# Encountering THE SEASON

Easter for the Family

#### Pentecost Sunday (C)

### Dear Family:

Read the reflection about Pentecost, and discuss the "Ponder and Pray" questions and prompts, thinking about how Our Lord is calling you to act. Then, consider the challenges of the "Live It" section, and have fun with the family activities.

#### **Empowered for Mission**

Pentecost celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, empowering them to proclaim the gospel to all nations. Just as the apostles received diverse spiritual gifts to build the Church, we also are entrusted with gifts from the Holy Spirit, given not for personal gain but for the mission of the kingdom.

Pentecost reminds us that natural and supernatural gifts must be used in service to others. The apostles' courage and willingness to act serve as a powerful example. God doesn't wait for us to feel ready or perfect but asks us to start where we are, using what we have. This feast is a call to make ourselves available for the mission—to bring light, love, and hope to a world yearning for Christ.

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle the fire of mission within us, transforming our hearts to become instruments of his grace and love.

**66** Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' —John 20:21





#### Ponder and Pray

- How have you seen the Holy Spirit working through your natural gifts? Are there ways you could offer those gifts more generously to others?
- When have you felt called to step out in courage or love to serve someone else? How did you respond, and what did you learn?
- What natural or supernatural gifts do you feel God has given you for his mission? How can you use them to glorify him this week?

#### Live It

The Holy Spirit empowers us not just for our own holiness but for the mission of building God's Kingdom. This week, reflect on how you can use your unique gifts to serve others. Start small: Offer a listening ear to a friend, volunteer in your parish, or share your faith story with someone in need of hope. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in using the natural and supernatural gifts you have been given to bring Christ's love to those around you.

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## Fun for the Family

elebrate Pentecost by creating a "Gifts of the Holy Spirit" activity. Gather as a family and write down the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. Discuss how each gift could be used in your daily lives. Then, write an intention for each family member, asking the Holy Spirit to strengthen each person's gift. End by praying together, asking the Holy Spirit to fill your home with his presence.

#### Dive Deeper

Scan here to watch Pentecost Sunday
Mass with Fr. Mike Schmitz



Or go to: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=-Cr00nwJihw.

Fr. Mike Schmitz, a Catholic priest and evangelist, is the award-winning host of these Ascension podcasts: *The Bible in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz)*®, *The Catechism in a Year*® (with Fr. Mike Schmitz), and the Fr. Mike Schmitz Podcast. Fr. Mike is the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Duluth as well as the chaplain for the Newman Center at the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD

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