



## PENTECOST

*The following information is taken from the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org).*

Pentecost marks the occasion of God sending the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection. The book of Acts describes how the disciples were gathered together in one place on the day of Pentecost. The Jewish feast of Pentecost (Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks) was a day that commemorated the giving of the law to Moses, a day soon to be marked as well by the giving of the Holy Spirit. The day of Pentecost was a turning point for the disciples:

Before Pentecost, the disciples were unsure of what they were to do next and spent most of their time in hiding. After Pentecost and [receiving] the gifts of the Holy Spirit, they understood their mission to spread the Good News of Jesus, and they had the courage to come out of hiding and speak openly about who Jesus was and what he had accomplished by his dying and rising.

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the strength to fulfill their commission to spread the Good News of Jesus. The Church marks this day through a special liturgical celebration:

The Solemnity of Pentecost, on the fiftieth day of Easter, concludes the Easter season. In recent years, the Church has restored the extended vigil for this solemnity. Similar to Easter, the vigil of Pentecost includes four readings from the Old Testament, each with a proper Psalm and prayer, along with the Epistle and Gospel. At the conclusion of the Mass during the Day, the Paschal Candle is extinguished and moved to its permanent location near the baptismal font.

The Solemnity of Pentecost, which crowns and fulfills the Easter season, is a good time to pray for a deeper indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Jim Madura

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### ***PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT***

**Holy Spirit,  
fan into flame the gifts I received in my Baptism and Confirmation.  
I want to receive the fire of Your love as Your disciples did at Pentecost.  
Come with wonder and awe,  
with wisdom, understanding, and counsel,  
with courage and faith in You.  
Holy Spirit,  
may my actions witness to Your presence in my life.  
Help me to see the ways my strengths can serve others in their weakness.  
In all my interactions,  
I want to radiate love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,  
generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.  
Breathe new life into the world through me.  
Amen.**

