

# EXPLORE

## WEEKLY



### JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS FOLLOWERS

It was the first day of the week. That evening Jesus' followers were together. The doors were locked, because they were afraid of the Jews. Then Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. His followers were very happy when they saw the Lord.

Then Jesus said again, "Peace be with you! As the Father sent me, I now send you."

After he said this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven.

If you don't forgive them, they are not forgiven."

*based on John 20:19-23*

### LET US PRAY

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and light in them the fire of your love. Send out your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. Amen

### PONDER...

How would Jesus want you to treat your family and friends?

# Receive the Holy Spirit

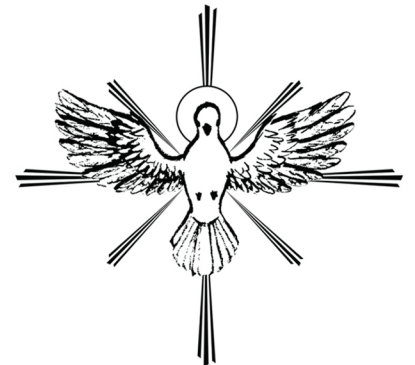


Image by Schmidt from Pixabay

### REFLECTION

On the evening of the first Easter day, the Apostles stayed behind the door, closed for fear of facing a similar fate as that of their crucified Lord. The Risen Jesus came and gave the Apostles a very special gift, the Holy Spirit.

We can compare it to when we receive the Sacrament of Baptism. For another fifty days, the Apostles were at the school of the Holy Spirit, recalling Jesus' teaching, learning to understand the scriptures and - basically - getting ready. When at Pentecost the Holy Spirit comes down in a very public and rather spectacular way, the doors are thrown open and the Apostles openly proclaim Jesus to the world.

We can compare that first Pentecost to the Sacrament of Confirmation. Jesus' commission of the Apostles, made on Easter Sunday; "as the Father sent me, so am I sending you" became their mission, their reality, and their lives at Pentecost.

Today we are called to refresh and renew our own readiness for the work of the Holy Spirit. Each one of us has a set of skills and talents we can and should use to serve others, within and without our communities - parish, home, school, clubs etc.

Today each one of us should ask ourselves what is our role in this community the Holy Spirit gives to us. Then, having found the answer, we should joyfully commit to that role to make this community grow in faith, hope and charity, so as to reach out to the world in need.

Remember that faith is always personal, but never individual; it's shared by all members of a community.

# ST JOAN OF ARC

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Joan of Arc was born in France in 1412 to a poor but religious family. When she was about 13 she had a vision when an angel told her to save Orleans, make sure that the prince became king and to drive the English out of France.

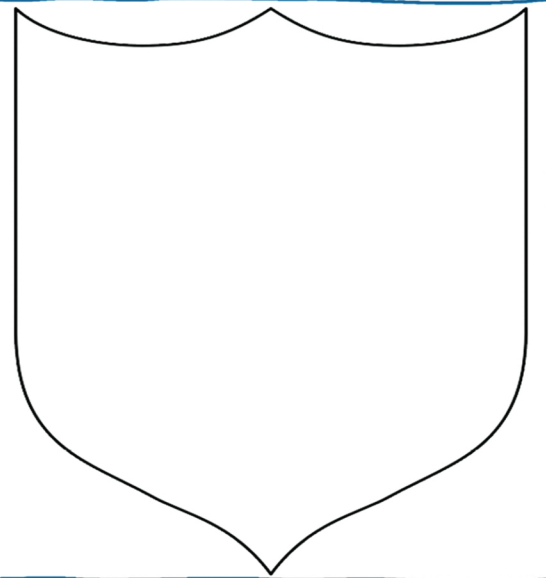
When she was 16 she went to the general of the army and told him how she was to save France. He laughed at her but she didn't give up.

Joan won the battle and went on to successfully completed the other two missions.

She was captured and killed at 19 years old. St Joan of Arc is the patron saint of soldiers and France.

A coat of arms uniquely identifies a person's, family or country. St Joan of Arc's coat of arms represented her commitment to France and her deep faith in God.

Create your own coat of arms which represents who you are:



## PENTECOST

Who came to the Apostles on Pentecost?

Rearrange the letters in the flames to find out!



The \_\_\_\_\_

## WORDSEARCH

Find the words in GREEN

X F W T W P S I D E S D V W S  
 C F W T O E N Q A I Z A Y U N  
 Q S Q T U A I D T C W D Z S V  
 Q K U Z X C A C A A W S O G T  
 E W S I Q E F S N F C Q Q O C  
 J E S U S T R B B W D Q P U R  
 O B G F J C A Y E L C S O V W  
 M Z O H O O I E E D K P Q R O  
 F M V S Y R D W L F D I M V S  
 C T D C D T G W J A E Q H D P  
 J T I S L T D I R T X L H B I  
 K D L V E V Y Z V H A H L E R  
 Q A G O K N A C N E X L P S I  
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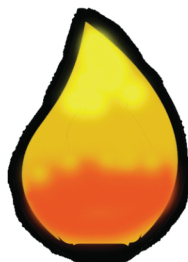
Jesus' followers were together. The **DOOR** was locked, because they were **AFRAID** of the Jews. Then **JESUS** came and stood among them. He said, "**PEACE** be with you!" and he showed them his **HANDS** and his **SIDE**.

Then Jesus said again, "Peace be with you! As the **FATHER** sent me, I now **SEND** you." Then He breathed on them and said, "Receive the **HOLY SPIRIT**. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are **FORGIVEN**. If you don't forgive them, they are not forgiven."

## FAMILY TIME - FLAME CRAFT

You will need:

- Black Card
- Sticky back plastic
- Yellow, Red, Orange tissue paper squares
- Scissors
- Metallic Marker or Pen (silver, gold etc)



1. Draw the outline of a flame on black card, making sure it has a 2cm thick border so to make a frame
2. Cut out the middle of the flame - ask an adult to help.
3. Peel the backing of some sticky back plastic, stick the "frame" down and cut roughly to size.
4. On the sticky side, use tissue paper to make the it flame like. Make sure that all the stickness is covered.
5. Turn it over and using the metallic marker or pen write "Come Holy Spirit" along the black frame.
6. Cut around the flame to tidy the edges.

Further activity:

Stick your flame to a window and watch as the sun shines through, making the colours bright.

## FUN FACT

Pentecost is the **birthday of the Catholic Church**.

On this day, the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles and so the Church was born.