



NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT



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Novena to the Holy Spirit for the Seven Gifts

The novena in honour 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 Blessed Trinity, it is a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian.

This Novena begins on the day after the Solemnity of the Ascension, Friday of the 6th Week of Easter, even if the Solemnity of the Ascension is transferred to the 7th Sunday.

Day One: Friday, 6th Week of Easter

Holy Spirit! Lord of Light! From Your clear celestial height, Your pure beaming radiance give!

The Holy Spirit

Only one thing is important -- eternal salvation. Only one thing, therefore, is to be feared--sin! Sin is the result of ignorance, weakness, and 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. To ensure our salvation we ought to invoke the Divine Spirit daily, for "The Spirit helpeth our infirmity. We know not what we

should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit Himself asketh for us.'

Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, Who hast vouchsafed to regenerate us by water and the Holy Spirit, and hast given us forgiveness of all sins, vouchsafe 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 to the Father SEVEN TIMES*

*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 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 heareth.' Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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things with Your Spirit. Amen.

Day Two: Saturday, 6th Week of Easter

Come. Father of the poor. Come, treasures which endure;
Come, Light of all that live!

The Gift of Fear

The gift of Fear 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 sentiments of reverence and filial submission to our heavenly Father. It is the fear that is the beginning of wisdom, detaching us from worldly pleasures 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.

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Day Three: Sunday, 7th Week of Easter

Thou, of all consolers best, Visiting the troubled breast,
Dost refreshing peace bestow.

The Gift of Piety

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 rulers. 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 therein 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.

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Day Four: Monday, 7th Week of Easter

Thou in toil art comfort sweet, Pleasant coolness in the heat, solace in the midst of woe.

The Gift of Fortitude

The Gift of Fortitude 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 under take without hesitancy the most arduous tasks, to face dangers, to trample under foot human respect, and to 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 all the assaults of my enemies, that I may never be overcome and separated from Thee, my God and greatest Good. Amen.

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Day Five: Tuesday, 7th Week of Easter

Light immortal! Light Divine! Visit Thou these hearts of Thine, And our inmost being fill!

The Gift of Knowledge

The gift of Knowledge enables the soul to evaluate created things at their true worth--in their relation to God. Knowledge unmask 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 beyond all else. 'Knowledge is a fountain of life to him that possesseth 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 Thy glory and my own salvation, looking ever beyond them to Thee, and Thy eternal rewards. Amen.

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Day Six: Wednesday, 7th Week of Easter

If Thou take Thy grace away, nothing pure in man will stay, All his good is turned to ill.

The Gift of Understanding

Understanding, as a gift of the Holy Spirit, helps us to grasp the meaning of the truths of our holy religion BY faith we know them, but by Understanding we learn to appreciate and relish 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 in 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 Thy Light; and in the light of glory to have a clear vision of Thee and the Father and the Son. Amen.

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Day Seven: Thursday, 7th Week of Easter

Heal our wounds--our strength renews; On our dryness pour Thy dew, Wash the stains of guilt away.

The Gift of Counsel

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 duty as parents, teachers, public servants, and Christian citizens. Counsel is supernatural common sense, a priceless treasure in the

quest of salvation. 'Above all these things, pray to the Most High, that He may direct thy way in truth.'

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide me in all my ways, that I may always do Thy 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 Thy commandments to that goal of eternal life for which I long.

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Day Eight: Friday, 7th Week of Easter

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

The Gift of Wisdom

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, whilst the Cross of Christ yields a divine sweetness according to the words of the Saviour: 'Take up thy 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 all the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Help me to attain them and possess them for ever. Amen.

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Day Nine: Saturday, Vigil of Pentecost

Thou, on those who evermore Thee confess and Thee Adore, in Thy sevenfold gift, Descend; Give Them Comfort when they die; Give them Life with Thee on high; Give them joys which never end. Amen.

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of the Holy Spirit perfect the supernatural virtues by enabling us to practice them with greater docility 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 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 Whom is to reign.

Prayer

Come, O Divine Spirit, fill my heart with Thy heavenly fruits, Thy 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 Thy inspiration may merit to be united eternally with Thee in the love of the Father and the Son. Amen.

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CHAPLET OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

This Chaplet was composed in 1892 by a Franciscan Capuchin missionary of the English Province in order to give the faithful an easy means of honouring the Holy Ghost. It was approved by Pope Leo XIII in 1902.

How to pray the Chaplet of the Holy Ghost

The Chaplet of the Holy Ghost has 50 beads. It begins with three small beads, followed by 5 sets of 7 beads, each separated by 2 large beads.

- On the three large beads,**
- make the Sign of the Cross**
- say an Act of Contrition... and**
- recites the hymn "Come, Holy Ghost"..**
- On each set of 7 small beads is prayed 7 Glory be to the Father...**
- Then, on the 2 large beads is said 1 Our Father**
- and 1 Hail Mary**

During the praying of each set of 7 beads, the faithful is asked to meditate on one of the 5 mysteries (below), therefore commemorating the Five Wounds of Jesus which are the fountains of grace which the Holy Ghost imparts to all men.

THE FIRST MYSTERY

By the Holy Ghost is Jesus conceived of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Meditation: "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the Power of the Most High shall overshadow thee; and therefore also the Holy which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." [LUKE. 1:35]

The Practice: Diligently implore the aid of the Divine Spirit, and Mary's intercession, to imitate the virtues of Jesus Christ, Who is the Model of virtues, so that you may be made conformable to the image of the Son of God.

