

Pentecost Sunday



St. Charles Catholic Church
Liturgy of the Word with Children

Family Reflection for
May 28, 2023 Pentecost Sunday

Family Prayer:

Loving Father, may your Spirit living inside us fill us with love, forgiveness and understanding, helping us to become more like Christ your Son. Amen.

Gospel Reading: John: 20:19-23

God's Spirit Is with Us

Reflection:

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. 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 and the domestic Church, we learn how to forgive and how to accept forgiveness. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to do both.

Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. They were no longer afraid to speak the truth of Jesus' teachings about God. 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."

At your baptism you received the gift of the Holy Spirit so that you can live your life for God as the apostles did after receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit shares his own special gifts with you, *wisdom, knowledge, understanding, reverence, courage, wonder and awe, and right judgement.*

Discuss these questions as a family:

*Listen for the words Jesus says in today's Gospel: "Peace be with you." Where else in the Mass do we hear these words?

* How did the apostles know that the Holy Spirit had come? (They heard the sound of the rushing wind and saw what appeared to be small flames dancing over their heads but did not burn them.)

*Why do we need the Holy Spirit in our lives?

Family Activities:

* The Holy Spirit is waiting to be invited into everything you do. As a family, make it a habit to invite the Holy Spirit into your every activity by saying, "Come, Holy Spirit. You are welcome here." Invite the Holy Spirit before driving, before school activities, sport activities, or before a difficult conversation.

* Fly a kite to remind you of the wind that blew at the first Pentecost.

***Reconciliation means "Making friends again."** Provide craft sticks, one for every two family members. (2 sticks for a family of four) Break the sticks in half, mix them up, and randomly distribute them to family members. Invite each person to find the person whose half matches his or her half. When everyone has found his or her half, instruct the pairs to put the two pieces back together using tape. Point out that the word reconcile means "to make compatible or to re-establish a close relationship." In other words, it means to put back together. Jesus gives the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we might be reconciled.

