



Pentecost Sunday

Opening Prayer:
 Dear Jesus,
 Before you went to Heaven, you promised that you would send us the Holy Spirit. Today we give special THANKS for the GIFT of the Holy Spirit to the Church, to us. Help us to listen always to the Spirit in our lives. We pray this as we make the sign of the Cross: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Readings:
 Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-11
 Psalm 104: 1 abc and 24, 30-31
 I Corinthians 12: 4-7, 12-13
 John 20: 19 - 23

Reflection:
 What's the one day of the year that is very special just for YOU?
 It's your BIRTHDAY! What usually happens on your birthday? Your family and friends come to your house for a party. There's a cake for you with candles on it. Maybe ice cream too. And you get some presents, some gifts.

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his close friends and to all his followers. That happened on the day of Pentecost. The people did not see the Holy Spirit. Instead they saw fiery tongues, flames of fire. It was real.

The Holy Spirit came with special gifts for all those people and for us too. Those gifts were not toys or computer games but gifts like peace, of not being afraid to follow Jesus, the gift of joy, of love and the gift to forgive others. There are a lot of others gifts the Holy Spirit gives us. We can't see them but they are real.

Today we celebrate the Birthday of the Church. It's called Pentecost which means 50 days after Easter! We thank Jesus for sending us the Holy Spirit.

A long time ago, almost 200 years ago, Maria De Mattias knew that the Spirit gave her special gifts to use for others. She had the courage to teach and to preach. She wasn't afraid because God was with her.

Discussion:

- 1) What are some special gifts that the Holy Spirit gives you? How do you use them?
- 2) Can you think of the gifts people in your Church have? How do they use them?
- 3) When you get big what would you like to do for the Church?
- 4) If you become a teacher or preacher or one who forgives others, who will help you, who will give you courage, who will help you know that you're not alone?

Activity:
 Sing "Happy Birthday" to the Church. (Remember WE ARE the Church)
 Draw a "flame" and write one gift that you have on it.