THE SECOND MYSTERY

The Spirit of the Lord rested upon Jesus when he was baptized.

The Meditation: "Jesus, being baptized, forthwith came out of the water: the heavens were opened to Him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him." [Matthew. 3:16] **The Practice:** Hold in the highest esteem the priceless gift of sanctifying grace, infused into your soul by the Holy Spirit in Baptism. Keep the promises to which you then pledged yourself. Increase, by constant practice, Faith, Hope, and Charity. Ever live as becometh children of God and members of God's true Church, so as to obtain, hereafter, the inheritance of heaven.

THE THIRD MYSTERY

By the Spirit is Jesus led into the desert to be tempted by the Devil.

The Meditation: "Jesus, being full of the Holy ghost, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the desert for the space of forty days; and was tempted by the devil."
[LUKE. 4:1-2]

The Practice: Be ever grateful for the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit bestowed upon you in Confirmation, for the spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and fortitude, of knowledge and piety, and of the fear of the Lord. Faithfully yield to His Divine guidance, so that, in all the trials and temptations of life, you may act manfully, as becometh a perfect Christian and valiant soldier of Jesus Christ.

THE FOURTH MYSTERY

The Holy Ghost in the Church.

The Meditation: "Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a mighty wind coming, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting... and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak... the wonderful works of God."
[Acts, 2:2, 4, 11.]

The Practice: Thank God for having made you a child of His Church which is ever animated and directed by the Divine Spirit, sent into this world for that purpose of the day of

Pentecost. Hear and obey the Holy See, the infallible mouthpiece of the Holy Ghost, and the Church, the pillar and ground of truth. Uphold her doctrines, seek her interests, defend her rights.

THE FIFTH MYSTERY

The Holy Ghost in the soul of the just man and just woman.

The Meditation: "Know you not that you members are the temple of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you?" [1 Cor. 6:19] "Extinguish not the Spirit." [1 Thess. 5:19] "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption." [Ephesians. 4:30]

The Practice: Be ever mindful of the Holy Ghost Who is within you, and carefully cultivate purity of soul and body. Faithfully obey His Divine Inspirations so that you may bring forth the Fruits of the Spirit - Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Dignity, Goodness, Long-suffering, Mildness, Faith, Modesty, Continency, Chastity.

- **Conclude with the I believe... as a profession of faith.**
- **Say finally once: Our Father...**
- **Hail Mary...and**
- **Glory be to the Father...**
- **for the intentions of the pope.**

LITANY OF THE HOLY-GHOST

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.
Father all powerful,
have mercy on us

Jesus, Eternal Son of the Father,
Redeemer of the world,
save us.

Spirit of the Father and the Son,
boundless life of both,
sanctify us.

Holy Trinity,
hear us

Holy Ghost,
Who proceedest from the Father and the Son,
enter our hearts.

Holy Ghost,
Who art equal to the Father and the Son,
enter our hearts.

Promise of God the Father,
have mercy on us

Ray of heavenly light,
have mercy on us

Author of all good,
have mercy on us

Source of heavenly water,
have mercy on us

Consuming fire,
have mercy on us

Ardent charity,
have mercy on us

Spiritual unction,
have mercy on us

Spirit of love and truth,
have mercy on us

Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
have mercy on us

Spirit of counsel and fortitude,
have mercy on us

Spirit of knowledge and piety,
have mercy on us

Spirit of the fear of the Lord,

have mercy on us

Spirit of grace and prayer,
have mercy on us

Spirit of peace and meekness,
have mercy on us

Spirit of modesty and innocence,
have mercy on us

Holy Ghost, the Comforter,
have mercy on us

Holy Ghost, the Sanctifier,
have mercy on us

Holy Ghost, Who governest the Church,
have mercy on us

Gift of God, the Most High,
have mercy on us

Spirit Who fillest the universe,
have mercy on us

Spirit of the adoption of the children of God,
have mercy on us

Holy Ghost,
inspire us with horror of sin.

Holy Ghost,
come and renew the face of the earth.

Holy Ghost,
shed Thy light in our souls.

Holy Ghost,
engrave Thy law in our hearts

Holy Ghost,
in flame us with the flame of Thy love.

Holy Ghost,
open to us the treasures of Thy graces

Holy Ghost,
teach us to pray well.

Holy Ghost,
enlighten us with Thy heavenly inspirations.

Holy Ghost,
lead us in the way of salvation

Holy Ghost,
grant us the only necessary knowledge.

Holy Ghost,
inspire in us the practice of good.

Holy Ghost,
grant us the merits of all virtues.

Holy Ghost,
make us persevere in justice.

Holy Ghost,
be Thou our everlasting reward.

Lamb of God,
Who takest away the sins of the world,
Send us Thy Holy Ghost.

Lamb of God,
Who takest away the sins of the world,
pour down into our souls the gifts of the Holy Ghost.

Lamb of God,
Who takest away the sins of the world,
grant us the Spirit of wisdom and piety.

V. Come, Holy Ghost!
Fill the hearts of Thy faithful,

R. And enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.

Grant, O merciful Father,
that Thy Divine Spirit may enlighten,
in flame and purify us,
that He may penetrate us
with His heavenly dew

and make us fruitful in good works,
through Our Lord Jesus Christ,
Thy Son, Who with Thee,
in the unity of the same Spirit,
liveth and reigneth forever and ever. Amen



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