



Pentecost

“The great day, which consummates the work that God had undertaken for the human race, has at last shone upon the world. The days of Pentecost, as St. Luke says, are accomplished” (Acts 2:1). It has been fifty days since the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This mysterious and mystical number was given in the Old Law—on the fiftieth day after departing from Egypt the Ten Commandments were given to Moses on Mount Sinai. But in the second Pentecost, the third Person of the Blessed Trinity “began His mission into this world, which, henceforward was to be under His Law.”

In the first Pentecost, the heavens were shrouded by clouds and there was the roar of thunder; in the second Pentecost, the morning sky is clear and bright (it is nine o’clock) and there is no fear as there was on Mount Sinai. “Repentance and gratitude are the sentiments now uppermost” in the hearts of the 120 persons who were present in the Upper Room.

This wondrous Sunday was “fixed from all eternity for the accomplishment of a divine decree.” This is the birthday of the Church; and the Holy Spirit “is sent to form the Church, the bride and the kingdom of Christ: He is to assist and maintain her; He is to save and sanctify the souls of men; and this His mission is to continue to the end of time.”

The Holy Spirit descends in the form of tongues of fire and rests on the heads of those who are present in the Upper Room. This fire shows how ardent is His love. But why tongues? “To show that the heavenly fire is to be spread by the word, by speech.” Indeed, that first Pentecost would result in the baptism of *about three thousand souls* (Acts 2:41) due to the preaching of St. Peter.

(Sources and Quotations: [The Liturgical Year, Vol. IX](#), Abbot Guéranger, o.s.b.)