

# NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

## **Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit:**

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 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 the grace/O Holy Ghost, Spirit of the Father and the Son/to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak Lord/ for Your servant is listening." Amen. **(This is recited daily during the Novena.)**

## **Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:**

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 divine truth; / the Spirit of Counsel/ that I may ever 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; / 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 disciples/and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen. **(This is recited daily during the Novena.)**

**FIRST DAY 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 us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words" (Rom 8:26).

**Let us pray:** Almighty and eternal God, Who have vouchsafed to regenerate us by water and the Holy Spirit, and have given us forgiveness of all sins, vouchsafe to 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. **1 Our Father...1 Hail Mary... 7 Glory Be... Act of Consecration...Prayer for the Seven Gifts**

**SECOND DAY Come, Father of the poor! / Come, treasures which endure! / Come, Light of all that live!**

**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 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 will prepare their hearts, and will humble themselves before Him." (Sir 2:17)

**Let us pray:** 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, world without end. Amen. **Our Father...Hail Mary etc.**

**THIRD DAY Thou, of all consolers best, Visiting the troubled breast, / Dost refreshing peace bestow.**

**The Gift of Piety:** The gift of Piety 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 the pope, 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.

**Let us pray:** Come, O Blessed Spirit of Piety, possess my heart. Enkindle therein 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...Hail Mary...etc...**

**FOURTH DAY Thou in toil are comfort sweet; / Pleasant coolness in the heat; / Solace in the midst of woe.**

**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 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 who endures to the end will be saved" (Mt 10:22).

**Let us pray:** 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....etc...**

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

**The Gift of Knowledge** The gift of Knowledge enables the soul to evaluate created things at their true worth—in their relation to God. Knowledge unmask 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. “You will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins” (Lk 1:76-77).

**Let us pray:** 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 Your glory and my own salvation, looking ever beyond them to You, and to Your eternal rewards. Amen. **Our Father...etc.**

**SIXTH DAY If Thou take Thy grace away, Nothing pure in man will stay, / All his good is turn'd 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. “After three

days they found Jesus in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers” (Lk 2:46-47).

**Let us pray:** 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 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 **Our Father...etc.**

**SEVENTH DAY Heal our wounds—our strength renew; / On our dryness pour Thy dew; / Wash the stains of guilt away!**

**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. “O simple ones, learn prudence; O foolish men, pay attention” (Prov 8:5). “Seek advice from every wise man, and do not despise any useful counsel. Bless the Lord God on every occasion; ask Him that your ways may be made straight and that all your paths and plans may prosper” (Tobit 4:18-19). “Be as clever and as wise as serpents and be innocent as doves” (Jesus in Mt 10:16).

**Let us pray:** 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....etc.**

**EIGHTH DAY 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” (Wisdom 7:11). 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, while the Cross of Christ yields a divine sweetness, according to the words of the Savior: “Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Mt 11:29-30).

**Let us pray:** 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. Amen. **Our Father....etc.**

**NINTH DAY Thou, on those who evermore / Thee confess and Thee adore, / In Thy sevenfold gifts, 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, because to serve Him is to reign with Him.

**Let us pray:** 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...etc.**