



COME, HOLY SPIRIT



LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



Fifty days after Easter, the Church celebrates the feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descends upon the Apostles and Mary in the Upper Room, just as Jesus told them. Some refer to this feast as the birthday of the Church. Pentecost, the word, is from the Greek word meaning "50th day." This day also marks the beginning of the Apostles and disciples' earthly ministry when they were commissioned to go forth and make disciples of all nations.

The symbols of Pentecost are the flame, wind, and the dove which represents the Holy Spirit. The color of Pentecost is red, as we will see the Priest's vestments being red as well as the Church banners. It is always suggested that parishioners wear something red on Pentecost when coming to Mass as we celebrate the very beginnings of the Church.

On the day of Pentecost when the Easter season comes to an end, Christ's Passover is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit manifested, given, and communicated as a divine person: of his fullness, Christ the Lord pours out the Spirit in abundance. We, too, share in the Spirit on two occasions - at our Baptism and again at Confirmation. By the power of the Spirit, we bear much fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are known as the fruits of the Holy Spirit. In addition, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit which are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, wonder and awe, all which guide and assist us throughout life. Think about how these fruits and gifts have helped us through our lives on different occasions. Let us rejoice together and say, HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH!

Have a blessed, spirit-filled week ahead!