



A FAMILY OF *Faith*

March Adult Meeting

Agenda

- Prayer
- How is it going?
- What you need to know
- Questions related to what you need to know
- Lent
- Homework for the month
- Next Meeting



This PowerPoint includes:

- Slides for opening questions to help parents apply what they already know to a new learning experience
- Notes for a presentation on this month's content
- Sacred art with discussion questions
- Key points from the readings this month

The Holy Spirit and the Church



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In the last lesson, we saw how Jesus Ascended into Heaven to be with His Father and that He will come again at the end of the world.

- But Jesus has not left us alone all this while!

When Jesus left His disciples, He promised that He would send them the Holy Spirit to guide them. [1]

- The Holy Spirit is God, the Third Divine Person of the Blessed Trinity.
- From the beginning of Creation, we can see the Holy Spirit at work with the Father and the Son.

The Holy Spirit can be seen working all through the Scriptures.

1. The Holy Spirit is hidden from our full understanding in the Old Testament.
 - a. The Spirit of God moved over the waters of creation.
 - b. The Father breathed the Spirit of God into man and gave him life.
 - c. The Holy Spirit spoke through the prophets in the Old Testament.
1. The Holy Spirit is more fully revealed in the New Testament.
 - a. The Holy Spirit preserved the Blessed Virgin Mary from all sin and conceived Jesus in her womb.
 - b. Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit throughout His ministry.
 - c. The Risen Christ breathed the Holy Spirit into the Apostles when He gave them the power to forgive sins.
 - d. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His Apostles to give them the courage to spread the Gospel.

This promise to send His Spirit was fulfilled ten days later, on the Feast of Pentecost.

[1] The textual support for this material is found in Lesson Ten, **“Who is the Holy Spirit?”**

The Feast of Pentecost is the birthday of the Church.



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The Feast of Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. [2]

While the disciples were hiding in the upper room, the Holy Spirit poured Himself out on Mary and the Apostles and gave them the courage to boldly proclaim Jesus as Lord.

This was the birthday of the Church, when Christ's disciples were gathered together and received the Holy Spirit so that they could boldly fulfill their mission to spread the Gospel.

The Church does not simply mean a church building. It has three meanings:

1. a liturgical gathering
2. the local community
3. the whole universal community of believers

When the Holy Spirit poured out on the disciples at Pentecost, He did not come only once and then leave. **He stays with us!**

He guides the universal Church in Jesus' mission and fulfills Jesus' promise that we are not alone.

[2] The textual support for this material is found in Lesson Ten, "**The Holy Spirit and the Church.**"

Jesus founded the Church to be a visible sign of His Kingdom on earth.



The Church is made up of people, human beings with both bodies and souls.

- Jesus knew that as people with bodies, we would need to have a Church that we can visibly see.

This visible reality is a sign of the invisible Kingdom of God. Jesus said to the Apostle during the Last Supper, when He established the priesthood: “And I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father had conferred one on Me” (Luke 22:29).

Jesus gave the Church a clear structure.

- 12 Apostles – representing the 12 tribes of Israel – were the first bishops.
- He appointed Peter as the first pope, the visible head of the Church.
- He said to Peter in Matthew 16:18-19: “And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

The Holy Spirit guides the Church to **govern, teach, and sanctify** in Jesus' name.



The Holy Spirit guides the Church that Jesus established to govern, teach, and sanctify in Jesus' name. [3]

1. The Church governs:
 - a. To govern means to lead through service (as Jesus modeled to His Apostles during the Last Supper when He washed their feet).
 - b. Jesus gave the Church a clear structure: the 12 Apostles, representing the 12 tribes of Israel, would be the first bishops and Peter would be the first pope.
 - c. Jesus told St. Peter: "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven" (Matthew 16:19).
2. The Church teaches:
 - a. The Church preaches the Gospel.
 - b. It preserves the purity of the Faith handed down from the Apostles.
 - c. The Apostles mission was to guard and hand on all that Jesus had taught them, spreading the Gospel throughout the world.
3. The Church Sanctifies:
 - a. When she administers the Sacraments.
 - b. Baptism makes us children of God; in confession, Jesus forgives our sins. All the Sacraments bestow grace, God's divine life, and make us holy, most especially the Eucharist.

All these things are made possible through the Holy Spirit.

