

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful”

Holy Spirit Novena begins Friday, May 30

The Novena to the Holy Spirit for the Seven Gifts

The Novena in honor of the Holy Spirit is the oldest of all novenas since it was first made at the direction of our Lord himself when he sent his Apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost. It is still the only novena officially prescribed by the Church. Addressed to the Third Person of the Trinity, it is a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian.

How to pray the Novena

On each of the nine days prior to the Solemnity of Pentecost, certain prayers are prayed which are unique to each day, followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.

The Act of Consecration and Prayer for the Seven Gifts are included here for use each day:

Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit

On my knees before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses, I offer myself, soul and body to you, eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of your purity, the unerring keenness

of your justice, and the might of your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In you I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve you by my unfaithfulness to grace and pray with all my heart to be kept from even the smallest sin against you. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for your light, listen to your voice and follow your gracious inspiration. Help me to cling to you and give myself to you and ask you, by your compassion, to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced feet of Jesus and looking at his opened side and stricken heart, I implore you, adorable Spirit, Helper in infirmity, to keep me in your grace that I may never sin against you. Give me grace, O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and the Son, to say to you always and everywhere, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” Amen.

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

O Lord Jesus Christ who, before ascending into heaven, promised to send the Holy Spirit to finish your work in the souls of your

Apostles and disciples, grant the same Holy Spirit to me that he may perfect in my soul the work of your grace and your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may not overvalue the perishable things of this world, but rather give my first priority to the things that are eternal; the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of your divine truth; the Spirit of Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God now, in preparation for the Kingdom to come; the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with you and that I may overcome with courage any obstacles that oppose your will of divine life for me, the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow more perfect in the science of the Saints; the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable; and the Spirit of Holy Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence toward God and may not in any way displease him. Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of your true disciples, and animate me in all things with your Spirit. Amen.

THE FIRST DAY

Friday, 30 May: The Holy Spirit *Holy Spirit! Lord of light!*

*From your clear celestial height,
Your pure beaming radiance give!*

Leader: Only one thing is important: eternal life. Only one thing, therefore, is to be feared: sin. Sin is the result of ignorance, weakness, indifference. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of light, of strength and of love. With his sevenfold gifts he enlightens the mind, strengthens the will, and inflames the heart with love of God. We must invoke the divine Spirit daily, for "The Spirit helps our infirmity. We know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit himself asks for us."

Prayer: Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed your will for us, that we be reborn by water and the Holy Spirit, and you have given us forgiveness of all sins. As at the first Pentecost, send forth from heaven upon us your seven-fold Spirit, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Fortitude, the Spirit of Knowledge and Piety, and fill us with the Spirit of Holy Fear. Amen.

(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)

THE SECOND DAY

Saturday, 31 May: The Gift of Fear

*Come Father of the poor.
Come, treasure which endures:
Come, Light of all that live!*

Leader: The gift of the Fear of the Lord fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread nothing so much as to offend him by sin. It is a fear that arises, not from the thought of hell, but from love, reverence and filial obedience to our heavenly Father. It is the beginning of wisdom, removing us from worldly attachments that could in any way separate us from God. "They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and in his sight will sanctify their souls."



Prayer: Come, O blessed Spirit of Holy Fear, penetrate my inmost heart, that I may set you, my Lord and God, before my face forever. Help me to shun all things that can offend you, and make me worthy to appear before the pure eyes of your divine majesty in heaven, where you live and reign in the unity of the ever-blessed Trinity, God, world without end. Amen.

(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)

THE THIRD DAY

Sunday, 1 June: The Gift of Piety *You, of all consolers best, Visiting the troubled breast, Does refreshing peace bestow.*

Leader: The gift of Piety begets in our hearts a filial affection for God as our most loving Father. It inspires us to love and respect, for his sake, persons and things consecrated to him, as well as those who are vested with his authority, his blessed Mother and the Saints, the Church and its visible head, our parents and superiors, our country and its leaders. He who is filled with the gift of piety finds the practice of his religion not a burdensome duty, but a delightful service. Where there is love, there is no labor.

Prayer: Come, O blessed Spirit of Piety, possess my heart. Enkindle there such a love for God, that I may find satisfaction only in his service, and for his sake lovingly submit to all legitimate authority. Amen.

(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)

THE FOURTH DAY

Mon., 2 June: The Gift of Fortitude

*You in toil are comfort sweet,
Pleasant coolness in the heat,
Solace in the midst of woe.*

Leader: By the gift of Fortitude the soul is strengthened against natural fear, and supported to the end in the performance of duty. Fortitude imparts to the will an

impulse and energy which move it to undertake without hesitancy even the most difficult tasks, to face dangers, to trample underfoot injustice or endure without complaint the slow martyrdom of even lifelong tribulation. "He that shall persevere unto the end, he shall be saved."

