

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

New Testament Reading



Today we celebrate the Holy Spirit - the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

On the first Pentecost, the apostles, along with Mary, were probably still feeling a lot of emotions because it hadn't been long since Jesus had left them to return to the Father. They were all in a room meeting and praying together when suddenly, the Holy Spirit came down from Heaven. Scripture tells us the Holy Spirit looked like flames of fire that came to rest on top of each of the people gathered there!



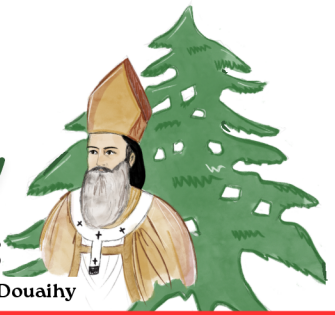
Once this happened, the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit who gave them wisdom and understanding. They were even suddenly able to understand the words spoken by everyone around them, no matter what language was being spoken!

Did you know that *we* also receive the Holy Spirit? We receive the Holy Spirit through the Mysteries (Sacraments) of baptism and chrismation. While this doesn't necessarily make us able to understand every language around the world, it *does* give us wisdom to understand spiritual truths and to discern what is right.



Happy Pentecost!

Cedar Kids



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

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When God's Spirit dwelt on them in the form of tongues of fire, the apostles felt great joy and were filled with zeal and love.

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Gospel Corner

John
14:15-20

At the Last Supper, Jesus told the Apostles many things to prepare them for his death and resurrection. One thing he said to them was not to worry, he would not leave them orphans. Jesus promised to send them another advocate, someone who would continue to be with the Apostles to help them on their journey. On the Feast of Pentecost, the Apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit who descended upon each of them in the form of tongues of fire.

Here are some of the ways the Holy Spirit helped the Apostles, and now helps each of us today who received the gift of the Holy Spirit:



ADVOCATE - the Holy Spirit defends us, speaks on our behalf, and guides our conscience to make the right decisions.

COMFORTER - the Holy Spirit comes alongside us in our struggles to provide strength, peace, and courage during our difficult moments.



TEACHER - the Holy Spirit reminds us of the teachings of Jesus and helps us understand and guard the truth.

GUIDE IN PRAYER - when we pray, the Holy Spirit helps us know what to pray for and to align our hearts with God's will. The Holy Spirit transforms our prayer into deeper conversation and communion with God.



SANCTIFIER - the Holy Spirit helps to make all things holy. He helps to keep us from sin and transforming us to become more like Jesus Christ.



Did you know?

PARACLETE

The word paraclete comes from the Greek word *parakletos*, which means "one who is called to come alongside another."

The Holy Spirit is called the Paraclete in reference to his role in remaining with faithful Christians as a constant, comforting presence and spiritual guide.

What you can do

Wear red today - it's the color of Pentecost!

Pray together with friends or family - like Mary and the apostles were doing in the Upper Room on Pentecost.

Look up the words and pray the Catholic prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Epiclisis Prayer

Trace the words that the priest prays at each Divine Liturgy during the Epiclesis asking the Holy Spirit to come. Then pay attention and notice when he prays it!



And may your living

Holy Spirit come and

rest upon us and upon

this offering.