

May 23, 2021

Blessed Sunday Morning!

1. Today's Readings: [Pentecost Sunday | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: Today, the Church celebrates Pentecost, one of the most important feast days of the year that concludes the Easter season. The name of the day itself is derived from the Greek word "pentecoste," meaning 50th.

There is a parallel Jewish holiday, Shavu`ot, which falls 50 days after Passover. Shavu`ot is sometimes called the festival of weeks, referring to the seven weeks since Passover. For Christians, Pentecost is the celebration of the person of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Apostles, Mary, and the first followers of Jesus, who were gathered together in the Upper Room.

A "strong, driving" wind filled the room where they were gathered, and tongues of fire came to rest on their heads, allowing them to speak in different languages so that they could understand each other. It was such a strange phenomenon that some people thought the Christians were just drunk - but Peter pointed out that it was only the morning, and said the phenomenon was caused by the Holy Spirit.

3. Quotes of the Day:

~ "The church needs a perennial Pentecost. She needs fire in her heart, words on her lips, prophecy in her outlook." *Pope Paul VI*

~ " Father of Light, from whom every good gift comes, send your Spirit into our lives with the power of a mighty wind, and by the flame of your wisdom open the horizons of our minds." *Morning Prayer, Pentecost*

~ "Let's pray with Mary for a new Pentecost in our days. So that the fire in our hearts may set others on fire - until the whole world is on fire with the love of God!" *Most Rev. Jose H. Gomez*

***Come Holy Spirit, Pray for Us!
Blessed Mother Mary, Pray for Us!
St. Joseph, Pray for Us!***



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Why do Priests wear red on Pentecost?



Andreas Solaro | AFP

Red is typically used in connection with the blood of the martyrs, but Pentecost does not have that emphasis.

For more than a thousand years the Catholic Church has used various colors to denote feast days and liturgical seasons within the Church year. These colors have deep spiritual meanings and were chosen to fit the particular day that is being celebrated.

When it comes to Pentecost, the Roman Rite has chosen the color red. Typically this color is reserved for days celebrating martyrs who shed their blood for the Gospel or on feasts of Jesus' passion such as Good Friday, when Jesus shed his own blood for our sake. In that context, the use of red on Pentecost does not make sense.

While Pentecost does not represent the blood of sacrifice, it does correspond to two other spiritual meanings that the Church has recognized. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, red "is the language of fire and blood, indicating burning charity and the martyrs' generous sacrifice." With that in mind, red for Pentecost

can be seen in reference to the flames of fire that came down upon the apostles, as well as the fire of “burning charity” that arose in them after that day.

In Christian art the Holy Spirit is most often represented by a dove, encircled by a blaze of fire. Additionally, many saints are depicted as having hearts on fire, symbolizing the fervor of their charity.

On the other hand, Orthodox Christians and many Eastern Catholics use the color green for Pentecost. This is done to emphasize the new creation that the breath of the Holy Spirit brings and the newness of life in the Spirit.

In the end, both colors used by Catholics emphasize different aspects of the Holy Spirit, who is our Advocate and Guide, given to us to “set the world on fire” with God’s love. For as Jesus said, “I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!” (Luke 12:49)

Source: aleteia.org