

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

These prayers may be used in the days between the Ascension and Pentecost or in the days leading toward a serious decision, a turning point in your life, or simply to deepen your awareness of the Holy Spirit in your life.

O Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life, I adore thee and humbly acknowledge here in thy sacred presence that I am nothing and can do nothing without the life and breath thou dost give.

Come, advocate and guide into all truth. Come, source of strength and wisdom. Come and fulfill the promise our Savior that we would not be left as orphans. Come and enter into my mind and heart as on the day of Pentecost. Grant that I may also receive the gifts poured out on the disciples and the Blessed Mother of Jesus. *Amen.*

Take from my heart all that is not pleasing to thee and make it a worthy dwelling place for Jesus. Illumine my mind that I may see and understand the things that are for my eternal well-being.

Kindle in my heart the pure love of God, teaching me to love God in all things and above all things, that I might receive all things with gratitude and use them to God's purposes.

Strengthen my will that it may be conformed to the will of my creator and guided by holy

inspiration. Aid me to practice the virtues seen in the earthly life of Jesus. *Amen.*

Descend upon me, O mighty Spirit, that inspired and encouraged by thee, I may faithfully fulfill the duties of my life and vocation, that I carry my cross with patience and courage and accomplish more nearly thy perfect will. Make me day by day more holy and give to me that heavenly peace which the world cannot give. *Amen.*

O Holy Spirit, thou giver of every good and perfect gift, inspire my prayer and grant me the intention which moves me to pray earnestly, with hope and expectation. *Amen.*

The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray but the Spirit intercedes for us in sighs too deep for words.

- *Romans 8*

Here, offer the particular need that you bring to these prayers, the insight or wisdom you seek, and the uncertainty or the challenge you face. Offer your intention before the presence of the Holy Spirit and wait in quiet, knowing that the Spirit's voice is heard in silence.

The Veni Creator Spiritus may be said

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire.
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy seven-fold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love.
Enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace.
Keep far our foes, give peace at home:
where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but One,
that through the ages all along,
this may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

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

Then offer one of the following prayers. Days 2-8 focus on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, (Isaiah 11:2-3); the last day focuses on the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

First Day

Come, Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life; be my guide in perplexity, defend me from error and lead me to truth; grant that I may know and do what is right and be in me a fountain of living water springing up into life everlasting.

Second Day

Come, O Spirit of wisdom, and help me to know God revealed in the Word made flesh, the promise of grace and the hope of glory.

Third Day

Come, O Spirit of understanding, and teach me to know myself and recognize God's call to me in my daily life and work.

Fourth Day

Come, O Spirit of counsel, guide me in right pathways, turn me away from evil, and lead me by thy commandments to the joy of eternal life.

Fifth Day

Come, O Spirit of fortitude, give me courage and determination, that in all distress and uncertainty, I may with a calm and confident spirit remain strong in faith, patient in hope, and constant in love.

Sixth Day

Come, O Spirit of knowledge, grant that I may know and accept the will of God, that recognizing the true value of the things of this world, I may use them rightly, and always with thanksgiving.

Seventh Day

Come, O Spirit of piety, and help me to love God with all my heart and soul and strength, that I may find in thee my best and truest joy.

Eighth Day

Come, Spirit of holy fear, that I may stand in awe of God, never presuming on mercy and never forgetting before whom I must account for my life, my actions, and my words.

Ninth Day

Come, O bountiful spirit, and bring forth in my life the manifold fruits of thy presence and create in me:
Love toward God and my neighbor,
Joy and wonder in all God's work,
The peace that Jesus promises,
Patience born of faith and hope,
Kindness that reflects God's mercy,
Generosity that uses all as God intends,
Faithfulness that is constant and reliable,

Gentleness that I may do harm to no one,
Self-control that my life will conform
to the mind of Christ.

After another period of silence, close by saying

Our Father...

May the Father's will be done in and through me;
may I follow more nearly the call of Jesus my Lord,
* and may thou, O mighty Spirit of the Living God,
be praised and glorified forever and ever. *Amen.*