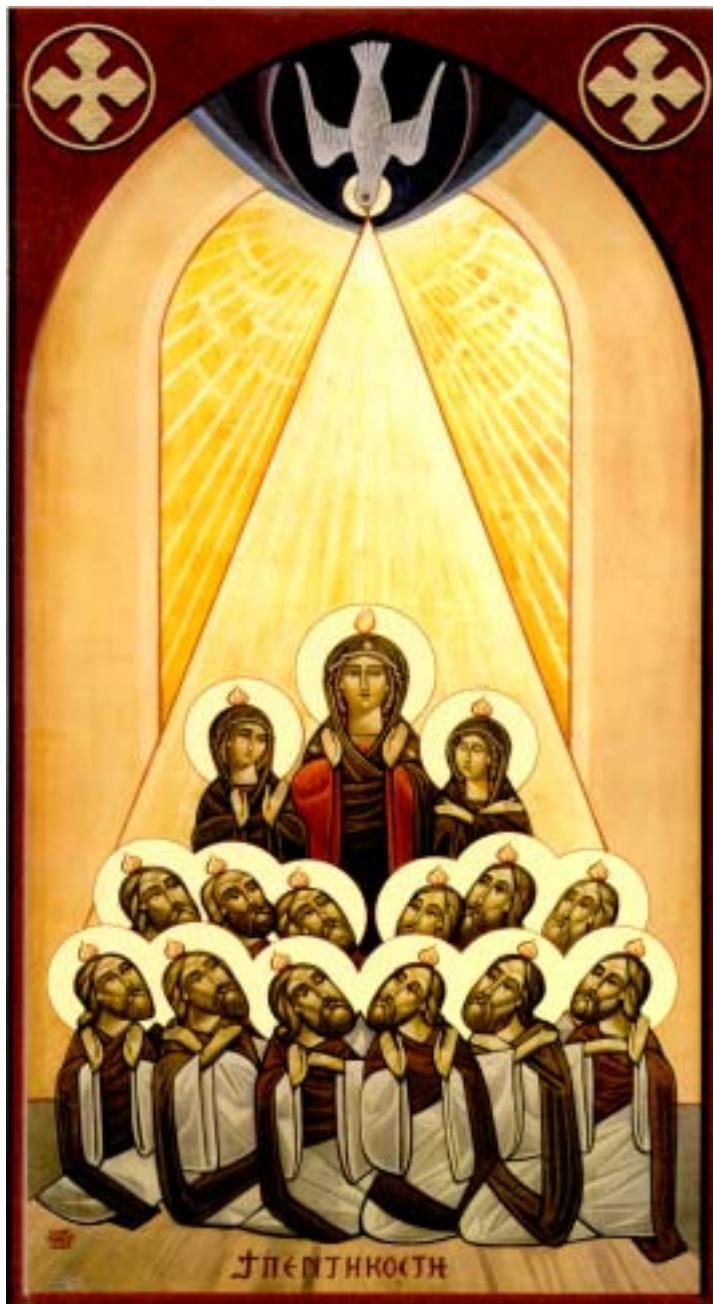




**“Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.”
(Acts 2:3-4)**





The Day the Church Was Born

Written by: Two Mighty Angels Mothers

St. Mary and St. Mina Church

Clearwater, FL

Everybody has a birthday, the day they were born. The same is true about our Church. It also has a birthday. Do you know on which day the Church was born? The Church was born on a very special day known as the day of Pentecost.

We know that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, was born of St. Mary and He lived on the earth with us for thirty-three years. Then, because of the jealousy and hatred of some people, our Lord Jesus Christ was put on trial and judged by wicked men. He was imprisoned and slapped on the face. They spit on Him and whipped Him forty times, until his back was bleeding and hurting Him so very much. And, as if this was not enough, they placed a crown of thorns on His pure head and nailed Him on the Cross.

Our Lord Jesus Christ died on the Cross and was taken down and placed in a brand new tomb. A big rock was placed in front of the tomb so that no one could go in or come out. But our dear Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day. The stone was moved away from the tomb and when the women came to embalm His body with spices, they did not find anyone in the tomb. The angels told the women that the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead, just as He had said.

Our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to His disciples after He rose from the dead for forty days. Then at the end of the forty days, our Lord Jesus and the disciples were together on a mountain called Olivet when the Lord Jesus told them that they should



wait in Jerusalem for the Promise of the Father that He told them would come. Then while He was talking to them, a cloud came and took Him up to Heaven.

What an amazing sight to see. Our Lord Jesus Christ, in glory, is going back up to Heaven from where He had come. The disciples were looking up in awe when two angels dressed in white spoke to them and said, “*Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven will so come in the like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.*” (Acts 1:11). Can you imagine that when our Lord Jesus Christ comes again, and He will come in glory and honor and strength and He will get the attention of the whole world at His Second Coming, He will be riding on the clouds way up above us. On that day we will be judged for our actions, whether we did good in following His commandments or we did bad by disobeying His commandments.