[3] The textual support for this material is found in Lesson Eleven, **“The Church Teaches, Sanctifies, and Governs.”**

The Church was born in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and we know the Spirit's fullness in the Church.



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The Church was born in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and we know the Spirit's fullness in the Church.

The Holy Spirit is active within the life of the Church:

- He inspires Sacred Scriptures and preserves the Tradition of the Apostles
- He intercedes for us in prayer
- He empowers and sanctifies us through the Sacraments
- He teaches and protects us through the Magisterium
- He builds up the Church through His gifts and ministries.

See how closely the Holy Spirit works within the Church!

- He is like the breath that animates the entire Body of Christ (of which we will talk more about soon).

We cannot help but get to know the Holy Spirit if we participate in the life of the Church.

The Holy Spirit is the one
who first moves in our hearts
and reveals to us that
Jesus Christ is Lord.



In fact, we could not know Jesus if it were not for the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit is the one who first moves in our hearts and reveals to us that Jesus Christ is Lord.

- The Spirit gives us Faith.
- We only love God because He loved us first, "We love because he first loved us"(1 John 4:19).
- And His love is the Holy Spirit.

The Church: The People of God



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The textual support for this material is found in Lesson Eleven, “**Who are the People of God.**”

The Holy Spirit unites all Christians.



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The Holy Spirit unites baptized Christians of all races, ethnicities, and walks of life into one People of God.

Have a volunteer read Galatians 3:27-29.

Think about what it means to be one people.

- It means we have a common ancestry, common concerns, a common mission.
- We are all adopted children of God, and that makes us into a family called to share in Christ's kingdom.

Think about how the welfare of the entire Christian community would change if we really, truly treated our fellow Christians as our brothers and sisters.

The Mission of the People of God

The People of God are all baptized Christians from all over the world.

Our mission:

- Be Christ in the world
- Share the Gospel message
- Use the talents He gave us



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The Church is the People of God, all the baptized Christians from around the world.

We follow Jesus' command to love one another as He has loved us. Our Mission is to:

1. Be Christ in the world
2. Share the Gospel message

To fulfill this mission, God gave us our unique talents. God calls each one of us to imitate Christ according to the gifts He gave us.

- [We should each reflect on our particular talents. Our gifts, even the desires we have, are all part of God's call to serve Him uniquely in the world.]

We are all one people united in Christ. He is our head and we are His Body.

The Church: The Body of Christ



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The textual support for this material is found in Lesson Eleven, “**The Church is the Body of Christ.**”

The Body of Christ is the body
of believers united together
with Christ as its head.



“I am the vine, you are the branches” (John 15:5).



Throughout His ministry, Jesus spoke of both a spiritual and physical communion between Him and His Disciples.

- “I am the vine, you are the branches” (John 15:5).

At the Last Supper, He gave us His Body and Blood to eat and drink.

- In the Eucharist, we become one with Christ and share in His Body and Blood.
- Since we are all one with Christ, we are also one with each other, so that every Christian is a part of the one Body of Christ.

Christ is the Head of the
Body, and the Holy Spirit is
its soul.



We can rejoice that Christ did not leave us as orphans. But stays with us in His Church.



Jesus ascended into Heaven, but His spiritual presence with us is, in a way, even more powerful.
He binds up and calls together people from all over the world to make them one in the Church.

Key Points in Our Readings This Month

The Holy Spirit is the third Divine Person of the Trinity, and we can see His work in the Old and New Testaments.

Jesus did not leave His disciples orphans. He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us.

Jesus founded the Church and made St. Peter the first pope.

Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Apostles, is the birthday of the Church.

The Holy Spirit guides the Church, and He will also guide us.



Homework

Lesson 10

- Activity 1 – I Will Not Leave You as Orphans
- Activity 2 – Who is the Holy Spirit
- Activity 5 – Symbols of the Spirit StoryBook Activity

Lesson 11

- Activity 1 – The Holy Spirit in Our Lives – Storybook Activity
- Activity 2 – The Church Has Jesus' Authority
- Activity 5 – The People of God Discussion
- Activity 7 – Our Mission in the Church and the World discussion
- Saint of the Month



Next meetings

- March 21 - Student meetings at 6:30
- April 6- Parent meeting at 7pm (This is a Tuesday)

