



Sunday Celebrations

Pentecost Sunday | **May 31, 2020**

Welcome to Sunday Celebrations, a free resource from RCL Benziger to help you celebrate Sunday with your family, in your home.

Each Sunday's celebration focuses on the Gospel of the day, and encourages family members of all ages to join in singing, praying, sharing, and celebrating. Suggested songs (search the internet for recorded versions) and craft activities help enliven and extend the celebrations.

Here are three simple ideas to help you get started:

1 Choose the place where you will gather for your Sunday celebration. It may be around your living room coffee table, around your kitchen or dining room table, outdoors at your picnic table, or any place that works for your family!

2 Decorate your chosen place with symbols of faith. These might include a placemat, napkin, or cloth in the color of the liturgical season; a Bible; a candle; a cross or crucifix; and a plant or flowers. Other suggestions will be offered on each Sunday Celebrations outline.

3 Each Sunday Celebrations outline is based on the flow of a Liturgy of the Word with children. Feel free to adapt the outline to best suit the ages and attention spans of your family members. It is most important simply to set aside time to pray and reflect on God's Word.

RCL Benziger prays that by taking time for Sunday Celebrations, families of all ages will be encouraged and strengthened by God's Word. Our prayers are with you as you lead your family in Sunday Celebrations and the Good News of Jesus Christ.





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Gospel Reading

John 20:19-23

(Reading is available at usccb.org/bible/readings.)

Symbol (optional)

Bowl of water; vase of spring flowers or an Easter lily; red cloth on prayer table (color of Pentecost); Fruits of the Holy Spirit cards (See “Get Ready” below).

Get Ready

Ahead of time, prepare index cards with the name of one of the following Fruits of the Holy Spirit written on each card: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If time allows, create fruit shapes on which to write the names. Place the cards or fruit shapes on your prayer table.

Remind family members to wear something red and to bring red streamers (see last week’s session) and noisemakers with them for this last celebration of the Easter season.

As you gather, invite family members to share examples of times they were afraid. Ask what helped them get through those times. Be prepared to share your own example(s).

Begin

- Light a candle and sing “Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit,” “Send Us Your Spirit,” or “Send Down the Fire.” Use noisemakers and red streamers as you sing.
- Make the Sign of the Cross together, then pray:
**Jesus, today we celebrate your gift of the Holy Spirit.
May the Holy Spirit always guide us, teach us, and help us. Amen.**

Listen and Reflect

- Use your noisemakers and red streamers as you again sing “Alleluia!”
- Before proclaiming today’s Gospel, invite family members to listen for what Jesus said to his disciples when they were afraid.
- Proclaim today’s Gospel.
- Spend a moment in silent reflection. Then invite family members to share the words Jesus said to his disciples when they were afraid. (“*Peace be with you.*”) Brainstorm other things you could say to people who are afraid. (For example: I will stay here with you; I will pray for you; Jesus is with you; Jesus loves you; You are not alone; and so forth.)
- Ask what else Jesus said to his disciples. (*Responses may vary, but lead your family to recall the words, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”*)





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Connect

- Explain that every disciple of Jesus receives the gift of the Holy Spirit at Baptism. As we grow in faith, the Holy Spirit is revealed in our lives through what we call the *Fruits of the Holy Spirit*.
- Invite family members, one at a time, to come to the prayer table, choose one Fruit of the Holy Spirit card, and to read (or have an older family member read) what is on the card. Invite all family members to suggest a way that a disciple of Jesus can show the chosen Fruit of the Holy Spirit. As an alternative, invite family members to work in pairs to create a role-play for one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. In either activity, explore as few or as many of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit as seems appropriate for the age-range of your family members.

Conclude

- Lead your family in praying for the people of the world who live in fear, the Fruits of the Holy Spirit to shine forth through the Church, those in need, the sick and those who have died, and for your prayer intentions. Respond, “Spirit of God, hear our prayer,” leading your family in raising hands, palms up, to God.
- Pray together the Lord’s Prayer.
- Make the Sign of the Cross and conclude by singing the song you sang at the beginning of today’s celebration. Use your noisemakers and red streamers as you sing.





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Celebrating Sunday Throughout the Week | **May 31, 2020**

Here are three simple ways to continue to celebrate the message of today's Sunday Celebration.

- Hang the Pentecost banners you created and plant the pinwheels you made as a sign to your neighbors that the Holy Spirit is alive within you! (*See last week's session.*) When everything is displayed, stand on your porch or front sidewalk with your noisemakers and red streamers (*See last week's session*) and make a joyful noise while wishing your neighbors a Happy Pentecost!
- Enjoy the dove cookies or birthday cake you made for today's meal. (*See last week's session.*)
- Display the Fruits of the Holy Spirit cards down the center of your kitchen or dining room table. Each evening, choose a Fruit of the Holy Spirit. Invite all family members to show that Fruit to others the next day. At tomorrow's dinnertime, share how you showed that Fruit to others. Then choose a Fruit of the Holy Spirit for the following day. Repeat this process until all of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit have been chosen, lived, and discussed.