The disciples went back to Jerusalem, back to the Upper Room where they had the Last Supper, in Saint Mark’s house. All the apostles, along with Saint Mary, the mother of the Lord Jesus Christ and other men and women were all praying as one. There were one hundred and twenty disciples that were gathered together when they all prayed that the Lord choose for them someone to take the place of Judas Iscariot. The Lord chose Matthais.

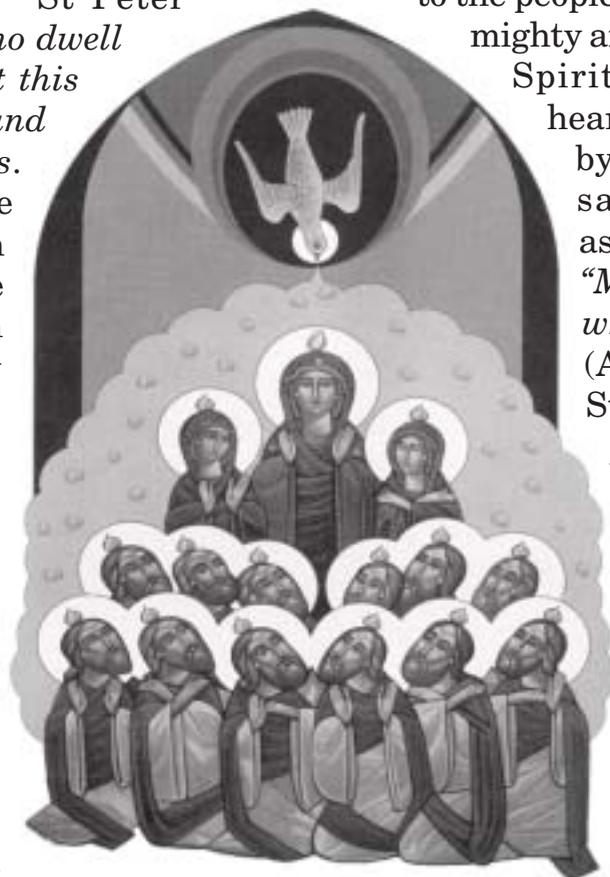
Finally the day arrived for the Promise of the Father to arrive. While they were all praying in the upper room, there came a sudden sound from heaven as of a rushing, mighty wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues of fire and one came upon the head of each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit, the Promise of the Father had come upon them and our Lord Jesus Christ’s words came true. He had told them that they will be baptized with fire and the Holy



Spirit and on the day of Pentecost, that was exactly what had happened.

Now living in Jerusalem were people from every nation under Heaven. When the sound of the mighty wind happened, a large group of people came to see what was happening. When the disciples came out of the Upper Room, full of the Holy Spirit, each man of the multitude heard someone speaking their native language. This confused the people so much that some of them believed that the disciples were drunk. But Saint Peter stood up and spoke with courage to the multitude.

“Men of Judea,” St Peter said, *“and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and heed my words. For these men [the other eleven apostles were standing with him] are not drunk as you suppose, since it is only the third hour (9:00 o’clock in the morning). But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel.”* (Acts 2:14-16) Then St. Peter began to preach



to the people. His words were mighty and full of the Holy Spirit. The people’s hearts were touched by what St. Peter said that they asked the apostles, *“Men and brethren, what shall we do?”* (Acts 2:37). Then St Peter said, *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins: and you shall receive the*



gift of the Holy Spirit. For the Promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:38-39)

Three thousand souls were added to the Church on the day of Pentecost. It was the birth of the Church for the Holy Spirit came down on the apostles and disciples and on those who had followed our Lord Jesus Christ from the beginning of His ministry. Also because on the day of Pentecost, 3000 new people believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and were baptized for the forgiveness of sins and received, as the apostles had earlier that day, the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Promise of the Father to the world was that He will send to us His Holy Spirit that what we have inside of us is stronger than what is in the world. Through the Holy Spirit we can overcome anything the evil one places in front of us to make us sin. The only thing we need to do is allow the Holy Spirit that we received in the Sacrament of Confirmation when we were baptized to work mightily in us. To do that we need to follow God’s commandments and to try and please Him and glorify His Holy Name by being true children who live in love to God and to one another.

Our Father in Heaven gave us so much. Not only are we able to call him **‘Father’** because He adopted us through His Son Jesus Christ, but we also receive the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ every Sunday in church. Even with all these gifts and graces to us, He still sends to us His Holy Spirit to each one of us that we may never be apart from Him.

The day the Church was born God the Father sent down His Holy Spirit and through the Spirit of God more and more people joined the church, starting from the very first day. May the Holy Spirit of God that is in each one of us be a burning desire to please the Lord God through our love for Him and His Son and for our neighbors.