



Come, Holy Spirit

Today we celebrate the birthday of the Church. **Happy Birthday!**

The Great Feast of Pentecost is marked 50 days after Resurrection and Pascha. The apostles of Jesus Christ were gathered in the Upper Room in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit descended upon them, **establishing the Christian Faith**.

Filled with the Spirit

☞ Upon receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles were confident God was with them in their mission. They became **witnesses to Jesus Christ** throughout the world, teaching thousands of people about the wonders and power of God.

Centuries later, we are Christians because countless generations used their gifts of the Holy Spirit **sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ**, and we too have received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, in the sacrament of Christmation after our Baptism.

The Gifts of the Spirit

Through the sacraments, we are made members of the Church. We freely receive these gifts from God, just as we have received other gifts from the Holy Spirit. You might sing, dance, write poetry, or do really hard math. Perhaps you will someday cure a disease, be a great teacher, comfort to those in need, or be a parish priest or monastic praying for the world.

Whatever gifts you received from the Holy Spirit, they will **shape who you are** as individuals, and as Orthodox Christians. As we develop, use, and share our gifts with others, we become like the Apostles: witnesses to Jesus Christ.

Knowledge of the Spirit

It takes time to **develop the gifts of the Spirit**, and made possible by leveraging the skills we've practiced since Great Lent: patience, love, prayer, gratitude, and humility.

Jesus Christ established His Church to provide a **path to Salvation** for each of us. **Being members of the Church** enables us to praise and give thanks to God, to be nourished with the Eucharist, to be witnesses of His Good News, to be members of the Body of Christ, and to receive the blessings of the Spirit.

What are you going to do with your Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

☞ **The Festal Hymns** for Pentecost

Troparion — Tone 4

Blessed art Thou O Christ Our God
Who hast revealed the fishermen
as most wise by sending down
upon them the Holy Spirit.
Through them Thou didst draw the
world into Thy net.
O Lover of Man, Glory to Thee!

Kontakion — Tone 8

When the most High came down
and confused the tongues, He
divided the nations;
But when He distributed the tongues
of fire, He called all to unity.
Therefore, with one voice, we glorify
the All-holy Spirit.



☞ **The Scripture Readings** for Pentecost

Epistle: **Acts 2:1-11**
Gospel: **John 7:37-52, 8:12**



Parents, Church School Teachers & Youth Directors:
Watch for the ☞ to indicate topics/questions you
can use to inspire conversations with youth. Or use
the corresponding study guide for this resource.

Icons are often called windows to Heaven, because they show and teach us how historic events and the saints are to be understood in light of the saving message of Jesus Christ.

People in icons are portrayed as having been transfigured by their encounter with Christ. The people, setting, and event are not intended to be historically accurate, but shown in a way inspiring our own transfiguration by encountering God.

Let's take a closer look at the icon for the feast of Pentecost.

Can you use the word list below to identify who's who, and what's what?

Who's Who in the Icon

Buildings

The use of buildings provide context in icons, identifying if the event portrayed took place _____ or outside.

According to Scripture, the descent of the Holy Spirit took place in the _____, denoted by the use of buildings in the icon.

The Empty Throne

The apostles are seated in a semi-_____, with an opening at the head of the table, where Jesus Christ would be seated, as the _____ of the Church.

The empty _____ reminds us that Christ tells us He will always mystically be present with us, if not physically among us.

Mandorla

The blue semi-circle express the _____ and glory of God, uniting the _____ to the divine above.

It is used in icons where God reveals Himself to His _____. In the Pentecost icon, God the Holy _____ is distributed to each of the apostles.

Apostle Peter

With St. _____, St. Peter is called the chief of the _____, he preached of Jesus, founding the Church of Antioch, and was _____ upside down in the 50s AD.

Apostle Matthew

After Pentecost, St. Matthew preached of _____ in Judea and Palestine, wrote his _____, and later died a martyr in Ethiopia.

Apostle James

St. James remained in Jerusalem, preached to the Jews, and was the first apostle martyred, beheaded by _____ Agrippa in 44 AD.

