

Celebrating Pentecost

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 5, Session 25**.

The Feast of Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter Sunday. Pentecost commemorates the day when the Holy Spirit entered the Apostles' hearts and filled them with the strength and courage they needed to do God's work. **PAGE 211**

In the Acts of Apostles, we read that after Jesus ascended to Heaven, the Apostles gathered in a house. They were fearful. On Pentecost, what appeared to be tongues of fire touched each of the Apostles. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to preach in Jesus' name. **PAGE 211**

The Easter season comes to a close on Pentecost. We mark the beginning of the Church instituted by Jesus. **PAGE 212**

Jesus promised the Apostles that he would not leave them orphans. On the Jewish harvest feast of Pentecost, the Father sent the Paraclete, which is another name for the Holy Spirit. *Paraclete* is the Greek word for "one who consoles or comforts, one who encourages or uplifts." **PAGE 212**

The Holy Spirit guides us so that we are able to know the truth and be true to our calling. The Holy Spirit can help us live close to God and in loving relationship with those around us. **PAGE 213**

The Holy Spirit guides our prayers so that we can grow closer to God. When we are open to the Spirit's promptings, we grow in holiness and become more like Christ. **PAGE 214**

A key element to holiness is to develop lifelong habits of prayer, and the Holy Spirit leads the way. Prayer is always a response to God's initiative. God seeks our attention. Prayer changes us, and the best outcome of prayer is that we grow in love. **PAGE 214**

The Holy Spirit gives us seven gifts that prepare us to discover God's will for us and follow it through our lives. When we use these gifts, we serve the Kingdom of God. **PAGE 215**

The gift of piety is also known as reverence. Fortitude is the courage to do what is right. Understanding opens our eyes to the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith. Counsel helps us make good decisions in life. The other gifts are wisdom, knowledge, and fear of the Lord. **PAGE 215**

The Holy Spirit strengthens us in the Sacrament of Confirmation. In Confirmation we become better witnesses to our faith and help the Church carry out its mission. **PAGE 215**

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