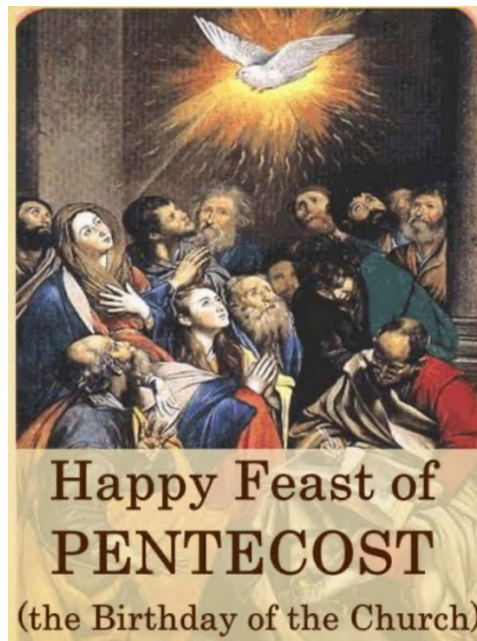


**WHIT SUNDAY - June 8, 2025**



**Whit Sunday, also known as Pentecost Sunday, is a significant religious holiday in Poland, celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ, as described in the New Testament's Acts of the Apostles.**

Whit Sunday falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter and takes place on June 8 this year. Whit Sunday is also known as Whitsun or Whitsunday, all names that refer to what is the Christian High Holy Day of Pentecost. The name White Sunday, used more commonly in Britain, refers to the special white garments worn by the newly baptized. The festivals celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples following the death of Jesus Christ. Whitsuntide is the week beginning on Whitsunday which are Pentecost or Whitsunday, Whitmonday, and Whit-Tuesday.

According to the 'New Testament' in the "Bible," the apostles began to speak in tongues when the Holy Spirit descended. Saint Peter took this opportunity to address the crowd and deliver the first Christian sermon. This act led to the conversion and baptism of 3,000 people. This sermon is hailed as the birth of the Christian church as a religious sect.



It is not known when the festival was first celebrated, but it was mentioned in the second century by the “*Epistola Apostolorum*,” a work from the Eastern church. In the third century, it was mentioned by Origen, a Christian priest and writer.

In the early church, the entire 50-day period beginning with Easter was referred to as Pentecost. Baptisms would take place at the beginning (Easter) and the end (the day of Pentecost) of the Paschal. These 50 days were seen as a festival, and each was observed as a day of joy. Solemn worship took place daily, fasting was forbidden, and no one kneeled while praying. At these services, the Acts of the Apostles were read, alms were distributed, slaves were liberated, and places of worship were decorated with evergreens.

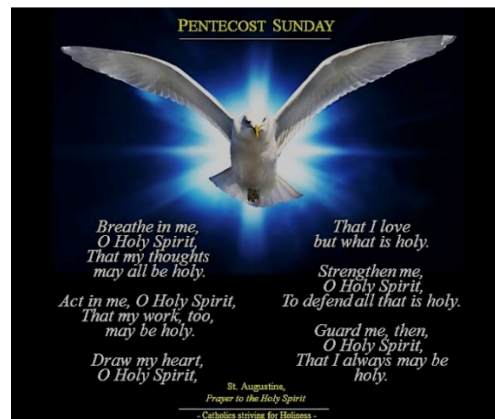
In Western churches, priests and members of the congregation often wear red to symbolize the “tongues of fire” that descended on the disciples from the Holy Spirit, and the altar is dressed in a red frontal cloth.





Being a public holiday in Poland Whit Sunday marks the beginning of many outdoor and springtime activities, which include festivals and organized outdoor activities.

Poles also attend special masses that include readings from the Bible about Pentecost, prayers for spiritual renewal, and hymns invoking the Holy Spirit



Homes and churches are often decorated with green branches and leaves to symbolize new life and hope, which is reminiscent of Jewish Shavuot traditions.



In some regions, Whit Sunday is associated with folk customs such as dousing water (symbolizing purification), processions, singing, and dancing. Some communities may host cultural events like concerts or festivals highlighting traditional Polish music and dance.







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**Photos:** Public domain

**Resources:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQf\\_ZozoHsl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQf_ZozoHsl)

<https://matkaboza-warka.pl/zielone-swiatki-zeslanie-ducha-swietego/>

<https://jaw.pl/artykul/-zielone-swiatki-2025-n1711582>

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/where-did-pentecost-come-from.html>

<https://www.catholicculture.org/commentary/church-fathers-origens-life-and-legacy/>

<https://www.fivebooksforcatholics.com/origen-of-alexandria/>