

# Pentecost



## Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit!  
Come, Spirit of Jesus and the Father.  
Come, Spirit of Truth, Holy Advocate.  
Come, fill the hearts of your people  
and renew us with your grace and mercy.

We have been sent by Christ  
to give witness to the world  
that God has redeemed us by the cross.  
We are forgiven and have been given  
a new covenant,  
written on our hearts and confirmed by  
the Resurrection.

Dwell with us so that your path might  
guide our steps,  
your words be our words, your actions be  
our actions.

Let our hands do your will;  
let us become instruments of peace, justice,  
and love.

Spirit of God, draw us into your  
everlasting love.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

May 23, 2010

## Holy Spirit Changing the World

The Easter season ends with Pentecost, the fiftieth day, when God sent the Holy Spirit upon the world and when we celebrate the Church's birthday.

Some might say that in spite of the Holy Spirit's coming, we still have wars, poverty, and injustice. That is true, and yet saints and other good people throughout the ages give witness to a transformation that is taking place, even if it's only in a few people. In our lifetimes, Saint Katharine Drexel made the care and education of poor native American and African American children the focus of the order she established. Blessed John of Calabria devoted a lifetime to the care of orphans, the sick, and the poor; to founding orders for lay

men and women who served the poor and promoted spiritual renewal. Dorothy Day built the first Catholic worker house, Blessed Mother Teresa labored among the poor in Calcutta, and Oscar Romero preached against injustices in El Salvador. Countless men and women live lives of decency and quiet heroism as they raise families and help those in need.

All of these people witness to a profound, ongoing change in creation. People wonder why people serve so unselfishly. Why would they risk their lives for nothing? Those who read attentively the stories of the early Christian community already know the answer. It is the Holy Spirit; it has always been the Holy Spirit.



# This Week at Home and Beyond



**May 30 and June 6**

**Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity and  
Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ**

These two Sundays following Pentecost focus on mysteries: The first on the mystery of the three persons of the Trinity; the second on the mystery of Christ's presence to the world, particularly in the Eucharist. Our Creed is structured on the belief in God as relational and three in one: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Even today scholars try to articulate ever more fully what that means. As Catholics, we are also aware that Christ is present in the gathered assembly, in the word spoken, and in the presider, but especially in the elements of body and blood of Christ. As Ordinary Time begins, we pray and reflect on these revelations and gifts of God.

**July 22 and July 29**

**Mary Magdalene and Martha**

Among the women who accompanied Jesus, Mary Magdalene and Martha seem to have been involved continuously. Mary Magdalene was at the foot of the cross and was first to see and report on Jesus after his Resurrection. Martha served the Lord along with her sister Mary and was present at the raising of Lazarus. She told Jesus: "Yes, Lord, I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world" (John 11:27).

**August 15**

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Though it was not declared dogma until 1950, the story of Mary's assumption into heaven has been told since the early fifth century. Most of the Church fathers taught that Mary died, but did not suffer corruption. Rather, she was taken body and soul into heaven. In his statement about the dogma, Pius XII says that she was taken, after "having completed the course of her earthly life." In any case, Mary's assumption

anticipates the resurrection of the body, a promise given to all Christians and which we affirm in the Creed.

**November 1 and November 2**

**Solemnity of All Saints and  
Commemoration of All the Faithful  
Departed**

Saint Paul used the word *saints* with a lower case s to refer to all of the Christian community. These two days celebrate both those the Church recognizes to be saints (with an upper case S) and those whose status the Church does not; that is, everyone who has died in the peace of Christ. In Latin American countries, November 2, *el día de los muertos*, is particularly significant. Families remember the dead by decorating altars in their homes and by decorating the graves with sugar skulls, special bread, marigolds, and pictures of their loved ones. On All Saints and All Souls, we remember that the Body of Christ is not limited to this time and place, but includes all those who have gone before and will come after.

**November 21**

**Solemnity of Christ the King**

Christ the King and the week following mark the end of the liturgical year. On The Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time for Year C, the readings from 2 Samuel, Colossians, and Luke will explore what type of ruler Jesus is: head of the Church, co-creator, and reconciler. The Gospel relates the exchange between Jesus on the cross and the two thieves crucified with him. One of the thieves recognizes that Christ's power is very different from physical or political power. This understanding will allow the thief a place with Christ in paradise. The truth is, we do not know when or how we will meet Christ. But it is our confident hope that we will be drawn into unity with God at that time and that Christ will reign over all.



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 **Keeping the Seasons**  
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