

Pentecost Sunday Family Activity

May 31, 2020



Introduction

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday when we remember the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. This is also sometimes called “the birthday of the Church” because after having received the Holy Spirit the disciples began Jesus’ mission of going to all nations preaching the Gospel and so the church was born. In the First Reading we read from the Acts of the Apostles the account of Pentecost. The disciples of Jesus were all gathered together as Jesus had commanded and were waiting the coming of the Spirit. While they were in the upper room they heard a noise like a strong wind and tongues like fire descended on them and they received the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gave them courage and enabled them to preach Jesus’ message to all the people gathered even though they spoke different languages. Saint Paul speaks of the Holy Spirit and that the Spirit gives to each one according to the Wisdom of God. Paul says that we are all parts of the body of Christ and that each of our gifts contribute to the building up of the body of Christ. In the Gospel we are with the apostles in the upper room after the resurrection. Jesus appears and says “peace be with you” and “receive the Holy Spirit”. The gift of the Holy Spirit and peace given to the disciples gives them the strength to wait for the full outpouring of the spirit and also commissions them to forgive sins just as Jesus did.

Materials

1. Gospel reading from the USCCB found [HERE](#)
2. Bible
3. Gospel Reflection Options
 - ⇒ Homily from any Mass livestreamed @ 9:30am, 11:15am and 1pm (in Spanish) [HERE](#)
 - ⇒ An episode from the Catholicism Series by Bishop Barron [HERE](#)
4. Birthday of the Church Activity: your favorite cake mix, favorite frosting and decorations.
5. Decorations for you to celebrate the birthday of the church.
6. Music options 1) [Holy Spirit](#) 2) [Renew the Face of the Earth](#) (bi-lingual)
7. 3.5 min video [explaining Pentecost](#)
8. 3.5 min [animation of Pentecost story](#)
9. [Pentecost explained with LEGO!](#)

Method

1. **Pray together:** Thank God for your family, for his love and for this time together. Praise Him for his goodness and His grace. Ask Him for anything that you need.
2. **Listen to or Read** the First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading and Gospel.
3. **Converse** about the readings. What caught your attention? What meaning do you find in it?
4. **Do** the *Birthday of the Church celebration* activity.
5. **Converse** about how the Holy Spirit comes to give us gifts. What gifts do you see the apostles using in the readings? What are your gifts and how do you use them for God? When the Holy Spirit came to the disciples He allowed them to speak in many tongues and spread the message of Jesus.
6. **Pray together** the following prayer to the Holy Spirit

“Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.”

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.”

Activity

Birthday of the Church Celebration



This is the birthday of the church and like every birthday we should celebrate! This activity gives you a chance to make a cake to celebrate and to remember that Jesus established his Church. We are all part of the Body of Christ which is the church so this is also a birthday party for us too! As you work together making the cake see if you can notice any gifts in yourself or others. These gifts come from the Holy Spirit and help in the building up of His church.

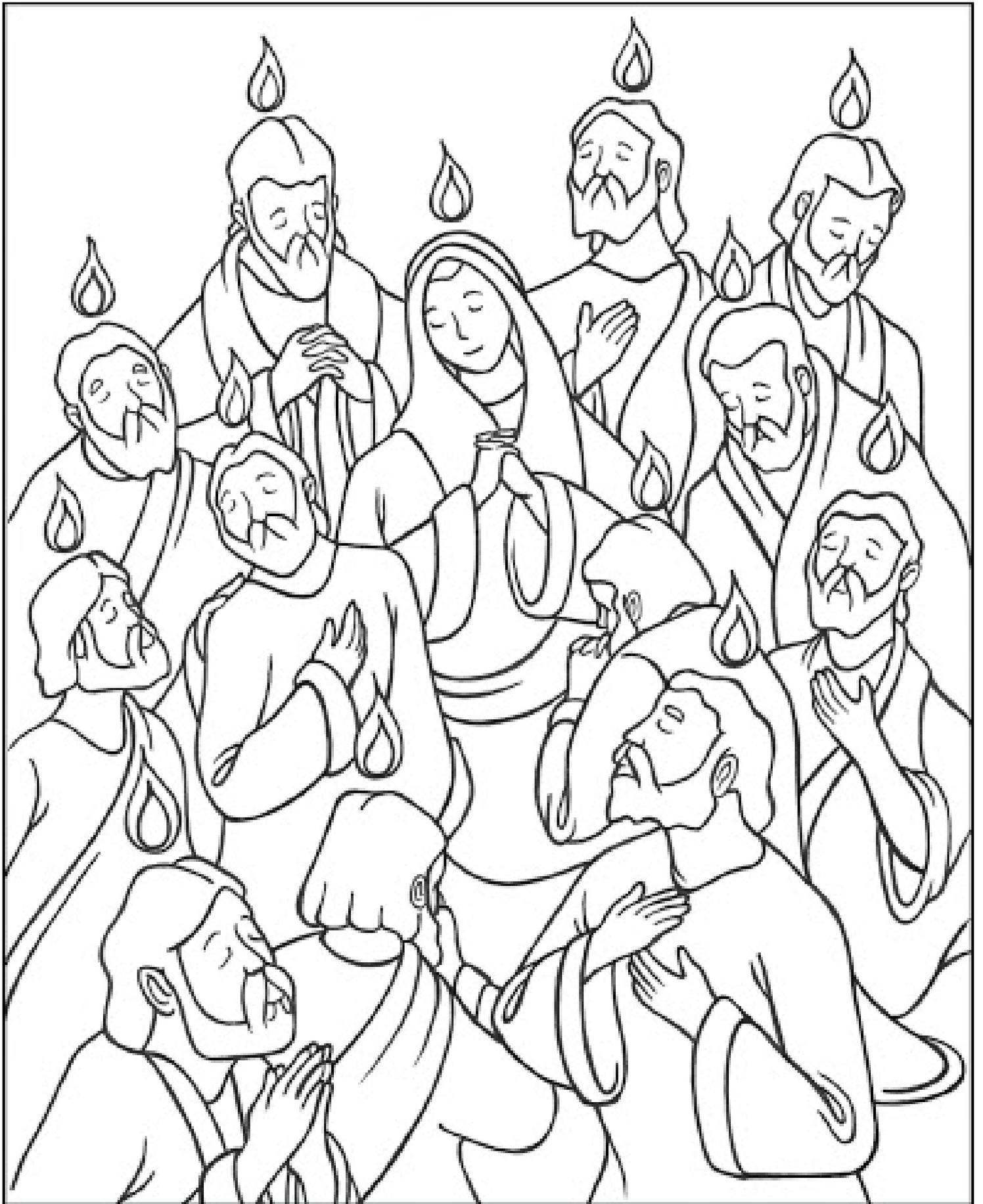
Ingredients

- ◇ Cake mix and ingredients (eggs, milk, oil, as called for)
- ◇ Frosting
- ◇ Decorations/coloring for frosting



1. Make cake according to instructions on box
2. Cool cake.
3. Decorate the cake as you like. Use red, yellow and orange to represent the fire of the Holy Spirit, you can also use fruit to decorate such as strawberries and raspberries. White also represents the spirit.
4. When your cake is ready gather as a family and throw a party celebrating the Birthday of the Church. If you want you can think of a gift to give or some way in which you can further the mission of the Church to the poor and out-cast.





Sending you my warm wishes on Pentecost

