

FIRST READING

Peter and John laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

8:5-8, 14-17

Philip went to the town of Samaria and told the people about Christ.

They crowded around Philip

because they were eager to hear what he was saying
and to see him work miracles.

Many people with evil spirits were healed,
and the spirits went out of them with a shout.

A lot of crippled and lame people were also healed.

Everyone in that city was very glad because of what was happening.

When the apostles in Jerusalem

heard that some people in Samaria had accepted God's message,
they sent Peter and John.

When the two apostles arrived,

they prayed that the people would be given the Holy Spirit.

Before this, the Holy Spirit had not been given to anyone in Samaria

though some of them had been baptized
in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Peter and John then placed their hands

on everyone who had faith in the Lord,
and they were given the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

66:1-3ab, 4-5, 16 and 20

R. (1) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Tell everyone on this earth

to shout praises to God!

Sing about his glorious name.

Honor him with praises.

Say to God, "Everything you do is fearsome!"

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

“You are worshiped by everyone!
We all sing praises to you.”
Come and see the fearsome things
our God has done!

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

All who worship God,
come here and listen;
I will tell you everything
God has done for me.
Let's praise God!
He listened when I prayed,
and he is always kind.

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

ALLELUIA

John 14:23

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them,
and we will come to them.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to John

14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If you love me, you will do as I command.

Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit
who will help you and always be with you.

The Spirit will show you what is true.”

“The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit,
because they don't see or know him.
But you know the Spirit, who is with you
and will keep on living in you.”

“I won't leave you like orphans.
I will come back to you.
In a little while the people of this world won't be able to see me,
but you will see me.
And because I live, you will live.
Then you will know that I am one with the Father.
You will know that you are one with me,
and I am one with you.

“If you love me, you will do what I have said,
and my Father will love you.
I will also love you and show you what I am like.”

The gospel of the Lord.

6th Sunday of Easter – Cycle A

Prayer:

Dear Lord,
Thank you for sending your Spirit to guide me and help me live like you and spread your message.
Amen.

Readings:

Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17
Psalm 66:1-3ab, 16 and 20
John 14:15-21

Preparation:

Place deflated balloons in small gift bags that are not see-through. One for each child. Create handouts with “Holy Spirit” written vertically on the page. The kids will use this to write a word corresponding to each letter that describes the Holy Spirit or indicates how they “see” the Holy Spirit in their lives. This can either be done individually or in small groups.

Activity/Discussion/Reflection:

What are some of the best gifts that you have ever received? (*dolls, bikes, action figures, computer, etc.*)

Why do you think you were given that gift? (*They loved us, they wanted to make us happy, they wanted to help us, etc.*)

In today’s Gospel, Jesus promises us a gift. Do you remember what he promised? (*the Holy Spirit*). Why do you think He wanted to give us the Holy Spirit? (*because He loves us and wants to help us*). God loves us so much that he wants us to have someone to help us continue the work that Jesus started and God doesn’t want us to be alone.

Have you ever thought about who or what the Holy Spirit is? Is it like having a ghost hovering over us everywhere we go? Actually, the Holy Spirit used to be called the Holy Ghost but the name was changed to reflect that when someone dies (or leaves in Jesus’ case) the body is gone but the essence of the person remains which can be called their spirit.

Can we see the Holy Spirit or touch it? No, but we can see what the Holy Spirit does. Take a look inside your gifts. Remember that the Holy Spirit is a gift from Jesus. WOW! Balloons! Have you ever gotten anything so cool?! Don’t blow it up! What can you do with it or how can you use it while it is still deflated? Not much. Are they very pretty? No. Let’s pretend that these balloons are us. Without air we are not good for much. Now blow up your balloon — not real big and tie it. Now what can we do with them? (*play volleyball, rub them on our heads then stick them to the wall, use them for decorations, etc.*). The air that we put into those balloons are like the Holy Spirit. It makes us complete and helps us to be better people and more useful people.

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Another example that is used to explain the Holy Spirit is to talk about wind. We can't see wind or hold it but we can feel it and we can see what it does. We see the grass, flowers and trees move because of a gentle breeze. We can also see the power of the wind during a storm when trees are blown over. The Holy Spirit is like that. We can't see it but we can see it gently working in our lives and at times even powerfully directing us.

Please work on the handout (described in the Preparation Section) in groups of 3. Think of words starting with each of the letters in the word "Holy Spirit" that describes the Holy Spirit or ways that you see the Holy Spirit working.

If time permits ask each group to share what they wrote on their handouts.

Younger children can draw a picture of how they "see" the Holy Spirit.