

## Getting Ready for Chapter 18

# Take Home



## We Celebrate Pentecost

In this chapter, children will recognize the Feast of Pentecost as the birthday of the Church. They will hear the Scripture story of how the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' followers with the gift of God's love. The children will discover that people from all over the world belong to the Catholic Church, and will discuss what it means to live in peace.

### ACTIVITY

**A Pentecost Mobile** With your child, make a Pentecost mobile out of a hanger, thread, and red and white construction paper. Cut out a white dove and red flames. Label each flame with a family member's name. Using thread, hang the dove and flames from the hanger. The dove symbolizes God's power to make us holy, and the flames represent the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

### WEEKLY PLANNER

#### On Sunday

Find out how your parish plans to celebrate Pentecost by asking a member of the parish staff or looking in the parish bulletin.

#### On the Web

[www.blestarewe.com](http://www.blestarewe.com)



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

#### Saint of The Week



**Saint Francis Xavier**  
(1506–1552)

Francis Xavier grew up in Spain and studied in Paris. He helped his friend, Ignatius found the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits. Francis worked with the poor and sick in India and Japan. He learned their languages and baptized over one thousand people.

**Patron Saint of:** missionaries in foreign lands

**Fest Day:** December 3



**A Prayer for the Week**

God our Father, we thank you for sending us your Holy Spirit. Help our family follow the example of Saint Francis Xavier by telling others about the Good News of Jesus. Amen.



## Scripture Background

### In the Time of the Early Church

**Pentecost** In the Old Testament, Pentecost was celebrated as the Feast of Weeks. It began as an agricultural feast, showing gratitude to God for the early harvest. The feast was held fifty days after the first day of Passover. In the New Testament, Christians began to celebrate Pentecost as a commemoration of the day the Church was born. On this day the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles and empowered them to speak in tongues. People from many countries were able to understand the good news about Jesus in their own languages.

You can read the account of the first Pentecost in Acts 2:1–42.

## OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Culture

### Pentecost Around the World

The celebration of Pentecost differs around the world. In Italy it was customary to throw down rose leaves from church ceilings to symbolize the fiery tongues. In France, trumpets were blown to recall the sound of the mighty wind that came with the descent of the Holy Spirit.

Today in Eastern Catholic Churches, the Vespers of Pentecost includes a ritual of genuflection. In Russia, people carry flowers and green branches in a procession. Each year many pilgrims journey to the Pentecost festival held in El Rocio in southern Spain.