

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION

Pentecost Sunday • Year B • May 19, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—ACTS 2:1-11

The Spirit descends upon the disciples at Pentecost. Boldly empowered, they become Apostles of Jesus Christ, ambassadors for him.

SECOND READING—1 CORINTHIANS 12:3B-7, 12-13

Paul teaches that just as the many parts of the body are one, so it is with Christ and his Body, the Church.

GOSPEL—JOHN 20:19-23

As Jesus has been sent by the Father, so too he sends his disciples. They will engage in the Lord's mission of peace and forgiveness through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Church Teaching: The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. Both Hebrew and Christian Scriptures bear witness to the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit by many names, such as *Spirit of God*, *Breath of God*, *Paraclete*, and *Advocate*.

The Holy Spirit is many things: sustainer and giver of manifold gifts, architect of the Church, animator of liturgy, and heart of the sacraments. And yet the Holy Spirit is also the source who pushes believers out of complacency and empowers us to move beyond where we are at the present, the loving guide who continually surprises us at every turn in life with the amazing grace of God's challenge, abundant support, and blazing truth.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 684, 686, 692, 747

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapter 9 (Receive the Holy Spirit), especially the section entitled "The Holy Spirit Is Revealed Gradually," pages 104–106

Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II: Chapter 3

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a red cloth, a candle, an open Bible or Lectionary, and a vessel containing the Oil of Chrism.

Discover

1. Ask the children to describe what they saw and heard as they entered the church on this Pentecost Sunday. What was the same? What was different?
2. Invite volunteers to share stories of an experience of strong wind. Ask:
When did this happen? Where were you?
How did the wind sound?
How did you feel? Were you scared? Excited? Confused?
3. Invite the group to create the sound of a strong, driving wind. You may wish to invite younger children to move as if they are being caught up in the wind. Then continue.

Deepen

1. Proclaim the First Reading, Acts 2:1-11.
2. Encourage the children to imagine themselves in the crowd gathered in Jerusalem. Ask:
How would you respond to the noise like a strong driving wind? Would you be excited? Frightened? Confused?
Imagine what tongues as of fire resting on each of the disciples looked like.
What do you think was really happening?
How would you feel if you saw this or if this happened to you? Why?
Imagine that you are in a crowd where people are speaking all different languages and you can understand everyone. How would you feel? What would you be thinking?
What do you think are the "mighty acts of God" the people were talking about?

Pray

Celebrate the Prayer of Exorcism 94G from the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Supplies

You will need the prayer table setup and copies of the participant handout.

Sunday Word

Acts 2:1-11

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Galatians 5:16-25

John 20:19-23 or John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Welcome

Welcome everyone and invite one or two children to share some of the key points from the Dismissal Session.

Invite

1. Proclaim the Gospel, John 20:19-23.
2. Ask:
 - Where were the disciples?*
 - What happened while they were in the locked room?*
 - What did Jesus say to them, and what did he do?*
 - What does Jesus tell the disciples they are to do?*
 - What does Jesus breathe on them?*
3. Allow some time for the children to discuss with their sponsors ways they can help bring about peace in their families, in their classrooms, with their friends, and in the world.
4. Invite the children and sponsors to share their ideas with the entire group.

Teach

1. Read and discuss Key Teachings from the participant handout.

2. Continue the discussion, highlighting the following points:
 - Pentecost is celebrated on the fiftieth day of Easter. It concludes the Easter season.
 - The birth of the Church is celebrated on Pentecost. It is the day the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit and were commanded to go out and tell others about Jesus Christ.
 - The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. We profess our belief in the Holy Spirit every time we make the Sign of the Cross or pray the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed.
 - The Holy Spirit is the presence of God in the Church and in our lives. The Gifts of the Spirit are present in many ways.
 - We can pray to the Holy Spirit to help us at any time and in all places. The Holy Spirit is our helper and guide.
3. Review with the children this week's Faith Words, listed on the participant handout.

Challenge

1. Review with the children the Gifts of the Holy Spirit page from the participant handout.
2. Ask the children to name a time when one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit helped them. Be prepared to share an example from your own life.
3. Encourage the children to choose a Gift of the Holy Spirit they would like to have more of. Invite them to pray to the Holy Spirit for an increase of this gift in the days to come.

Pray

Pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit from the participant handout.