



# NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS

*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.*

## ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

*To be recited daily*

On our knees before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses, we offer ourselves, soul and body to You, Eternal Spirit of God. We 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 our souls. In You we live and move and am. We desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace and we pray with all our heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard our every thought and grant that we may always watch for Your light, and listen to Your voice, and follow Your gracious inspirations. We cling to You and give ourselves to You and ask You, by Your compassion, to watch over us in our 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, we implore You, Adorable Spirit, Helper of our infirmity, to keep us in Your grace that we may never sin against You. Give us grace, O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and the Son, to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant heareth." Amen.

## PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*To be recited daily*

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 us that He may perfect in our souls, the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant us the **Spirit of Wisdom** that we may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal, the **Spirit of Understanding** to enlighten our minds with the light of Your divine truth, the **Spirit of Counsel** that we may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven, the **Spirit of Fortitude** that we may bear our cross with You and that we may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose our salvation, the **Spirit of Knowledge** that we may know God and know ourselves and grow perfect in the science of the Saints, the **Spirit of Piety** that we may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and the **Spirit of Fear** that we may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him. Mark us, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciples and animate us in all things with Your Spirit. Amen.

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FIRST DAY

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*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 helpeth our infirmity. We know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit Himself asketh for us."

#### *Prayer*

Almighty and eternal God, Who hast vouchsafed to regenerate us by water and the Holy Spirit, and hast 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.

*Our Father and Hail Mary once.  
Glory be to the Father seven times.*

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SECOND DAY

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*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 the fear that is the beginning of wisdom, detaching us from

worldly pleasures that could in any way separate us from God. "They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and in His sight will sanctify their souls."

#### *Prayer*

Come, O blessed Spirit of Holy Fear, penetrate our inmost heart, that we may set You, our Lord and God, before our face forever, help us to shun all things that can offend You, and make us 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 to the Father seven times.*

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THIRD DAY

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*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, 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.

#### *Prayer*

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Piety, possess our heart. Enkindle therein such a love for God, that we 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 to the Father seven times.*

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FOURTH DAY

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*Thou in toil art 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 moves 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 that shall persevere unto the end, he shall be saved."

#### *Prayer*

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Fortitude, uphold our soul in time of trouble and adversity, sustain our efforts after holiness, strengthen our weakness, give us courage against all the assaults of our enemies, that we may never be overcome and separated from Thee, our God and greatest Good. Amen.

*Our Father and Hail Mary once.  
Glory be to the Father seven times.*

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FIFTH DAY

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*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. "Knowledge is a fountain of life to him that possesseth it."

#### *Prayer*

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Knowledge, and grant that we may perceive the will of the Father; show us the nothingness of earthly things, that we may realize their vanity and use them only for Thy glory and our own salvation, looking ever beyond them to Thee, and Thy eternal rewards. Amen.

*Our Father and Hail Mary once.  
Glory be to the Father seven times.*

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SIXTH DAY

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*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."

#### *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 eternal light in Thy Light; and in the light of glory to have a clear vision of Thee and the Father and the Son. Amen.

*Our Father and Hail Mary once.  
Glory be to the Father seven times.*

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SEVENTH DAY

*Heal our wounds--our strength renews;  
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. "Above all these things, pray to the Most High, that He may direct thy way in truth."

#### *Prayer*

Come, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide us in all our ways, that we may always do Thy holy will. Incline our heart to that which is good; turn it away from all that is evil, and direct us by the straight path of Thy commandments to that goal of eternal life for which we long.

*Our Father and Hail Mary once.  
Glory be to the Father seven times.*

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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." 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: "Take up thy cross and follow Me, for My yoke is sweet and My burden light."

#### *Prayer*

Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to our soul the mysteries of heavenly things, their exceeding greatness, power and beauty. Teach us to love them above and beyond all the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Help us to attain them and possess them forever. Amen.

*Our Father and Hail Mary once.  
Glory be to the Father seven times.*

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NINTH DAY

*Thou, on those who evermore Thee confess and Thee Adore, in Thy sevenfold gift, 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, to serve Whom is to reign.

#### *Prayer*

Come, O Divine Spirit, fill our heart with Thy heavenly fruits, Thy charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, faith, mildness, and temperance, that we may never weary in the service of God, but by continued faithful submission to Thy inspiration may merit to be united eternally with Thee in the love of the Father and the Son. Amen.

*Our Father and Hail Mary once.  
Glory be to the Father seven times.*