



What Makes Us Catholic?

The Holy Spirit – is He relevant today?

Faith in Jesus is all I need, right? So how does the Holy Spirit fit in? I know He came to the apostles on Pentecost, but that was a long time ago. Is the Holy Spirit even relevant today?

The Bible tells us, “No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.” And, “God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’”

The Catechism tells us, “This knowledge of faith is possible only in the Holy Spirit: to be in touch with Christ, we must first have been touched by the Holy Spirit. He comes to meet us and kindles faith in us.” Obviously, the Holy Spirit is very relevant today! So how do we receive the Holy Spirit?

The Catechism says: “By virtue of our Baptism, the first sacrament of the faith, the Holy Spirit in the Church communicates to us, intimately and personally, the life that originates in the Father and is offered to us in the Son.” It also says: “by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.”

We receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism and Confirmation, but it is up to us to allow His grace to be effective in us. If we do, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord) will guide us, and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit (charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity) will be evident in our lives.

Watch for discussion on the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit in the Knowing and Growing Our Faith section of the parish bulletin, the St. Mary’s Website or Facebook page.

Want to read more about this topic?

Sources:

- 1 Corinthians 12: 3; Galatians 4: 6
- CCC 1213; CCC 1285

Further reading:

- <http://stmarysdsm.org/ministry/growing-our-faith/>

Do you have questions on this topic, or other topics you would like to learn more about? Please complete the back side of this sheet and leave it in the box on the “What Makes Us Catholic?” stand.

Please note your question on this topic, or other topics you would like to learn more about below and leave it in the box on the "What Makes Us Catholic?" stand.

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