



# faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 37 // MAY 25, 2023

Pentecost  
Sunday

## *In the Beginning...*

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Happy Easter (and Happy Birthday)! The Easter season draws to a close with the celebration of Pentecost. Pentecost is also known as the birthday of the Church.

According to the Catechism:

"On the day of Pentecost when the seven weeks of Easter had come to an end, Christ's Passover is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, manifested, given, and communicated as a divine person: of his fullness, Christ, the Lord, pours out the Spirit in abundance. On that day, the Holy Trinity is fully revealed. Since that day, the Kingdom announced by Christ has been open to those who believe in him: in the humility of the flesh and in faith, they already share in the communion of the Holy Trinity. By his coming, which never ceases, the Holy Spirit causes the world to enter into the "last days," the time of the Church, the Kingdom already inherited though not yet consummated." CCC 731-732

"Because the Holy Spirit is the anointing of Christ, it is Christ who, as the head of the Body, pours out the Spirit among his members to nourish, heal, and organize them in their mutual functions, to give them life, send them to bear witness, and associate them to his self-offering to the Father and to his intercession for the whole world. Through the Church's sacraments, Christ communicates his Holy and sanctifying Spirit to the members of his Body." CCC 739

With their newfound gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles wasted no time. According to Scripture, 3000 were baptized that day. Through our own Baptisms and Confirmations we, too, have received gifts from the Holy Spirit in order to go out and make disciples of all nations.

Have we unwrapped those gifts? Or have we stashed them away in a closet someplace? Pentecost is a great time to rediscover them!

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### Confession

Saturday: 2:00 - 3:30PM  
Also, by appointment

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# SUNDAY LITURGY REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[Acts 2:1–11](#)

[Psalm 104:1, 24, 29–31, 34](#)

[1 Corinthians 12:3–7, 12–13](#)

[John 20:19–23](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



The giving of the Spirit to the new people of God crowns the mighty acts of the Father in salvation history.

The Jewish feast of Pentecost called all devout Jews to Jerusalem to celebrate their birth as God’s chosen people in the covenant Law given to Moses at Sinai (see [Leviticus 23:15–21](#); [Deuteronomy 16:9–11](#)).

In today’s First Reading, the mysteries prefigured in that feast are fulfilled in the pouring out of the Spirit on Mary and the Apostles (see [Acts 1:14](#)).

The Spirit seals the new law and new covenant brought by Jesus, written not on stone tablets but on the hearts of believers, as the prophets promised (see [2 Corinthians 3:2–8](#); [Romans 8:2](#)).

The Spirit is revealed as the life-giving breath of the Father, the Wisdom by which He made all things, as we sing in today’s Psalm. In the beginning, the Spirit came as a “mighty wind” sweeping over the face of the earth (see [Genesis 1:2](#)). And in the new creation of Pentecost, the Spirit again comes as “a strong, driving wind” to renew the face of the earth.

As God fashioned the first man out of dust and filled him with His Spirit (see [Genesis 2:7](#)), in today’s Gospel we see the New Adam become a life-giving Spirit, breathing new life into the Apostles (see [1 Corinthians 15:45, 47](#)).

Like a river of living water, for all ages He will pour out His Spirit on His body, the Church, as we hear in today’s Epistle (see also [John 7:37–39](#)). We receive that Spirit in the sacraments, being made a “new creation” in Baptism (see [2 Corinthians 5:17](#); [Galatians 6:15](#)). Drinking of the one Spirit in the Eucharist (see [1 Corinthians 10:4](#)), we are the first fruits of a new humanity—fashioned from out of every nation under heaven, with no distinctions of wealth or language or race, a people born of the Spirit.

*“On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.*

JOHN 20:19-20

# The Gospel at Home

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

### Gospel Reading:

*John 20:19-23*

Jesus appears to his disciples and gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

The Season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the Feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. The account in today's Gospel, John 20:19-23, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Yet the event in John's Gospel takes place on Easter Sunday. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts. It is enough that we know that after his death, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world.

We already heard today's Gospel proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter this year (Lectionary Cycle A). That Gospel passage, however, also included the description of Jesus' appearance to Thomas. In that context, we were led reflect on belief and unbelief.

In the context of the Feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' act of breathing the Holy Spirit mirrors God's act of breathing life into Adam at the time of Creation. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for "spirit" can also be translated as "breath."

This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiving of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.

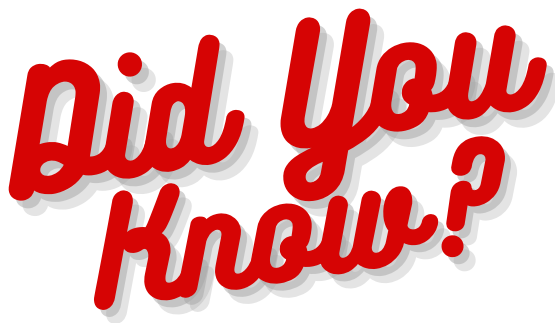
### Family Connection

Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. The Gospel for Pentecost reminds us that the Church begins with the command to forgive. Within the family, the domestic Church, we learn how to forgive and how to accept forgiveness. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to do both. Today is a fitting time to share a family celebration of reconciliation.

