

7. THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Once you were baptized in the water and given your white robe of holiness, you were ready for the second big step which is part of your entrance into the Church. That step was receiving the **gift of the Holy Spirit** by being anointed with a special oil called the Holy Chrism. This step is the second Sacrament: **Holy Chrismation**.

Jesus Christ tells us in the Gospel of St. John (3:5) that we must be "born of water and the Spirit" if we wish to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus Himself was baptized in the waters of the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist. The disciples were also baptized, but Jesus told them after His Resurrection to stay in Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit. He said to them:

"Wait for the promise of the Father (which) you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

(Acts 1:4-5)

So the disciples went to Jerusalem to wait. The Book of Acts tells us what happened:

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting."

"And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them power."

(Acts 2:1-4)

Then, Peter spoke to the crowd which had heard the disciples speaking in tongues in a way that everyone could understand them in their own languages. He told them about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The people were amazed and asked what they should do. Peter told them:

"Repent and be baptized . . . and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

(Acts 2:37-39)

All the disciples and all the people who believe in Jesus Christ are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit. Our own Baptism is our Easter, our death and resurrection with Jesus. Our Chrismation is our Pentecost, our receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In Holy Chrismation, the priest gives us "the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" with a special oil. This oil, called Holy Chrism, comes from the bishops. Only the bishops can give this oil that is prepared in a special way during Holy Week. So when the priest anoints the newly-baptized person with the Holy Chrism, it is the same as if the bishop himself were anointing him to be a Christian.



The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

