

## NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

Before Jesus ascends into Heaven, he tells his disciples to return to Jerusalem and to wait in prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5). For the next nine days, the disciples, along with Mary and some other women, “devoted themselves to constant prayer” (Acts 1:14). This time of prayer is often called the first *Novena* (meaning nine). A *Novena* is a nine-day period of prayer for a particular intention.

Beginning Friday, May 19, 2023, you are invited to pray the following Novena to the Holy Spirit for whatever intention you may have. You are encouraged to also pray for our Church family, that we will have a greater sense of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The Holy Spirit is God’s greatest gift to us. For the nine days leading to Pentecost, make a particular effort to be attentive to the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit in your daily life and to respond to his promptings.

### NOVENA OUTLINE

#### OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit,  
Fill the hearts of your faithful  
And enkindle in us the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit  
And we shall be created  
And you shall renew the face  
of the earth.

Meditate on Scripture assigned for each day.

Pray one decade of the Rosary asking Mary to help you to become more attentive and responsive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Father of Light,  
from whom every good gift comes,  
send your Spirit into our lives.  
With the power of a mighty wind  
and by the flame of your wisdom,  
open the horizons of our minds.  
Loosen our tongues to sing your praise  
in words beyond the power of speech,  
for without your Spirit  
we could never raise our voices  
in words of peace  
or announce the truth  
that Jesus is Lord! Amen.

## Scripture Readings for the Nine Days

### **DAY ONE - 5/19**

*Luke 1:35:* Mary conceives Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Luke 3:21-22:* Jesus is baptized with the Holy Spirit.

*“Jesus, baptize me anew with your Holy Spirit.”*

### **DAY TWO - 5/20**

*John 7:37-39:* Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit.

*“Come, Holy Spirit, possess my whole being.”*

### **DAY THREE - 5/21**

*Acts 2:1-12:* The promised Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples.

*“Holy Spirit, awaken in me the fire of your love.”*

### **DAY FOUR - 5/22**

*Acts 2:42-47:* Led by the Holy Spirit, the first followers of Christ join together in a small Christian community to share life and God’s deeds in their midst.

*“Holy Spirit, may our Small Christian Community grow in love for you.”*

### **DAY FIVE - 5/23**

*Acts 10:44-48:* The Holy Spirit is poured out on the Gentiles.

*“Holy Spirit, help me to be open to your workings in the most surprising places and ways.”*

### **DAY SIX - 5/24**

*Acts 13:1-12:* Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Paul and Barnabas are discerned to go on their first missionary journey.

*“Holy Spirit, help me to hear your voice when you call out to me.”*

### **DAY SEVEN - 5/25**

*Rom 8:26-27:* The Holy Spirit helps us in our prayer.

*“Holy Spirit, teach me to pray.”*

### **DAY EIGHT - 5/26**

*1Cor 3:10-16:* The Holy Spirit helps us to understand the deep things of God.

*“Holy Spirit, show me God’s path for my life.”*

### **DAY NINE 5/27**

*Gal 5:16-26:* Paul names some of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. We are holy and Spirit-filled to the extent that the fruits of the Holy Spirit are operative in our lives.

*“Holy Spirit, help me to grow in love, peace, joy.”*