As you gather together as a family, sit quietly for a few minutes, inviting everyone to reflect upon their need to forgive and to receive forgiveness. If there is a situation or an issue within the family that needs attention, spend some time reflecting on how your family might address it. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-23. Talk together about how Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us in the work of forgiveness and to bring us peace. Pray together today's Psalm or the [Prayer to the Holy Spirit](#), asking that the Holy Spirit help your family. Share with one another a Sign of Peace.

*"Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."*

JOHN 20:21-23



## 8 Things to Know and Share About Pentecost

Where did the feast of Pentecost come from? What happened on it? And what does it mean for us today? Here are 8 things to know and share...

### 1. What does the name “Pentecost” mean?

It comes from the Greek word for “fiftieth” (pentecoste). The reason is that Pentecost is the fiftieth day (Greek, pentecoste hemera) after Easter Sunday (on the Christian calendar). This name came into use in the late Old Testament period and was inherited by the authors of the New Testament.

### 2. What else is this feast known as?

In the Old Testament, it is referred to by several names: The feast of weeks, The feast of harvest, The day of first-fruits. Today in Jewish circles it is known as Shavu`ot (Hebrew, “weeks”). It goes by various names in different languages. In England (and English), it has also been known as “Whitsunday” (White Sunday). This name is presumably derived from the white baptismal garments of those recently baptized.

### 3. What kind of feast was Pentecost in the Old Testament?

It was a harvest festival, signifying the end of the grain harvest. Deuteronomy 16 states:

You shall count seven weeks; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you first put the sickle to the standing grain.

Then you shall keep the feast of weeks to the Lord your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the Lord your God blesses you; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God [Deuteronomy 16:9-11a].

### 4. What does Pentecost represent in the New Testament?

It represents the fulfillment of Christ's promise from the end of Luke's Gospel:

“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high” [Luke 24:46-49]. This “clothing with power” comes with the bestowal of the Holy Spirit upon the Church.

[CONTINUE READING...](#)

Source:  
[National Catholic Register](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Opportunities to Grow in Faith

### **Saturday, May 27:**

4:00pm - Mass

### **Sunday, May 28:**

8:30am - Mass

10:30am - Mass

### **Monday, May 29:**

Memorial Day - Parish office closed.

### **Tuesday, May 30:**

7:00pm - Men of Emmaus in the Millennium Conference Room.

### **Wednesday, May 31:**

8:30am - Senior Men's Group in the Thaddeus Center.

## St. Jude Vacation Bible School

Children aged 4 - 5th grade join us

**JULY 24-28 ..... 9am – 12 noon**

Register your children NOW

Sign up @

<https://stjudes.net/ubs/>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact Janet DeBoe at: [jdeboe@stjudes.net](mailto:jdeboe@stjudes.net)



### **RED FOR PENTECOST**

Next weekend, May 27/28, consider wearing **RED** to church to help celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. You are also invited to bring a red geranium to Mass and place it by the altar. These flowers will be planted around the church grounds.

### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Training for ALL Eucharistic Ministers – New and Veteran – will be held in the church on:

Thursday, June 1 and Tuesday, June 6; From 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Please plan to attend one of the training sessions.

**SACRISTANS** prepare the altar before the priest celebrates Mass.

We are looking for a few people who would be able to assist for Masses on weekends and other liturgies (Holy days, funerals, weddings, etc.). For more information, please contact Linda Parks (616-363-6885 or [lparks@stjudes.net](mailto:lparks@stjudes.net)).

"Jesus replied, 'The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'"

MARK 12:29-30

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# PENTECOST



Today is the second biggest feast in the Church year! Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples and the Church was formed. The Apostles went out and began to preach the Gospel and baptize thousands of people, receiving them into the new Church.

The Holy Spirit is God. He is the third Person of the Holy Trinity, after the Father and the Son. Before Jesus came to earth, the Holy Spirit inspired the men who wrote the Old Testament part of the Bible. It was the Holy Spirit who brought baby Jesus to the world through Mary. Jesus told His followers He would send the Holy Spirit to them after He went up into Heaven.



We all need the Holy Spirit. We can't do anything by ourselves. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength we need to do good. Did you know that we wouldn't even pray if the Holy Spirit didn't inspire us to?

