

**A CELEBRATION of THE APPEARANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
THE THIRD PERSON OF THE TRINITY
& THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

We decorate the church in red and white

White- the symbol of the Holy Spirit, reflecting goodness

Red- the color of flame- warmth, energy, excitement

'The Holy Spirit, the Divine Person of the Trinity,
who was sent to make the gifts of redemption real in our lives.

Let us prayerfully anticipate, welcome and celebrate the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives

Then follow with acts of love and service.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Alleluia, Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 20.19-23

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit**

It was evening on the day Jesus rose from the dead, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you" After he said this he showed them his hands and his side.

Then, the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them. "Receive the Holy Spirit.
If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any,
they are retained.

"Peace be with you" is the greeting and gift of the Risen Lord.

This gift of peace entrusted to his first disciples becomes a promise and a prayer shared with the entire Christian community. Gifts of the Holy Spirit promoting the common good are many, offering a state of well-being in our daily existence as we live in harmony with nature, with oneself and with God,

SPIRITUAL FOCUS: Jesus gives the disciples gifts that they will need to fulfill the mission he passes on to them. The first gift is that of peace, a blessing of health, wholeness, harmony, and everything good. He also gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit, the very power and presence of God that he breathes into them. They are transformed with a need to fulfill the mission. He is sending them out, as the Father had sent him. He has empowered them by the Holy Spirit to be instruments of Jesus' forgiveness.

Think about it; with the Spirit's inspiration, Christian men and women would not have handed down the gospel message from generation to generation until it reached you.

*Have you ever felt inspired to reach out to someone in need? That's the Holy Spirit

FAITH FOCUS: The Holy Spirit is also with you through Baptism, helping you to live a holy life, providing wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, and piety. The Spirit will increase our gifts, so that we love Jesus and our brothers and sisters, obey the commandments and freely share with others.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION

Have you ever left Mass or come out of a prayer time feeling refreshed and closer to God? Yes? Did you keep this feeling to yourself or did the graces of the Holy Spirit move you to share this love and feeling of closeness to God? Explore and share.

Have you ever witnessed the Spirit moving in others? When, How?

Have you yourself experienced this movement in the Spirit directed at you personally? Invited to join a special movement going on in your Parish? Have you answered this call?

Let us thank the Holy Spirit for what he has done and what he is still doing in our lives.

ACTION IN RESPONSE:

Spend a few extra minutes in prayer reading about the gifts of the Spirit. Open your hearts, hear his call, follow the urgings of your heart.

PRAYER:

"Holy Spirit, I am so grateful that you came to be with your Church and, even more so, that you are with me today."