

Novena in honor of the Holy Spirit

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.



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.

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Priest: Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle them in the fire of your love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created.

People: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Priest: O God, who did instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us in the same Spirit, to be truly wise and ever to rejoice in His consolation, through the same Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

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 Your 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, so 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 He 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 truth;

the **Spirit of Counsel** that I may 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;

and the **Spirit of Fear** that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him.

Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciple and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen.



FIRST DAY (Friday after
Ascension or Friday of 6th Week of Easter)

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 comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings" (Romans 8:26).

Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, Who hast vouchsafed to regenerate me by water and the Holy Spirit, and has given me forgiveness of all my sins, vouchsafe to send forth from heaven upon me your sevenfold Spirit, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Fortitude, the Spirit of Knowledge and Piety, and fill me with the Spirit of Holy Fear. Amen.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be SEVEN TIMES.

[Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts](#) (Pages 2 and 3)



SECOND DAY (Saturday of 6th Week of Easter)

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. "Those who fear the Lord prepare their hearts, and humble themselves before Him" (Sirach 2:17).

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.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be SEVEN TIMES.

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THIRD DAY (7th Sunday of Easter or transferred Ascension)

The Gift of Piety

The gift of Piety produces 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. “For where there is love, there is no labor; or if there is labor, it is a labor of love” (Saint Augustine).

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Piety, possess my heart. Enkindle in it 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.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be SEVEN TIMES.

[Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts](#) (Pages 2 and 3)



FOURTH DAY (Monday, 7th Week of Easter)

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. "But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved" (Matthew 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 greatest Good. Amen.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be SEVEN TIMES.

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FIFTH DAY (Tuesday, 7th Week of Easter)

The Gift of Knowledge

The gift of Knowledge enables the soul to evaluate created things at their true worth, in 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 its possessor, but folly brings chastisement on fools" (Proverbs 16:22).

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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SIXTH DAY (Wednesday, 7th Week of Easter)

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 "live in a manner worthy of the Lord, so as to be fully pleasing, in every good work bearing fruit and growing in the knowledge of God," (Colossians 1:10).

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Understanding, and enlighten our minds, 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.

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SEVENTH DAY (Thursday, 7th Week of Easter)

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. "Most important of all, pray to God to set your feet in the path of truth" (Sirach 37:15).



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. Amen.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be SEVEN TIMES.

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EIGHTH DAY (Friday, 7th Week of Easter)

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 Savior: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me,...for my yoke is easy and my burden light" (Matthew 16:24 and Matthew 11:30).

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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NINTH DAY (Saturday, Vigil of Pentecost)

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 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.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be SEVEN TIMES.

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