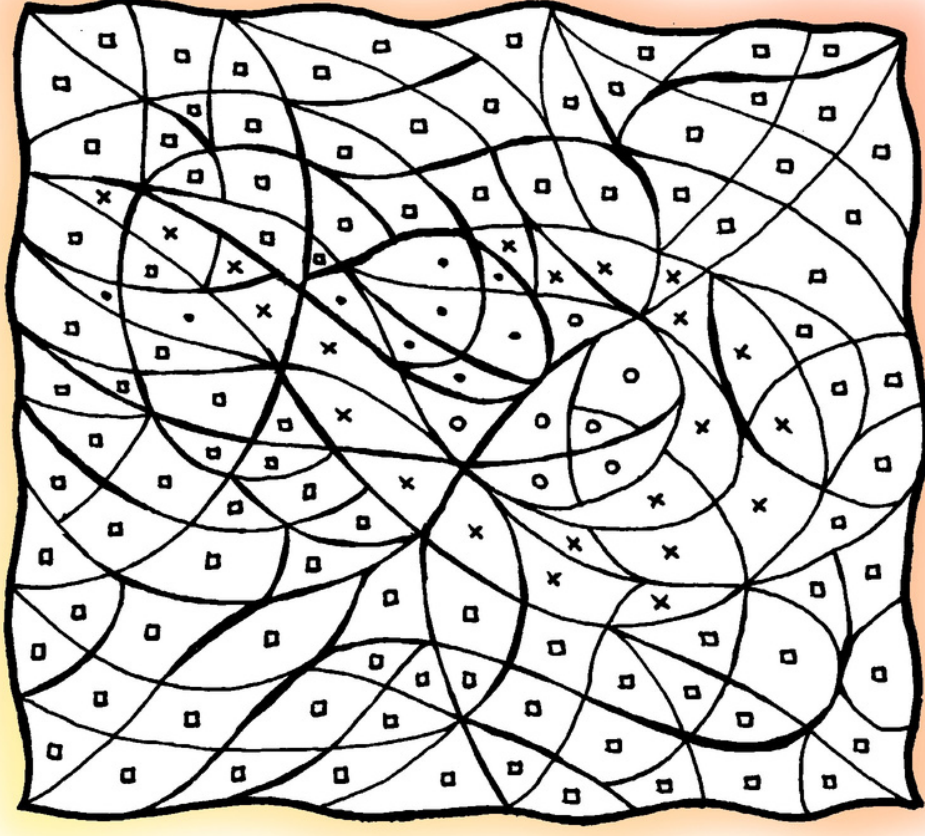


*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever! Amen.*

Answers to Unscramble Puzzle: place, suddenly, wind, house, fire, filled, began, Spirit. BIRTHDAY.

# The Kids' Bulletin

*Pentecost Sunday  
May 28th, 2023*



*In what form did the Holy Spirit come to the Apostles on Pentecost?*

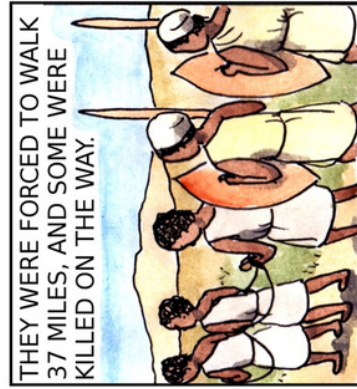
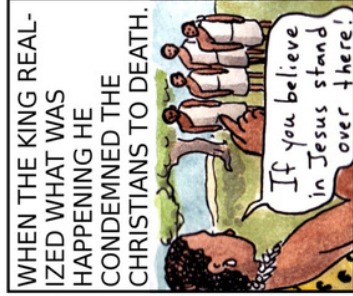
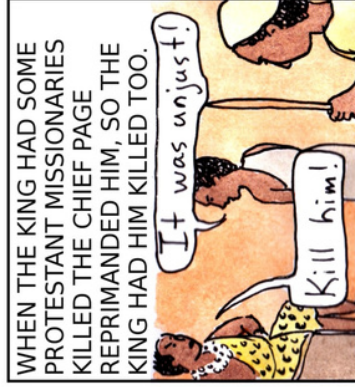
*Use this colour code to colour in the picture and find out!*

○ red      • orange  
□ blue     × yellow



# Saint Charles Lwanga And companions

June 3



SAINT CHARLES AND HIS FELLOW PAGES DID NOT LET THE FEAR OF DEATH STOP THEM FROM FOLLOWING GOD AND DOING WHAT WAS RIGHT. IF EVER YOU ARE TEMPTED TO SIN OR TO MAKE AN EASY CHOICE THAT IS WRONG, PRAY TO SAINT CHARLES AND HIS FRIENDS FOR STRENGTH TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION.

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

# Unscramble: The Pentecost Story

Unscramble the words to finish the story and use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks at the end.

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one <sup>7</sup> [CPAE] together. And <sup>8</sup> [ENYLUSSD] there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving <sup>6</sup> [DWN] and it filled the entire <sup>5</sup> [USHOE] in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of <sup>3</sup> [ERFI] which parted and came to rest on each of them. And they were all <sup>2</sup> [ILFLDE] with the Holy Spirit and <sup>1</sup> [GNEAB] to speak in different tongues, as the <sup>4</sup> [IPSTRI] enabled them to proclaim.

**Pentecost is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church!**

