

Novena to the Holy Spirit

It is an expression of the desire of the faithful to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Most often prayed between Ascension and Pentecost, it can be prayed at any time of the year.

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

To be recited daily during the Novena

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 unfaithfulness to grace, and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light and listen to Your voice and follow Your gracious inspirations. I 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 Five Wounds, and trusting in His Precious Blood, and adoring His opened Side and stricken Heart, I implore You, Adorable Spirit, Helper of my 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

To be recited daily during the Novena

O Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into heaven, did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that You may perfect in my soul the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom, that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after 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 and gaining heaven; the Spirit of Fortitude, that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation; the Spirit of Knowledge, that I may know God and know myself, and grow perfect in the science of the Saints; the Spirit of Piety, that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable; the Spirit of Fear, that I may be filled with a loving reverence toward God, and may dread in any way to displease Him. Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciples, and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen.

The Novena begins on the day after the Solemnity of the Ascension, Friday, May 10, and ends Saturday, May 18.

FIRST DAY (Friday, May 10)

The prayer, verse, and meditation for the first day of the Novena to the Holy Spirit reminds us that we need the grace of the Holy Spirit in our souls to live our lives as Christians. Today, we prepare ourselves to ask for each of the gifts of the Holy Spirit over the next seven days.

Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, Who has granted to regenerate us by water and the Holy Spirit, and has given us forgiveness of all sins, grant to send forth from heaven upon us your sevenfold 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.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory Be SEVEN TIMES. Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit and Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

SECOND DAY (Saturday, May 11)

The Gift of Fear of the Lord

For the second day of the Novena to the Holy Spirit, the prayer, verse, and meditation remind us that the Fear of the Lord, the first of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, is the beginning of Wisdom.

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.

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THIRD DAY (Sunday, May 12)

The Gift of Piety

Piety, the gift of the Holy Spirit for which we pray on the third day of the Novena to the Holy Spirit, is submission to all rightful authority (including respect for our ancestors) that flows from love of God.

Prayer

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

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory Be SEVEN TIMES. Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit and Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

FOURTH DAY (Monday, May 13)

The Gift of Fortitude

“Courage” is often used as another name for Fortitude, but, as we can see in the verse, prayer, and meditation for the fourth day of the Novena to the Holy Spirit, fortitude is more than courage. It is also the strength to do what is necessary to live a holy life.

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 all the assaults of my enemies, that I may never be overcome and separated from You, my God and greatest Good. Amen.

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FIFTH DAY (Tuesday, May 14)

The Gift of Knowledge

On the fifth day of the Novena to the Holy Spirit, we ask for the gift of Knowledge, so that we may truly understand that the world is ordered toward God, and we may be able to perceive His will for us.

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.

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SIXTH DAY (Wednesday, May 15)

The Gift of Understanding

On the sixth day of the Novena to the Holy Spirit, our prayer, verse, and meditation focus on the gift of Understanding, which helps us to grasp the meaning of the revealed truths of Christianity and to live our lives in accordance with those truths.

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Understanding, and enlighten my mind, that I may know and believe all the mysteries of salvation; and may merit at last to see the eternal light in Your Light; and, in the light of glory, to have a clear vision of You and the Father and the Son. Amen.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory Be SEVEN TIMES. Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit and Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

SEVENTH DAY (Thursday, May 16)

The Gift of Counsel

Counsel, our meditation for the seventh day of the Novena to the Holy Spirit tells us, “is supernatural common sense.” With this gift of the Holy Spirit, we can translate our faith into action in everything that we do.

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, and direct me by the straight path of Your commandments to that goal of eternal life for which I long.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory Be SEVEN TIMES. Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit and Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

EIGHTH DAY (Friday, May 17)

The Gift of Wisdom

Our prayer, verse, and meditation for the eighth day of the Novena to the Holy Spirit focus on Wisdom, “the most perfect of the gifts” of the Holy Spirit. Wisdom shows that the Christian Faith involves the head as much as the heart, and reason as much as the will.

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 all the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Help me to attain them and possess them forever.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory Be SEVEN TIMES. Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit and Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

NINTH DAY (Saturday, May 18)

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of the Holy Spirit that we’ve been praying for over the past seven days are supernatural graces. As we cooperate with those graces by performing acts of virtue, we grow in the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, which reinforce our desire to do good.

Prayer

Come, O Divine Spirit, fill my heart with Your heavenly fruits, Your charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, 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

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory Be SEVEN TIMES. Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit and Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
