

Pentecost Sunday – Year A

Occurring fifty days after Easter Sunday, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to empower them to preach the Gospel to the whole world. This wonderous event reminds us of how Christ equips his Church to carry out the Great Commission: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Liturgically, Pentecost concludes the Easter season. During the Mass, the Church celebrates with rich substance and symbolism. Priests wear red vestments to recall the tongues of fire that rested on the Apostles and Mary. Moreover, the Church prays for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be poured out once again. In some Catholic churches, rose petals even fall from the ceiling to represent the descent of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit
and they shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.
O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful
by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant that in the same Spirit
we may be truly wise
and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Father Frei