Apostle Andrew

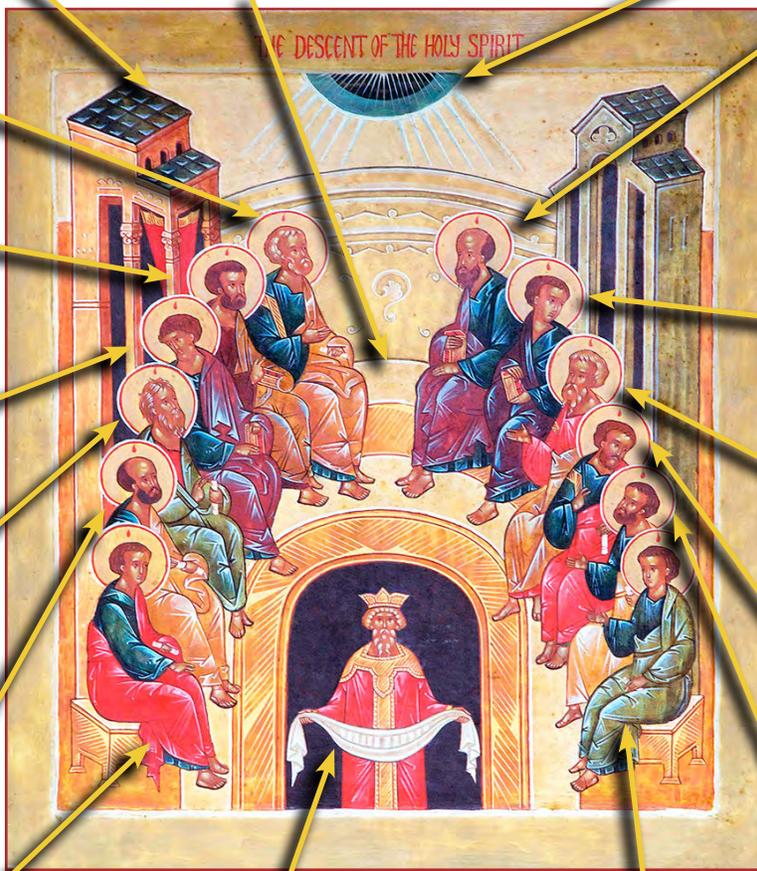
St. Andrew, Peter's _____, preached in the regions north of Jerusalem and was martyred on an X-shaped _____ in Patras, Greece.

Simon the Zealot

St. Simon went into Persia, _____ of Jesus and eventually reached Britain before being martyred in the 60s AD.

Apostle Thomas

St. Thomas preached of Jesus in the regions east of Palestine, in modern day _____ and Iraq. He eventually reached India, and was martyred around 72 AD.



Paul

Not with the other disciples at _____, St. Paul is shown as he is chief of the apostles. He traveled extensively throughout the _____ East before being beheaded in Rome in 68 AD.

John

St. John preached in Samaria and Asia Minor, writing the _____ of Revelations, his Gospel, and _____ epistles. He is the only apostle not martyred, living past _____ years of age.

Thaddeus (Jude)

St. Jude wrote the _____ in the New Testament and preached in Persia where he was martyred in the 60s AD with St. _____.

10 James the Son of Alphaeus

After Pentecost, St. James preached in Judea before _____ the southeastern regions near Egypt, where he was crucified in the 1st century AD.

11 Bartholomew

St. Bartholomew preached in Asia Minor and in India, before being martyred in Armenia near the _____ of the 1st _____ AD.

12 Philip

_____ Pentecost, St. Philip preached of _____ in Greece and Syria before he was martyred by crucifixion around 80 AD.

Cosmos

This figure represents the _____, living in _____, richly adorned with the wealth of society, awaiting the Good News of Christ. The scrolls he holds represent the _____ of the world.

100	Christ	End	Inside	Paul	Throne
After	Circle	Epistle	Iran	Pentecost	Upper room
Apostles	Cross	Followers	Jesus	Preaching	Visiting
Book	Crucified	Gospel	Majesty	Simon	World
Brother	Darkness	Head	Middle	Spirit	
Century	Earthly	Herod	Nations	Three	

🤔 Did you know...?



Tongues of Fire

Did you notice in the icon of Pentecost, little red waves or “tongues” above each of the apostles?

These are the tongues of fire mentioned in the epistle reading (Acts 2:1-11) for Pentecost.

50 Days after the Resurrection, the apostles were gathered in the Upper Room when the Holy Spirit descended on them with a sound from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and there appeared tongues of fire resting above each of the apostles.

The tongues of fire appear within the halo (gold circle) around the head of each Apostles. Halos represent the holiness of those portrayed in icons, while the tongues of fire represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

After the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles used these Gifts to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

🔑 2 Festal Icons??

Yes! There are two icons used for the feast of Pentecost.

One portrays the historical event recorded in the Acts of the Apostles when the Holy Spirit descended in tongues of fire upon those gathered in the Upper Room.

A detailed description of the icon is available on page 2, explaining what and who appears in the icon.



The other icon used for Pentecost is of the Holy Trinity, as represented by the historical event in Genesis 18:1-15, when the Patriarch Abraham was visited by three visitors.

In the icon of the Old Testament Trinity, we see the Son (in the middle) and the Holy Spirit (at right), bowing their heads towards the Father (at left) who blesses with His right hand.

This icon is used because the fullness of the Holy Trinity is revealed by the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The faces of each figure in the icon is identical, because God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons, yet one God.

On Pentecost, we understand God’s love for humanity through the mystery of the Trinity.

