



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

READING

As we learned in October, the Holy Spirit is the Third Divine Person of the Trinity. Read more about the work of the Holy Spirit below.

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

We can see the Holy Spirit working in the Old Testament. The book of Genesis describes how the Spirit of God moved over the waters of creation. The Father gave life to the first man when He breathed His Spirit into Adam. The Holy Spirit spoke through the prophets in the Old Testament.

The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

We see the Holy Spirit clearly in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit kept the Blessed Virgin Mary from all sin. He conceived Jesus in Mary's womb. Throughout His life, Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit. After His Resurrection, Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit onto the Apostles. Jesus told the Apostles that He would always be with them and would send the Holy Spirit to them. The Holy

Spirit would be poured out on them and give them fortitude. Fortitude is courage that is strengthened by God.

Ten days later, on the feast of Pentecost, Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit was fulfilled. The Holy Spirit gave the Apostles all the spiritual gifts they needed to preach the Gospel. This is why we call Pentecost the birthday of the Church. The Church was born in that outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Church is truly a work of God Himself. People did not create the Church – God did.

The Holy Spirit and the Church

It is in the Church that we know the Spirit's fullness. It is the Spirit who inspires the Sacred Scriptures, preserves the Tradition of the Apostles, intercedes for us in prayer, empowers and sanctifies us through the sacraments, teaches and protects us through the Magisterium, and builds up the Church through His gifts and ministries.