

December “Homework”

Our Advocate: The Holy Spirit & Pentecost

- **Intro:**
 - *DISCUSS: What images do you have of the Holy Spirit?*
 - Parents and candidates, discuss what images come to mind when you hear “Holy Spirit”
 - Some common images are fire, a dove, the wind, water, light, peace, the still small voice of God deep in our soul
- **The Trinity**
 - Last month we discussed God the Father and Jesus, the Son of God
 - This month our focus is the Holy Spirit, a separate person but of the same essence as God
 - The best way to think about God is that God is love. There is no such thing as love in a vacuum (the statement “I love” is incomplete). For love there must be three things present: a lover, someone who receives the love (beloved), and the fruit of that love
 - The Holy Spirit is the result of the overflowing love (the fruit) between God the Father (the lover) and God the Son (the beloved)
 - A quick review to try to understand the Trinity: [What is the Trinity?](#)
 - The Holy Spirit has many names - Our Advocate, The Paraclete (Teacher), the Spirit of Life, Breath of the Almighty, Comforter & Counselor
 - Whatever we call the Holy Spirit, we NEED Him. Jesus was limited to a particular body, time, and place. But the Holy Spirit was given to be present to us in an intimate way throughout all of time.
 - [The Holy Spirit in the Life of Catholics](#)
 - *What should we understand about the reality of the Holy Spirit?*
 - *How does the Holy Spirit help us in our journey through life?*
- **Pentecost**
 - Pentecost = The birth of the Church!
 - Read Acts 2:1-4
 - The Apostles were LOCKED IN A ROOM. Jesus, risen from the dead, had literally appeared to them and talked to them multiple times. But they were still locked in this room because they knew they could end up killed just like Jesus was, and they were paralyzed with fear.
 - The arrival of the Holy Spirit sparked a whole new chapter in their lives – and changed the course of history.

- THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH. And after this, each of those apostles went out and gave their LIVES for their faith. They were given the power to forgive sins. They were given authority to teach and to guide the Church for all of time.

Let's conclude with a reflection on how Pentecost is not just an event 2000 years ago, but something that should continue to affect us today.

What Pentecost Means for the Christian Life

- *Why can some people receive the Sacraments but still be “terrible people.” Why is that?*
- *Why are we given the Holy Spirit?*
- *How will you live out Pentecost in your life in practical ways after Confirmation?*