

### **How did Pentecost get its name?**

The word Pentecost means "Fiftieth" or "50" in Greek (Catechism, Glossary, p. 893). The Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles on Pentecost – 50 days after the Lord's Resurrection. Pentecost is pronounced "pen-teck-cost."

### **Was there any symbolic meaning to the manifestation of the wind and the tongues of fire?**

The "wind" recalls the Spirit of God moving over the waters at the creation of the world (Genesis 1:1-2). The manifestation of the Holy Spirit through the "strong, driving wind" indicates that a "new creation" is taking place: the renewal of humanity in God's Holy Spirit. The "tongues of fire" denote the Presence of God, purification, and Judgment. Traditional catechesis (i.e. training people in the Faith) saw the tongues of fire as signifying the sacredness and divine (God-given) authority of the preaching and teaching of the Apostles, by whose words, fervour, and witness, and example all people were to be converted to the knowledge, love, and service to God.

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**By Fr. Rick Poblocki**