The Father sends the Son to redeem the world, and He sends the Holy Spirit to give life to the world, restoring creation to communion with God, as He intended in the Garden of Eden.

Most Holy Trinity, save us!

Happy Birthday!

Bake a cake, pull out your party hats, inflate some balloons, and get candles to light, because it’s the birthday of the Church!



On the feast of Pentecost, we remember the establishment of Christ’s Church with the descent of the Holy Spirit.

The disciples of Jesus recognized that He was the Messiah, the Anointed One, promised in the Hebrew scriptures to bring salvation to the people of God.

It is through the gifts of the Holy Spirit that the disciples’ preaching and living as followers of Christ resulted in their being known as “Christians” in Antioch and throughout the world (Acts 11:26).

What Gifts did the Holy Spirit give you?

A Tree Grows in Church?

It’s common on Pentecost to decorate the church with large branches, plants, and grasses symbolizing the new life which the Holy Spirit provides.

Remember when Great Lent began? It was still winter, probably cold and dreary.

Now, as we get closer to the first day of summer, the weather is warm and the trees are full of leaves and new life.

The prayer, “O Heavenly King...” reminds us the Holy Spirit bestows blessings and gives life throughout the world. What better example of new life is there than the beauty of nature?

This vivid reminder of the Holy Spirit fills the church with God’s creation. The greens we use to adorn the interior of our churches serve as offering and prayers of gratitude for God’s blessings and wonders revealing to us the majesty and beauty of God’s creation.

Today, buy a plant or flowers for your home to remember God’s creative Holy Spirit.



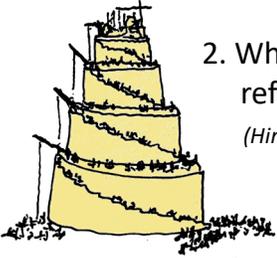
1. Ascending	7. Resurrection	14. Good News	21. Second	28. Mount	34. Thria	39. Spirit	44. Spiritual	49. Arms	54. King...	59. Tower of	64. Babbel	69. Matthew	74. f, all of the	79. New Testament	84. Heavenly Spirit!	89. We have found
2. Blessing	8. Light	15. Peter	22. Mother	29. Spiritual	35. "O Heavenly	40. Arms	45. King...	50. Arms	55. King...	60. Tower of	65. Babbel	70. Matthew	75. f, all of the	80. New Testament	85. Heavenly Spirit!	90. We have found
3. World	9. Olives	16. Paul	23. Believer	30. Arms	36. "O Heavenly	41. Arms	46. King...	51. Arms	56. King...	61. Tower of	66. Babbel	71. Matthew	76. f, all of the	81. New Testament	86. Heavenly Spirit!	91. We have found
4. Holy	10. Jerusalem	17. Leaders	24. Church	31. Arms	37. "O Heavenly	42. Arms	47. King...	52. Arms	57. King...	62. Tower of	67. Babbel	72. Matthew	77. f, all of the	82. New Testament	87. Heavenly Spirit!	92. We have found
5. Majesty	11. Heaven	18. Jesus Christ	25. Ministry	32. Love	38. "O Heavenly	43. Arms	48. King...	53. Arms	58. King...	63. Tower of	68. Babbel	73. Matthew	78. f, all of the	83. New Testament	88. Heavenly Spirit!	93. We have found
6. Divine	12. God	19. Praise	26. Cross	33. Follow	39. "O Heavenly	44. Arms	49. King...	54. Arms	59. King...	64. Tower of	69. Babbel	74. Matthew	79. f, all of the	84. New Testament	89. Heavenly Spirit!	94. We have found
7. Who's Who	13. Prophecies	20. Disciples	27. Room	34. Follow	40. "O Heavenly	45. Arms	50. King...	55. Arms	60. King...	65. Tower of	70. Babbel	75. Matthew	80. f, all of the	85. New Testament	90. Heavenly Spirit!	95. We have found
8. Ascending	14. Resurrection	21. Good News	28. Second	35. Mount	41. "O Heavenly	46. Arms	51. King...	56. Arms	61. King...	66. Tower of	71. Babbel	76. Matthew	81. f, all of the	86. New Testament	91. Heavenly Spirit!	96. We have found
9. Blessing	15. Peter	22. Mother	29. Second	36. Mount	42. "O Heavenly	47. Arms	52. King...	57. Arms	62. King...	67. Tower of	72. Babbel	77. Matthew	82. f, all of the	87. New Testament	92. Heavenly Spirit!	97. We have found
10. World	16. Paul	23. Believer	30. Second	37. Mount	43. "O Heavenly	48. Arms	53. King...	58. Arms	63. King...	68. Tower of	73. Babbel	78. Matthew	83. f, all of the	88. New Testament	93. Heavenly Spirit!	98. We have found
11. Holy	17. Leaders	24. Church	31. Second	38. Mount	44. "O Heavenly	49. Arms	54. King...	59. Arms	64. King...	69. Tower of	74. Babbel	79. Matthew	84. f, all of the	89. New Testament	94. Heavenly Spirit!	99. We have found
12. Majesty	18. Jesus Christ	25. Ministry	32. Second	39. Mount	45. "O Heavenly	50. Arms	55. King...	60. Arms	65. King...	70. Tower of	75. Babbel	80. Matthew	85. f, all of the	90. New Testament	95. Heavenly Spirit!	100. We have found
13. Divine	19. Praise	26. Cross	33. Second	40. Mount	46. "O Heavenly	51. Arms	56. King...	61. Arms	66. King...	71. Tower of	76. Babbel	81. Matthew	86. f, all of the	91. New Testament	96. Heavenly Spirit!	101. We have found
14. Who's Who	20. Disciples	27. Room	34. Second	41. Mount	47. "O Heavenly	52. Arms	57. King...	62. Arms	67. King...	72. Tower of	77. Babbel	82. Matthew	87. f, all of the	92. New Testament	97. Heavenly Spirit!	102. We have found
15. Ascending	21. Good News	28. Second	35. Second	42. Mount	48. "O Heavenly	53. Arms	58. King...	63. Arms	68. King...	73. Tower of	78. Babbel	83. Matthew	88. f, all of the	93. New Testament	98. Heavenly Spirit!	103. We have found
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19. Majesty	25. Ministry	32. Second	39. Second	46. Mount	52. "O Heavenly	57. Arms	62. King...	67. Arms	72. King...	77. Tower of	82. Babbel	87. Matthew	92. f, all of the	97. New Testament	102. Heavenly Spirit!	107. We have found
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52. World	58. Second	65. Second	72. Second	79. Mount	85. "O Heavenly	90. Arms	95. King...	100. Arms	105. King...	110. Tower of	115. Babbel	120. Matthew	125. f, all of the	130. New Testament	135. Heavenly Spirit!	140. We have found
53. Holy	59. Second	66. Second	73. Second	80. Mount	86. "O Heavenly	91. Arms	96. King...	101. Arms	106. King...	111. Tower of	116. Babbel					

