

Happy Birthday to the Church!!

Did you realize that the feast of Pentecost is the biggest feast day of the Church next to Pascha? That means it's even bigger than Christmas! It's the Birthday of the Church! Because this is such a big day, it calls for a big celebration, don't you think? When someone we love is celebrating a birthday, we have a party!

Let's plan a birthday party for the Church!!

1. Decorations: Green Branches!

When you have a birthday party, decorations make the atmosphere a special one in which to celebrate! We usually decorate according to a theme or in the favorite color of the one we are honoring, and today the guest of honor is the Church! The Church is brand new today, filled with new life, and we show that by surrounding ourselves with the color green! We will see green flowers and branches decorating the Church, and we can decorate our home icon corners with fresh greenery too! Use vases of fresh green branches from outside; make a wreath for your crucifix; make garlands to adorn your icons, use green candles or holders, make everything look fresh and new!



2. Dress Your Best!

On Pentecost you will notice that many people will choose to wear green too! Choose something green to wear today in honor of the birthday of the Church!



3. Party Hats!

When the apostles were anointed with the Holy Spirit, tongues of fire came down and rested upon each of their heads. You can have a tongue of fire upon YOUR head too! Make this party hat to wear. Cut two strips of green construction paper, or cardstock, to about 4 inches wide and staple or tape them end to end to make one long strip. Wrap this around your head to make a crown! Staple or tape it at the diameter where the hat will fit properly. Now take some orange paper and draw the shape of a big flame, then cut it out and set it aside.

Make a smaller one using yellow paper, then cut it out and paste it inside the orange one. Now draw a third one, even smaller, on white paper, cut it out and paste it inside the yellow one. Now you have made your own tongue of fire to place upon your head! Paste this onto the front of your green Pentecost crown and you'll have a perfect party hat, complete with your very own tongue of fire!

4. Make a birthday cake!

We always had a birthday cake to celebrate the Birthday of the Church at Pentecost at our house. Your family's favorite recipe will be perfect, but be sure to frost it with...you guessed it, GREEN icing, and 12 birthday candles!!

5. Praise Jesus in many languages, just like the Apostles!

When the Holy Spirit came down, he allowed the Apostles to speak in different languages. We can remember this event by learning to say, "Glory to Jesus Christ" in a few different languages. Here are a few to get you started:

English: Glory to Jesus Christ!

Spanish: Alabado sea a Jesucristo

Latin: Jesus Christus sit laus

Old Slavonic: Slava Isusu Christu!

Greek: Dóxa ston Christó tou Iisou

Arabic: Almjd liasue almasih

German: Lob sei Jesus Christus

French: Gloire soit à Jésus Christ

Italian: Gloria a Gesù Cristo