

Pentecost Prayer for Families

Every family member should hold a lit candle or have a candle in front of them. For young children, pillar candles or those enclosed in glass or hard plastic can work well. The family can be seated around a table or in a semi-circle facing a cross. Dim the lights for added effect. Make sure young children are comfortable.

OPENING

LEADER: Let us start in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost they had all gathered together in one place, alleluia.

ALL: Alleluia, alleluia.

All sing together "Come Holy Ghost" (or another Holy Spirit song like "Let the Fire Fall" or "Holy Spirit, You are Welcome Here"):

1) *Come, Holy Ghost,
Creator blest,
And in our hearts
take up Thy rest;
Come with thy grace
and heav'nly aid
To fill our hearts
which thou hast made,
To fill our hearts
which Thou has made.*

2) *O Comforter, to thee we cry,
Thou heav'nly gift of
God most high;
Thou fount of life,
and fire of love,
And sweet anointing
from above,
And sweet anointing
from above.*

3) *Praise be to thee,
Father and Son,
And Holy Spirit three in one;
And may the Son on us bestow
All gifts that from the Spirit flow,
All gifts that from the Spirit flow.*

LEADER: Today we celebrate the feast of Pentecost

ALL: Alleluia!

LEADER: On this day the Holy Spirit appeared before the apostles in tongues of fire and gave them His spiritual gifts.

ALL: Alleluia!

LEADER: He sent them out to preach to the whole world, and to proclaim that all who believe and are baptized shall be saved

ALL: Alleluia, alleluia!

(taken from Evening Prayer II Antiphon for Pentecost)

READING

READER: A reading from the Book of Acts.

ACT 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

LEADER: Just as the apostles gathered with expectant faith at Pentecost, so we gather before You now, O Lord. Bless our family and fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Without Your Spirit we cannot raise our voice in praise, announce the truth of Your word, or have the power to live according to Your teachings. Open our hearts this day to all the gifts that You have for us.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created and You will renew the face of the earth.

LEADER: Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit You have taught the hearts of Your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

PRAYER INVOKING THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Giver of all supernatural gifts, who filled the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with such immense favors,

I beg You to visit me with Your grace and Your love and to grant me the **GIFT OF HOLY FEAR**, so that it may act on me as a check to prevent me from falling back into my past sins, for which I beg pardon.

Grant me the **GIFT OF PIETY**, so that I may serve You for the future with increased fervor, follow with more promptness Your holy inspirations, and observe your divine precepts with greater fidelity.

Grant me the **GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE**, so that I may know the things of God and, enlightened by Your holy teaching, may walk, without deviation, in the path of eternal salvation.

Grant me the **GIFT OF FORTITUDE**, so that I may overcome courageously all the assaults

of the devil, and all the dangers of this world which threaten the salvation of my soul.

Grant me the **GIFT OF COUNSEL**, so that I may choose what is more conducive to my spiritual advancement and may discover the wiles and snares of the tempter.

Grant me the **GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING**, so that I may apprehend the divine mysteries and by contemplation of heavenly things detach my thoughts and affections from the vain things of this miserable world.

Grant me the **GIFT OF WISDOM**, so that I may rightly direct all my actions, referring them to God as my last end; so that, having loved Him and served Him in this life, I may have the happiness of possessing Him eternally in the next. Amen.

- Saint Alphonsus Liguori

LEADER: Let us ask the Holy Spirit for His gifts to be renewed in each of us.

Each family member should choose a particular gift of the Holy Spirit that they would like to be increased in their lives. This can be shared aloud or thought of silently. At this time, the father can go to each family member and bless them, asking the Holy Spirit to give them the particular Gift of the Holy Spirit that they desire. This prayer can be silent or as simple as "Holy Spirit come upon ---. Increase in them the gift of ----". The mother can then pray lead the prayer over the father. Or the whole family can pray over the both parents.

CLOSING

LEADER: Father in heaven, fifty days have celebrated the fullness of the mystery of Your revealed love. See your people gathered in prayer, open to receive the Spirit's flame. May it come to rest in our hearts and disperse the divisions of word and tongue. With one voice and one song may we praise Your name in joy and thanksgiving. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen, alleluia!

(taken from Evening Prayer 1: Concluding Prayer for Pentecost)