

# Faith Formation

## *Spirit of Pentecost*

S T . I G N A T I U S L O Y O L A P A R I S H

### THE SPIRIT OF PENTECOST

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

WISDOM,  
UNDERSTANDING,  
COUNSEL,  
FORTITUDE,  
KNOWLEDGE,  
PIETY,  
FEAR OF THE LORD.

SYMBOLS OF THE SPIRIT

DOVE,  
FIRE,  
WIND,  
WATER,  
OIL OF ANOINTING,  
CLOUD,  
LIGHT,  
OFFICIAL SEAL (WAX)

TITLES

WHAT TITLES DO YOUR  
REMEMBER FROM YOUR  
PRAYERS?

“Tongues of fire”, “A great rushing wind”, “Speaking in tongues”.

These are all phrases associated with the Holy Spirit and with Pentecost. While our images of the Spirit precede Pentecost (see creation narrative, Gen 1:2 where some translations say “the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.”), it seems more appropriate to here focus on Pentecost and the rich background expressed in this narrative.

To understand why Pentecost is a particularly apt occasion for the Spirit, [Fr. Bob Styles, SJ writes](#)

“The ancient Pentecost began as a harvest thanksgiving

celebration with the creative Holy Spirit renewing the face of the earth.

It was the traditional date of the original covenant of the Law of Moses given on Mount Sinai. After the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in AD70 this latter aspect of Pentecost was emphasized more exclusively in the synagogues of the Jewish diaspora. It is during this period that Luke wrote his Gospel.

For Luke, like St Paul and the author of the later Gospel of John, *the continuity between the destroyed old Temple and the building up of the ‘new Temple’ of Christ was vitally important.*“

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THE SPIRIT – UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

The celebration of Pentecost is a celebration of the Spirit at work in the Church, the world and in the individual. As Acts describes, tongues, as of fire, descended upon the disciples. So too our own experience of the Spirit working within us. But do you realize just how and how often the

term “spirit” is used in scripture (“Spirit” or “spirit”)?

Thanks to the wonders of technology, you can look through the scriptures and just zoom in on that one word “scripture”.

Using [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com), selecting the version of the bible to be the **Revised**

**Standard Version—Catholic Edition**, and searching for **Spirit**, we find out two things. One, that the term appears 619 times. Two, that the greatest number of occurrences is in the Book of Acts, seventy times. You can quickly scroll through the Book of Acts following this [link](#) to see the different ways in which Luke has

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## Spirit of Pentecost (cont.)

This Spirit, renewing the face of the earth is the same Spirit renewing the “Temple” and beginning a new phase of worship as well as understanding of God in the world. Alongside the traditional sense of renewal of the earth that is part of the ancient celebration of Pentecost, we see the new Pentecost as a renewal of all things church. As Ezekiel prophesied,

“I will sprinkle clean water on you...I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you... I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my ways and be careful to observe what I command.” (Ez. 36:24)

That sprinkling clean, that

new heart, that spirit within you result from the Resurrection of Jesus.

While we often think of the Spirit acting upon us individually, we may not think of the Spirit acting upon the Church for her renewal/rebirth. Yet from Acts to Vatican II we do believe that the Spirit is at work. All the more so when the College of Cardinals gathers to elect a new pope.

The Spirit is at work in the new directions the Church takes with documents like “Laudato Si” uplifting the care of creation as our responsibility. The same with “Fratelli Tutti” where we are called to recognize all as

brothers and sisters. If one were to consider the work/effect of the Spirit in all creation and in all peoples, then one’s imagination just might turn to recognize the Spirit acting in new ways as folks now pray together over Zoom or facebook livestreaming. Maybe we might learn to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit from such works of technology as

<https://thepopevideo.org> and/or <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

***Can we ever limit the ways in which the Spirit works to renew the face of the earth or the Church?***



## S p i r i t – U p C l o s e & P e r s o n a l ( c o n t )

used the word describing activity in the early Church.

Of course you will see the distinction of “spirit” vs. “Spirit”, where the capital designates the workings of the Third Person, the Holy Spirit, versus other lesser spirits or even merely internal emotions. Yet in scrolling through you can see how the Church relied upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit, particularly at work in individuals like St. Paul. And one can also see the frequent conferral of the Holy Spirit upon new

followers.

Still, we can see the working of the Spirit before Pentecost in the various gospels, doing the same search and scrolling through [Luke](#) or [John](#). Can you see a difference in the way Luke or John understand the Spirit? Go ahead and spend some time comparing the two and see what you come up with.

While scrolling through scripture is one way to help us understand the person and workings of the Holy Spirit, don't forget about

the prayers that we have grown up with. Here's one:

*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.*

*O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.*



**How has the Spirit of God been moving in your life to make things new over the past year?**

**What newness is the Spirit inviting you to at this**

Text and reflections on this prayer can be found at [Creighton University's Online Ministry](#) site.

You may also like listening to Latin version of the prayer as a [Taize chant](#) where individuals from around the world “sing in tongues”. [This version](#) is a bit slower and actually mixes verses from many different languages. Or maybe one where all the verses are in English from [St. Dominic's Catholic Church' Contemporary Choir](#). And, for those that do not know, this chant is often used at ordinations as part of the invocation of the Holy Spirit for the sacrament. Listen around and find a version that is your favorite.

Lest you miss it this Pentecost, the solemnity has its own prayer known as the Sequence, the text of which follows:

*Come, Holy Spirit, come.  
And from your celestial home  
Shed a ray of light divine.*

*Come, Father of the poor.  
Come, source of all our store.  
Come, within our bosoms shine.*

*You, of comforters the best;  
You, the soul's most welcome guest;  
Sweet refreshment here below;*

*In our labor, rest most sweet;  
Grateful coolness in the heat;  
Solace in the midst of woe.*

*O most blessed Light divine,  
Shine within these hearts of yours,  
And our inmost being fill.*

*Where you are not, we have naught,  
Nothing good in deed or thought,  
Nothing free from taint of ill.*

*Heal our wounds, our strength renew;  
On our dryness pour your dew;  
Wash the stains of guilt away:*

*Bend the stubborn heart and will;  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;  
Guide the steps that go astray.*

*On the faithful, who adore  
And confess you, evermore  
In your sevenfold gift descend;*

*Give them virtue's sure reward;  
Give them your salvation, Lord;  
Give them joys that never end.*

*Amen. Alleluia.*

[Marquette U. Prayer Resources](#)

A simple chant of this may be found in this YouTube video.

<https://youtu.be/ga8jTm4PPTk>

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### To Ponder & To Share:

Many describe our Parish as "Spirit filled."

- ◇ What does this mean to you?
- ◇ How can we make this "more true"?
  
- ◇ When have you felt the "Spirit" in your life?
- ◇ What gifts of the Spirit do you have to share?

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**Finding God in All Things**

### Notes on Pentecost Readings

[Acts 2:1-11 + Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 + Galatians 5:16-25 + John 20:19-2](#)

Acts — "They were confused" "They were astounded, and in amazement they asked..." How often have you been surprised, confused, astounded or amazed at the workings of the Spirit—when someone "out of the blue" offers you kindness, patience or even forgiveness?

Psalm — "Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth." How do you see the Spirit working in creation? In the renewal of the earth?

Galatians — "Works of the flesh" What works surprised you as being "of the flesh"? "Fruits of the Spirit" What fruits of the Spirit would you pray for?

John — "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." The gift of the Spirit is not just for our self. What do you consider the connection between the gift of "Receive the Holy Spirit" and the sending above?