

PENTECOST SUNDAY

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

This week, we prepare to celebrate Pentecost, the day on which the fullness of the Holy Spirit was given to the Church. The Hebrew word for Spirit is *ruah*, which means *breath*. God breathed His Spirit into Adam and gave him life. So too, through Jesus, God breathes His spirit into the Church and gives us life. As the third person of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit is God. As God gave Himself to us in the person of Jesus, God continues to give Himself to us in the person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a gift to the Church, and He is also the giver of gifts. The Holy Spirit strengthens, guides, and empowers the Church to act as the body of Christ.

PRIMARY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity.

Scripture Resources: [Matthew 28:19](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 685-686](#); [CCC 689-693](#)

Pentecost is the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, founding the Church.

Scripture Resources: [John 20:22](#); [Acts 2:1-11](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 731-733](#); [CCC 1076](#)

The Holy Spirit strengthens the Church.

Scripture Resources: [Acts 1:8](#); [1 Corinthians 2:11-13](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 747](#); [CCC 768](#)





PONDER: EXPLORE KEY THEMES FOR THE WEEK

Look for opportunities throughout the week to ponder with and communicate these truths to your child(ren). Use the questions and explanation for each objective as a guide. The “Younger” and “Older” Children sections are loosely divided by the “age of reason.” You know your child(ren) best (what questions will resonate better with them, if they need a simpler or a more complex version of a particular objective, etc.), so use the section that works best for your family. Refer to the Parent Guide for more recommendations on pondering with your child(ren). Remember that our faith is a mystery that we can always ponder, but sometimes we do not always fully understand and that is ok!

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Learning Objectives

01 The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity.

Every time we bless ourselves, we are reminded of the three persons who make up the Holy Trinity.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- When we bless ourselves how many crosses do we make?
- When we bless ourselves by making one cross, how many names do we say?
- Who are the three names that we say?

02 Pentecost is the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, founding the Church.

When a baby is born, the first thing it does is breathe in air. When the Church was born, the first thing it did was to breathe in the Holy Spirit, which is the breath of God.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- Do you ever think about your breathing?
- Why is breathing important?
- Do you know the first thing a baby does after it's born?
- Why do you think Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church?

03 The Holy Spirit strengthens the Church.

The Apostles were hiding because they were afraid, but the Holy Spirit gave them the courage to go out.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- On a windy day we can't see the wind, so how do we know that it's windy outside?
- How can people see the Holy Spirit?
- Why do you think the Holy Spirit was such an important gift to the Apostles?

FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Learning Objectives

01 The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity.

The Church's understanding of the Holy Trinity is that there is One God – not three, but three distinct persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It may be helpful for your child to think about one family made up of several people.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- In what way do you think the Holy Spirit is different from the Father and the Son?
- Are there any ways in which the Holy Spirit is the same as the Father and the Son?

02 Pentecost is the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, founding the Church.

The image of Jesus breathing onto His apostles, reminds us of God breathing life into Adam. The connection between breath, life and the Holy Spirit is an important truth.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- How important do you think breathing is? Why?
- What happens to a balloon when you breathe into it? (This could be an activity that you demonstrate.)
- I wonder why Jesus breathed on His apostles. Why do you think He did?
- What difference does the Holy Spirit make in our life as Christians?

03 The Holy Spirit strengthens the Church.

To ponder this idea with your child, ask:

- How do you know what to do when you have to make an important or difficult decision?
- When would be some good times to pray to the Holy Spirit?
- When would be a good time for the Church to pray to the Holy Spirit?



“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...”

Acts 2:4

LISTEN: FAMILY LECTIO DIVINA

Choose one or more of the passages listed below for this week's family Lectio Divina time. Ask what your child's favorite part is or what stood out to them. Ask what God may be trying to show your child through the chosen scripture. Please refer to the Parent Guide for further recommendations on doing Lectio Divina with children.

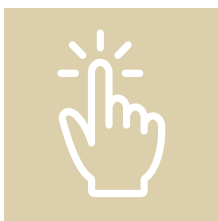
[John 15:26-27; 16:12-15](#) - The Advocate



PRAY: SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

St. Augustine, who was a bishop from 396-430AD, is a very important saint in the history of the Church. His insights and writings greatly influenced the development of theology. This week, pray the **Prayer to the Holy Spirit** that St. Augustine prayed, asking the Holy Spirit to be with you in all you do:

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.



ACT: CONCRETE WAYS TO LIVE OUT THIS WEEK'S THEME

Make decorations and bake a cake to celebrate the birthday of the Church on Pentecost. Blow up balloons and include candles on the cake (of course!). Read the following account of Pentecost in [Acts 2:1-4](#).

“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.”

Light the candles on the cake and notice the flames and how they came from a single source, Sing Happy Birthday and finish with a strong driving wind so that everyone can enjoy the cake!