

RAISING SAINTS



CHILDREN + FAMILY MINISTRY // WEEKLY GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

PENTECOST LEVEL 1: AGES 5 - 8

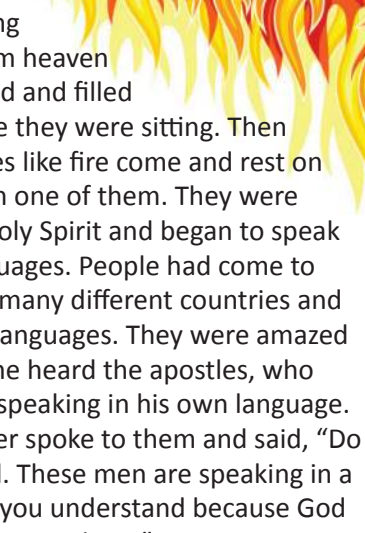
Sunday, May 28 of this year we shall celebrate the Feast of Pentecost when Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to his disciples. The disciples were sad that Jesus would go back up to heaven and leave them alone. He promised them that he'd send the Holy Spirit who would be with them always. The Holy Spirit would help them to remember all that Jesus taught them, and would help them to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The apostles and all of Jesus' followers were sitting in the Upper Room where they ate the Last Supper with Jesus. Mary, the Mother of God and some women also were there. They all prayed and praised God.

Do you realize that God gave his Holy Spirit to you as well? When you were baptized, the priest blessed the water in the basin with holy oil called Myron. Myron is the sign of the Holy Spirit. Then after your baptism, the priest anointed nine parts of your body with the same holy oil which is kept in a dove shaped container.



Having received the Holy Spirit you are given the strength and ability to act in ways which are pleasing to Jesus Christ. Draw a line from the sentence describing things you can do to the part of the body which you use. The first one is done for you.



Suddenly a strong sound came from heaven like a strong wind and filled the house where they were sitting. Then they saw tongues like fire come and rest on the head of each one of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages. People had come to Jerusalem from many different countries and spoke different languages. They were amazed because each one heard the apostles, who were Galileans, speaking in his own language. The Apostle Peter spoke to them and said, "Do not be surprised. These men are speaking in a language which you understand because God sent his Holy Spirit on them."

1. your forehead
2. your eyes
3. your nose
4. your ears
5. your mouth
6. your hands
7. ~~your heart~~
8. your feet
9. your back

- Look at good things only.
- Listen to truth and avoid listening to gossip.
- Do works which please God.
- Speak the truth, bless God.
- Love God and all people.

LEVEL 2: AGES 9 - 12 & LEVEL 3: AGES 13 - 17

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.

On that day in Jerusalem, there were many Jews who had come from various countries and spoke different languages. They were amazed because each one heard the apostles, who were simple, uneducated Galileans, speaking in his own language. The Apostle Peter spoke to them and said, "Do not be surprised. These men are speaking in a language which you understand because God sent his Holy Spirit on them." Empowered with the Holy Spirit, they were able to share the Good News of Jesus Christ's work of salvation. This confirmed Jesus' promise that he'd send the Holy Spirit to them who would help them to remember all that Jesus taught. Pentecost was the beginning of the life of the Church which Jesus Christ established. The first Christians were able to live together in unity, care for each other, provide for each other's needs, and continue to spread the Good News.

The Holy Spirit Ever Present in the World

Jesus came to be baptized by John in the River Jordan. In the Gospel of Matthew 3:16-17 we read, "When he had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

At Jesus' baptism all members of the Holy Trinity were present. The Spirit of God came down like a dove, and God's voice was heard identifying Jesus as the beloved Son. The dove is the symbol of the Holy Spirit. That is why chrism or Myron is kept in a dove shaped vessel near the baptismal font.



Գալատացիները հոգեւոր ինքնատուրան իրանս աստուծոցն է
 յերախապոյց զնս հրեղին լեզուով և աստուծ իմանալով իմ:

"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."



The Holy Spirit in Your Life

- When you were baptized you were adopted as the child of God and became a member of the Church. The waters of the baptismal font were blessed with drops of holy oil, called Myron as a sign of the Holy Spirit. You were immersed into the water three times, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- When you came out of the water, nine parts of your body were sealed with Myron, or chrism: forehead, eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hands, heart, back, and feet.

- Finally, you were taken up to the altar to worship God and receive Holy Communion.

The Holy Spirit is ever present in our lives. He was present at Jesus' baptism, was present at your baptism, and continues to live in our hearts to guide us, to give us the ability and the fortitude to live according to God's commandments.

What are some challenges that you may face in school, at home, and the community of your friends? What kind of help do you need to make good choices in life so you will live according to God's commandments?

Here's a verse from St. Nerses the Graceful's Personal Prayer of Every Christian Believer, commonly known as Havadov Khosdovanim or I Confess with Faith. Read it as you think of the nine parts of your body which were anointed at your Chrismation. What do you think the prayer is acknowledging about you and all Christian believers? Write your thoughts on the notepad.

9. *Provident Lord, instill your fear in me that my eyes may no more look lustfully, that my ears may no more delight in hearing evil, that my mouth may no more speak lies, that my heart may no more think evil, that my hands may no more do injustice, that my feet may no more walk in paths of iniquity; but direct all my actions such that I do your will in everything. Have mercy on your creatures and especially on me, a great sinner.*

Level 3 Challenge

Read the verses of the hymn of the Holy Spirit which mention the presence of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and at baptism. The Holy Spirit's presence is also mentioned at another important event in this hymn. Compare the words of the second verse to those of Genesis 1:1-2 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." What do you learn? Write your answer on the third line in the list.

MISERERE HYMN OF THE FOURTH DAY OF PENTECOST, TONE VIII, ԴԿ.

*Fountain of life, dispenser of graces,
O Holy Spirit, descending from on high,
You dispense your incorruptible gifts to the apostles.*

*Hovering over the waters you created the creatures,
Descending upon the waters of the Font,
You give birth to children of God.*

*You adorn and always restore the Church anew,
In the diversity of your gifts
Her children shine and spread the light.*

1. Holy Spirit present at Pentecost

2. Holy Spirit upon the waters of the baptismal font

3. _____

May your awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life, give you a strong sense of security, courage and peace as you live day by day to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. He sits at the right hand of God the Father, and sends the comfort of his Holy Spirit to all who love him.

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