pentecost

trivia



1. What prayer do we resume saying today which hasn't been used since Pascha? (Hint: It addresses the Holy Spirit.)



2. What Old Testament event does the Kontakion reference when God 'confused the tongues'?
(Hint: Read Genesis 11:1-9)

3. In the Pentecost Icon, who is holding a book?

- a. _____ c. _____
b. _____ d. _____

4. Why are these apostles holding books? (Circle the correct answer)

- a. They liked to read b. They wrote books of the New Testament c. They taught the other disciples what they knew about Jesus

5. Why do we celebrate kneeling on Pentecost?

- a. An expression of obedience and humility before God. d. To follow the example of Jesus Christ, who knelt when He prayed to God the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane.
b. We recognize God is all powerful and is merciful.
c. As a reminder to ourselves placing God at the center of our lives. e. To live as God's followers.
f. All of the above.



6. Can you use these words to identify this festal hymn sung at the end of the Divine Liturgy?

We have _____ the _____ Light!
We have _____ the _____ Spirit!
We have _____ the _____ Faith!
Worshiping the _____, Who has _____ us.

Celebrate

the Feast of Pentecost

Festal Vespers

The texts of this service, celebrated on Saturday evening proclaim the descent of the Holy Spirit.

The hymn "O Heavenly King" is sung multiple times, reminding us of His gifts and power. We say and sing the prayer in church and at home, asking the Holy Spirit to dwell within us.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
Who art everywhere and fillest all things;
Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life -
Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and
Save our souls, O Good One!

Festal Matins

The texts of the morning service remind us of the power and blessings given by the Holy Spirit. Here's an example from the 4th Ode of the Festal Canon:

Bearing the sign of divinity,
the Spirit was distributed among the Apostles by strange tongues of fire
because the power of the Father is unequalled.

Festal Liturgy

The liturgy for the feast include special psalm verses for the antiphons, the prokimenon before the Epistle, the alleluia before the Gospel, and the Hymn to the Theotokos. Each proclaims the majesty of God. The antiphon verses include:

From Psalm 18

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.
Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe.

From Psalm 19

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob protect you!
May He send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!
May He remember all your offerings, and fulfill all your plans!

From Psalm 20

In Thy strength the king rejoices, O Lord, and exults greatly in Thy salvation.
Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withheld the request of his lips.
For Thou dost meet him with goodly blessings;
Thou dost set a crown of fine gold upon his head.
Be Thou exalted, O Lord, in thy strength! We will sing and praise Thy power!

Festal Vespers

In addition to the prayers of kneeling, other hymns offer praise to God for the blessings He gives us.