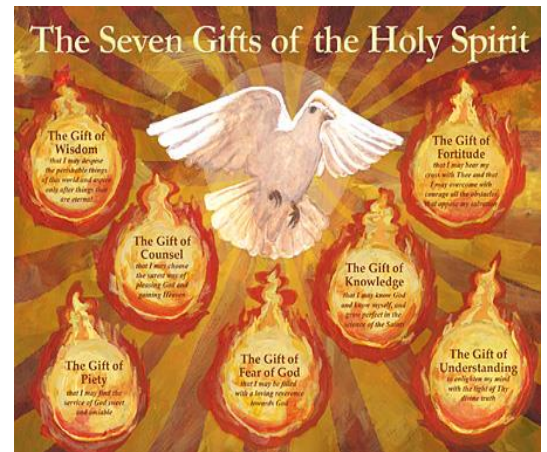


NOVENA to the HOLY SPIRIT for the SEVEN GIFTS

A *NOVENA* is a practice where a prayer or groups of prayers are recited for nine consecutive days for special intentions and petitions. 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 Blessed Trinity, it is a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian. The Novena to the Holy Spirit begins on the day after the Solemnity of the Ascension, Friday of the 6th Week of Easter.



ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

(To be recited daily during the Novena)

On my knees I 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

(To be recited daily during the Novena)

Christ Jesus, before ascending into heaven, You promised to send the Holy Spirit to Your apostles and disciples. Grant that the same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of Your grace and love. Grant us:

- ✠ the Spirit of Fear of the Lord that we may be filled with a loving reverence toward You.
- ✠ the Spirit of Piety that we may find peace and fulfillment in the service of God while serving others;
- ✠ the Spirit of Fortitude that we may bear our cross with You and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation;
- ✠ the Spirit of Knowledge that we may know You and know ourselves and grow in holiness;
- ✠ the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of Your truth;
- ✠ the Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the surest way of doing Your will, seeking first the Kingdom;
- ✠ Grant us the Spirit of Wisdom that we may aspire to the things that last forever;

Teach us to be Your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with Your Spirit. Amen.

FIRST DAY (Friday after Ascension)

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 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, send forth Your Spirit, who brought order from chaos at the beginning of the universe, and peace to the Lord's disciples. Grant that I, as your creation, baptized in your Spirit, may be filled with 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.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Amen.

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be

Pray: Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit & Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

SECOND DAY (Saturday after Ascension)

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

The Gift of Fear. This gift 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, fill me with devotion to God alone.

In the Risen Christ, I welcome You, O Spirit of truth, whom the Father sends in Jesus' name.

Wash clean the sinful soul, and rain down your grace that we may be one with the Church in fidelity to our Lord Jesus, Christ.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Amen.

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be

Pray: Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit & Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

THIRD DAY (7th Sunday of Easter)

Thou, of all consolers best, visiting the troubled breast, dost refreshing peace bestow.

The Gift of Piety. This gift 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: Grant that I may be inspired to love and respect all members of your family as brothers and sisters of Jesus, who, together with him, call you Abba, Father.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Amen.

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be

Pray: Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit & Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

FOURTH DAY (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. By this gift, 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 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. O, Divine Trinity, grant that we may be strengthened to see in ourselves and each other the dignity that is ours as temples of Your Holy Spirit, to be loved by one another as each of us is loved by Jesus.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Amen.

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be

Pray: Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit & Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

FIFTH DAY (Tuesday, 7th Week of Easter)

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

The Gift of Knowledge. This gift 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 beyond all else. "Knowledge is a fountain of life to him that possessed it."

Prayer: Come, O Blessed Spirit of Knowledge, and grant that I may perceive the will of the Father. Father, through Your Spirit, You invite us to participate in the fullness of Creation.

Help me to see that all gifts are from You and intended for your Glory. For there are many different gifts, but always the same Spirit, many ways of serving, but always the same Lord. Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Amen.

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be

Pray: Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit & Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

SIXTH DAY (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 Blessed Spirit of Understanding, enlighten our minds that we may appreciate and see more fully what we know by faith.

Come to us in our weakness and give voice to our petitions, for "the prayers that the Spirit makes for God's holy people are always in accordance with the mind of God."

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Amen.

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be

Pray: Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit & Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

SEVENTH DAY (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. This gift 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 Blessed Spirit of Counsel. Make my thoughts holy, my love pure, and my works pleasing to God. Father, guided by Your Spirit, may I strive to make loving choices and respect all life. May we be aware of our dignity as Your sons and daughters, redeemed with the Blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Amen.

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be

Pray: Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit & Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

EIGHTH DAY (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 forever.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Amen.

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be

Pray: Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit & Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

NINTH DAY (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: Father, through Jesus, Your Son, You sent the Paraclete to be at our side, to reconcile all Creation to you. Grant that I may be forever open to Jesus' invitation to "Receive the Holy Spirit!" Father, open our hearts to accept Your forgiveness for our sins and to offer that same forgiveness to those who we feel have offended us. For merciful forgiveness is the essence of Your love revealed in Your Son.

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, by faithful submission to Your Inspiration, merit to be united eternally with You in the love of the Father and the Son.

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Amen.

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be

Pray: Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit & Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.