

NOVENA TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

The novena (nine days of prayer) in anticipation of the first Christian Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit on Apostles and Mary, is the oldest of all novenas and was made at the direction of our Lord Himself. It began when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem to pray and await the coming of the Holy Spirit. Those "days of prayer" at the direction of Jesus are the model and inspiration for this novena.

PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - Pray each day of the Novena

O Lord Jesus Christ You promised to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your disciples; grant the same Holy Spirit to me.

In Your generous love I humbly bid you to grant me:

The Spirit of Wisdom that I may turn from 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 on Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing You.

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 You, Lord God, and myself;

The Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and joyful and;

The Spirit of holy Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards You Lord God and may dread in any way to displease You Who love me so.

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT - Pray each day of the Novena

Eternal God and Father I consecrate myself to You completely, body, soul and spirit. In You I live and move and have my being. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to the grace You have given me. I pray with all my heart to be kept from sin. Jesus, I trust in You, and I thank You for Your precious blood shed for my salvation. I ask You to protect me in my weakness. I implore You, Holy Spirit, keep me in Your grace that I may say always: "Speak Lord, for Your servant is listening," then hear and obey in Truth. Amen.

FIRST DAY **The Holy Spirit** Only one thing is most important -- eternal salvation. Only one thing is to be hated -- sin. Sin is the result of ignorance, weakness, and indifference. The sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit enlighten the mind, strengthen the will, and inflame the heart with the love of God. To cling to our salvation we invoke the Holy Spirit daily, for the Spirit helps us in our ignorance and weakness. We know not what we should pray for, but the Spirit Himself prays for us.

Prayer: Father, 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, Hail Mary, Glory Be) Act of Consecration and Prayer for the Gifts each day

SECOND DAY **The Gift of 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." (Wisdom 7:11) It is the gift of Wisdom that strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, and perfects charity (love). Wisdom enlightens the mind to see and appreciate the things of heaven with a gratitude which surpasses fading earthly joys. Wisdom makes the Cross of Christ "easy" – that is, we see in Wisdom that our cross fits us, and our personal strengths match our cross. "Take up your cross and follow me for my yoke is easy and my burden light." (Matthew 11:29)

Prayer: Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to my soul the mysteries of heavenly things, their greatness, power and beauty. Teach me to love God above and beyond all the passing pleasures of earth. Help me to attain heavenly gifts and possess them for eternity. Amen. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be), etc.

THIRD DAY **The Gift of Piety** brings to our hearts a childlike affection for God as our most loving Father. It inspires us to love and respect, for His sake, our Blessed Mother, and the Church, and the pope, and the saints, and our parents. It calls us to pray for our country and its rulers. The person filled with the gift of Piety finds the practice of his religion not a burdensome duty, but an inspired service.

Prayer: Come, O Blessed Spirit of Piety, possess my heart. Enkindle in my heart such a love for God, that I may find lasting satisfaction only in His service and worship, and for His sake lovingly submit to all righteous and legitimate authority. Amen. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Consecration), etc.

FOURTH DAY **The Gift of Fortitude** strengthens the soul against natural/instinctive fear. Fortitude imparts to the will a push and the energy which move it to undertake, without faltering, the most difficult tasks; to face dangers, to trample under foot mere 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." (Matt 24:13)

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 my greatest Good. Amen. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Consecration), etc.

FIFTH DAY **The Gift of Knowledge** enables the soul to evaluate created things at their true worth. Knowledge unmask the emptiness of "passing things" and points out their only true purpose as instruments in the service of God. Guided by the light of Knowledge, we put first things first, and prize the friendship of God beyond all else. "Knowledge is a fountain of life to him that possesses it." Proverbs 16:22

Prayer: Come, O Blessed Spirit of Knowledge, and grant that I may know 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 salvation. Amen. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Consecration), etc.

SIXTH DAY **The Gift of Understanding** helps us to grasp the truths of our holy religion. By faith we accept them, but by Understanding we penetrate beneath the surface of the revealed truths. Our faith ceases to be sterile (fruitless) and inactive, but inspires a way of life that gives witness to the Spirit in us; we begin to "walk worthy of God in all things pleasing, and increasing in the knowledge of God." (Colossians 1:10)

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 light of glory to have a clear vision of Thee and the Father and the Son. Amen. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Consecration), etc.

SEVENTH DAY **The Gift of Counsel** endows the soul with supernatural ability to judge promptly and correctly the answer to the question: "Lord, what must I do?" especially in difficult circumstances. Counsel applies the principles furnished by Knowledge and Understanding to the many concrete cases that confront us in the course of our daily duties as parents, children, teachers, students, and Christian citizens. Counsel is "supernatural common sense" a priceless treasure in the quest for holiness and persevering in the Spirit.

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, Hail Mary, Glory Be) etc.

EIGHTH DAY **The Gift of "Fear of the Lord"** fills us with a respect for God, and makes us dread nothing so much as to offend Him by sin. It is a fear that arises, not from hell or instinct, but it must be given, received, offered, and embraced. It is the fear of offending the beloved. This "fear" is the beginning of Wisdom.

Prayer: Come, O blessed Spirit of Holy Fear, penetrate my heart, that I may place You, my Lord and God, before my face always. Help me to shun all things that can offend You. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be), etc.

NINTH DAY **The Fruits of the Holy Spirit:** As we receive the *Gifts* of the Spirit, the "*Fruits* of the Spirit" will blossom and grow. The Fruits of the Holy Spirit include: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Chastity (sexual self-control), and Temperance (self-control in food and drink).

Prayer: Come, O Holy Spirit, fill my heart with Your heavenly fruits, Your Love, Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control, that I may never fail in the service of God, but by continued obedience to Your inspiration be joyfully united eternally with You in the love of the Father and the Son. Amen. (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be), etc.