

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Heavenly King, The Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere and fills all things, Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One!

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

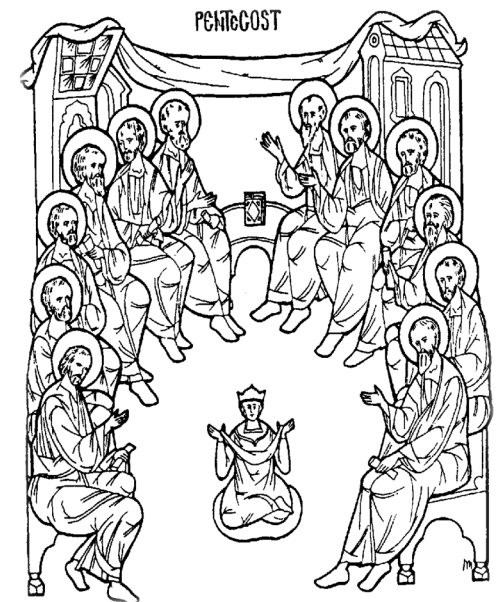
- ✧ Come to Church as a family to celebrate the Feast Day. This feast always falls on a Sunday.
- ✧ As a family, read the Scriptural references and explain to your children the events of the Feast Day and the meaning behind them.
- ✧ Discuss the Pentecost icon with your children. Teach them about all the figures represented on the icon. If you have this icon in your home, display it in your family's place of prayer for veneration.
- ✧ This Feast has an "afterfeast" period of 7 days. Use the Troparion and Kontakion hymns as prayers before and/or after meals, and as a part of your children's evening prayers during this period.
- ✧ This Feast is also called "Green Sunday" because leaves and branches of trees and plants are used to decorate the Church. Ask your children to offer an explanation as to why they think this is done. Decorate your icons at home with branches and leaves.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
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CONTACT:



COME CELEBRATE THE FEAST: THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT





THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CELEBRATED ON THE 50TH DAY AFTER PASCHA

In the Old Testament Pentecost was the feast which occurred fifty days after Passover. As the Passover feast celebrated the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt, so Pentecost celebrated God's gift of the ten commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

In the new covenant of the Messiah, the Passover event takes on its new meaning as the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection, the "exodus" of men from this sinful world to the Kingdom of God. And in the New Testament as well, the Pentecostal feast is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the "new law," the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ... The apostles received "the power from on high," and they began to preach and bear witness to Jesus as the risen Christ, the King and Lord. This moment has traditionally been called the birthday of the Church.

Once again it must be noted that the feast of Pentecost is not simply the celebration of an event which took place centuries ago. It is the celebration of what must happen and does happen to us in the Church today. We all have died and risen with the Messiah-King, and we all have received his Most Holy Spirit. We are the "temples of the Holy Spirit." God's Spirit dwells in us (Rom 8; 1 Cor 2-3, 12; 2 Cor 3; Gal 5; Eph 2-3). We, by our own membership in the Church, have received the "seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" in the sacrament of Chrismation. Pentecost has happened to us (Fr. Thomas Hopko, *The Orthodox Faith: Volume 2, Worship*).

THE DESCENT IN SCRIPTURE AND HYMNS

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11; Galatians 5:22-26

Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

Old Testament: Ezekiel 36:24-28; Joel 2:23-32

Vespers, "Lord I Call," Sticheron 3

Everyone is granted the Holy Spirit: He is the source of prophecy; He is the fulfillment of the priesthood. He taught the unlearned wisdom; He revealed the fishermen as Theologians. He gathers all the Councils of the Church. O Comforter, equal to the Father in essence and majesty, glory to You!

Vespers, "Lord, I Call," Sticheron 4

We have seen the True Light. We have received the Heavenly Spirit. We have found the true Faith, worshipping the undivided Trinity, Who has saved us.

Matins, The Praises, Sticheron 3

The Holy Spirit is Light and Life, the living Fountain of spiritual gifts: the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding. He is good, upright, intelligent, and ruling. He purifies us from our sins. The spirit is the deifying God; Fire proceeding from Fire, speaking, acting, distributing gifts. By the Spirit the prophets, divine apostles, and martyrs were crowned. Strange is this report. Strange is this sight. Fire is divided for the granting of gifts.

Divine Liturgy, Troparion, Tone 8

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who has revealed the fishermen as most wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them You drew the world into Your net. O Lover of man, glory to You!

Divine Liturgy, Kontakion, Tone 8

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the all-holy Spirit.

