

Pentecost Sunday

May 19, 2024: Acts 2:1-11 | Ps 104:1,24,29-31,34 | 1 Cor 12:3b-7,12-13 or Gal 5:16-25 | Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Pray: Holy Spirit, pour your graces and gifts into our hearts and fuel our passion to love and serve you as ambassadors of Christ. Amen.

Holy Spirit, fill me to overflowing so I may be a channel of God's goodness and grace.

What a gift Jesus promised His disciples! He would send them a mighty Advocate, the Spirit of Truth, to be with them forever. The great news is that He meant this for ALL His followers, including us! The Holy Spirit was given to us over 2,000 years ago at Pentecost, the birthday of our Church. The Spirit of God remains a mighty source of power, hope, and transformation, always ready to propel believers toward truth, holiness, God's Holy Will, and heaven.

Every Catholic receives the Holy Spirit's gifts and grace when they receive the Sacrament of Baptism. When we are baptized, we experience our own personal Pentecost. This Sacrament and the gifts of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are indelibly bonded to our souls, along with all the promises, powers, and graces given to the early disciples.

These gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit are meant to help us become who God created us each to be. They are intended to last forever to help us do the work we were designed to do in God's infinite plan. Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord are the "seven gifts" mentioned in John's Gospel that the Holy Spirit offers to all baptized believers. Today, more than ever, we need to ask for and accept these gifts to follow God's Holy



Will. The Holy Spirit enlightens our understanding of the Word and equips us to be bright beacons of light, truth, and hope for others.

After baptism, and again through confirmation, the Holy Spirit continues to pursue us and draw us closer to the image of God in which we were created. God wants to lavish these gifts upon us, but our hearts must be open and docile to receive all He freely wants to give us. We must cooperate using our free will and reach for these gifts to activate them. Prayer, reading Scripture, daily examination of conscience, and frequently receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist will help us grow in the Spirit of Christ to set the world on fire with His love, hope, truth, and peace.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † What are you doing to grow in the Holy Spirit's gifts?
- † What specific gift(s) do you need to ask for right now, and why?
- † How are you using the Holy Spirit's gifts in your personal life?
- † How is God calling you to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit in ministry to others?
- † How have you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit when helping others?