatience
peace hate joy



When the doors were locked ... Jesus came and stood in their midst.
John 20 : 19

CATHOLIC CORNER

THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

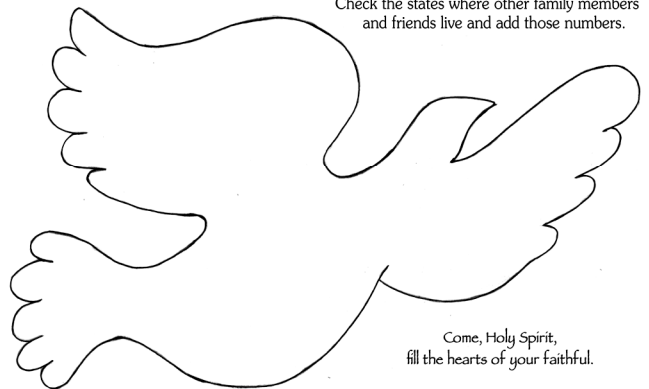
In today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles we hear about people gathered from all around the world who heard the apostles speaking in their own language. Acts goes on to tell us that three thousand people were baptized that day.

The followers of Jesus grew in increasing numbers. We belong to the group of Christians known as Roman Catholics. Today there are 1.2 billion Catholics around the world. That is a very large number. If you were to write it out it would look like this: 1,200,000,000.

There are about sixty-six million, eight hundred forty-five thousand (66,845,000) Catholics in the United States. Brazil has the largest population of Catholics, about one hundred twenty-four million, five hundred ninety-eight thousand (124,598,000). You can discover the number of Catholics in other countries by checking the statistics on the Internet. You can even find how many Catholics live in your state.

The work of the Holy Spirit has helped people spread God's word around the world for everyone to hear, understand, and try to live. The Holy Spirit is often pictured as a dove. We find that image in the Gospels (Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22, and John 1:32) when Jesus is baptized by John.

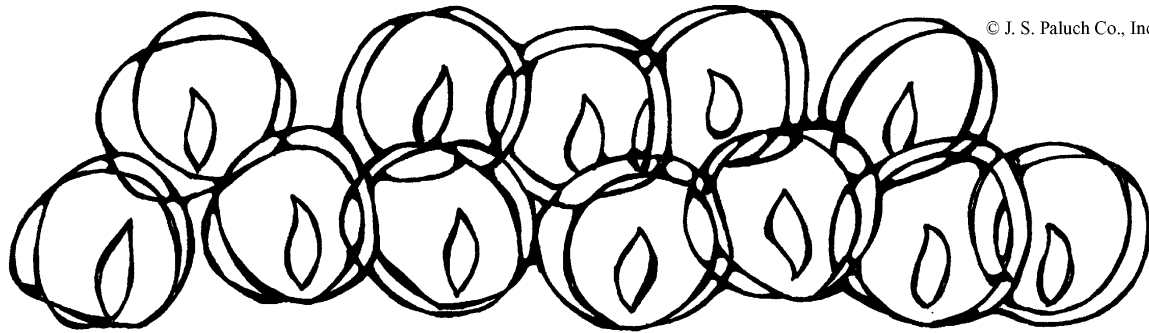
In this dove write the number of Catholics in your state.
Check the states where other family members and friends live and add those numbers.





Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful.

Pentecost Sunday May 23, 2021

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit.
— 1 Corinthians 12:4



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