

RAISING SAINTS

CHILDREN + FAMILY MINISTRY // WEEKLY GUIDE FOR TEACHERS + PARENTS

PENTECOST

Sunday, May 28 is the Feast of Pentecost, fifty days after the Feast of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We read at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles, that after the Ascension they returned to Jerusalem and went to stay in the Upper Room as they were instructed by the Lord. All of them, with Mary, the Mother of God and the women who had gone to the tomb, devoted themselves to prayer. Luke goes on to describe in Acts 2.

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.” So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples describes

the beginning of the Church. The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus Christ’s apostles, to spread the Good News in ways which could be understood by all. During the times of the Tower of Babel, people spoke the same language but could not understand each other, which led into strife and infighting. In Jerusalem, on this day of Pentecost, there were people who spoke different languages, but through the grace of the Holy Spirit, they were able to hear and understand the message.

Today as well, in the Church established by Jesus Christ, words of a language must not be the focus, but the understanding among Christians who are all one in Christ. The unity, oneness in the Lord is what we celebrate when we offer the Eucharist in remembrance of Jesus’ Last Supper. It is during Holy Badarak when we are in the presence of the Holy Trinity as the bread and the wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Many are the gifts of the Holy Spirit which are given to all of us at our Baptism and Chrismation. These gifts enable us to live life together in community with love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23.) What a wonderful world we would be living in, if many strove to live by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

With that in mind, we shall focus in our Student Guides on how our children can espouse behavior which reflects the fruits of the Holy Spirit by growing in their capacity to demonstrate love, joy, peace, longsuffering (compassion), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

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