

What Happened at Pentecost?

Pentecost is the name of the event when the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles. Before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He promised to send His Spirit to guide the Church and be with us always. Soon after, the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles. This is the Biblical foundation of the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Why do you think Pentecost is the foundation for the Sacrament of Confirmation? Read the story of Pentecost below.

"When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim."

- Acts 2:1-4

PENTECOST

Consider the image of the Pentecost provided and discuss the questions on the corresponding sheet.

Foundations of Confirmation

Pentecost is the foundation of Confirmation not simply because it was a time that the Holy Spirit descended, but especially because of how this outpouring of the Spirit affected and inspired the apostles. The effect that the Holy Spirit had on the apostles at Pentecost is the same effect the Holy Spirit has on those who are Confirmed today.



What effect does the Holy Spirit have on the apostles? How are they changed after the Holy Spirit comes upon them?

Before Pentecost, the apostles were scared and uncertain. They had abandoned Jesus at His death and were hiding even after His resurrection. Then, once the Holy Spirit descends upon them, they go out from their gathering place and proclaim the Gospel in different languages, despite the dangers of doing so. This radical change was made possible by the Holy Spirit—the strengthening that the gifts of the Holy Spirit instill.