Prayer: Come, O blessed Spirit of Fortitude, uphold my soul in time of trouble and adversity, sustain my efforts after holiness, strengthen my weakness, give me courage against the assaults of any enemy, that I may never be overcome and separated from you, my God and greatest Good. Amen.

(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)

THE FIFTH DAY

Tues., 3 June: The Gift of Knowledge
*Light immortal! Light divine!
Visit these, your hearts, refine,
And our inmost being fill!*

Leader: The gift of Knowledge enables the soul to evaluate created things at their true worth - in their relation to God. Knowledge unmasks the pretense of creatures, reveals their emptiness, and points out their only true purpose as instruments in the service of God. It shows us the loving care of God even in adversity, and directs us to glorify him in every circumstance of life. Guided by its light, we put first things first and prize the friendship of God above all else. "Knowl-

edge is a fountain of life to him that possesses it."

Prayer: Come, O blessed Spirit of Knowledge, and grant that I may perceive the will of the Father; show me the nothingness of earthly things, that I may realize their vanity and use them only for your glory and my own salvation, looking ever beyond them to you, and your eternal rewards, Amen.

(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)

THE SIXTH DAY

**Wednesday, 4 June:
The Gift of Understanding**

*If you take your grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.*

Leader: Understanding, as a gift of the Holy Spirit, helps us grasp the meaning of the truths of our faith. By faith we know them, but by understanding we learn how to appreciate and treasure them. It enables us to penetrate the inner meaning of revealed truths and through them to be quickened to newness of life. Our faith ceases to be sterile and inactive, but inspires a mode of life that bears eloquent testimony to the faith that is within us; we begin to "walk worthy of God in all things pleasing, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Prayer: Come, O Spirit of Understanding and enlighten our minds, that we may know and believe all the mysteries of salvation; and may merit at last to see the eternal light in your Light.

In the light of that glory may we have a clear vision of you, and the Father and the Son. Amen.

(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)

THE SEVENTH DAY

Thursday, 5 June: The Gift of Counsel

*Heal our wounds--our strength
renew;
On our dryness pour your dew,
Wash the stains of guilt away.*

Leader: The gift of Counsel endows the soul with supernatural prudence, enabling it to judge promptly and rightly what must be done, especially in difficult circumstances. Counsel applies the principles furnished by knowledge and understanding to the innumerable concrete cases that confront us in the course of our daily duties as parents, teachers, public servants and Christian citizens. Counsel is a supernatural common sense, a priceless treasure on the journey to salvation. "Above all these things, pray to the Most High, that he may direct your way in truth."

Prayer: Come, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide me in all my ways, that I may always do your holy will. Incline my heart to that which is good; turn it away from all that is evil. Direct me by the path of your commandments to that goal of eternal life for which I long. Amen.

(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)

THE EIGHTH DAY

Friday, 6 June: The Gift of Wisdom

*Bend the stubborn heart and will,
Melt the frozen, warm the chill.
Guide the steps that go astray.*

Leader: Embodying all the other gifts, as charity embraces all the other virtues, Wisdom is the most perfect of the gifts. Of Wisdom it is written: “all good things came to me with her, and innumerable riches through her hands.” It is the gift of Wisdom that strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity, and promotes the practice of virtue in the highest degree. Wisdom enlightens the mind to discern and relish things divine, in the appreciation of which earthly joys lose their savor, while the Cross of Christ yields a divine sweetness according to the words of the Savior: “Take up your cross and follow me, for my yoke is sweet and my burden, light.”

Prayer: Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to my soul the mysteries of heavenly things, their exceeding greatness, power and beauty. Teach me to love them above and beyond the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Help me to attain them and possess them forever. Amen.

(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)

THE NINTH DAY

Saturday, 7 June: The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

*You in toil are comfort sweet,
Pleasant coolness in the heat,
Solace in the midst of woe.*

Leader: The gifts of the Holy Spirit perfect the supernatural virtues by enabling us to practice them with hearts open to divine inspiration. As we grow in the knowledge and love of God under the direction of the Holy

Spirit, our service becomes more sincere and generous, the practice of virtue more perfect. Such acts of virtue leave the heart filled with joy and consolation and are known as the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. These Fruits in turn render the practice of virtue more attractive and become a powerful incentive for still greater efforts in the service of God, to serve who is to reign.

Prayer: Come, O Divine Spirit, fill my heart with your heavenly fruits: your charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, faith, mildness and temperance, that I may never weary in the service of God, but by continued faithful submission to your inspiration may merit to be united eternally with you in the love of the Father and the Son. Amen.

(to be followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, seven Glory Be to the Fathers, the Act of Consecration and the Prayer for the Seven Gifts.)

