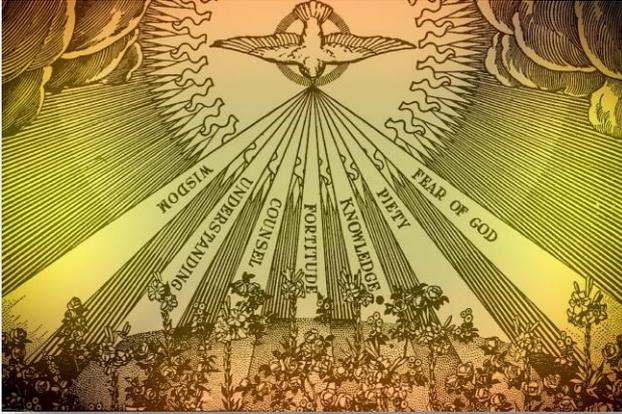


Nine Days of Prayer

for

Evangelization, Renewal, and Revival



Before his Ascension, Jesus instructed his disciples to wait to be “clothed with the power from on high” (Luke 24:49), “baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:5) who is the “firstfruits” of his gift to those who believe (II Corinthians 1:22, 5:5; Ephesians 1:14). While they waited, they spent their days “continually in the temple, praising God” (Luke 24:53) until, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon them (Acts 2).

The nine days between Ascension Day and the Eve of Pentecost became associated, therefore, with intensified prayer for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The gifts of the Holy Spirit equip the Church to deliver — “without shame, fear, or fatigue” — the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We receive the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Baptism, and the gifts of the spirit are strengthened in the sacrament of Confirmation. God remains sovereign, and can give the Holy Spirit to anyone, at any time (see Acts 10:45, Numbers 11:16-29). Ordinarily, though, God is pleased, and seems to prefer, to work through the mediation of the Church and the sacraments, administered by ministers who are, themselves, sacramentally ordained.

Down through the centuries, Pentecost has figured as one of the principal feasts of the Church, one of three (along with Christmas and Easter) important enough to merit a Vigil, that is, a nightlong service of expectant prayer, teaching, worship, and blessing preceding celebration of a festive solemn Eucharist on the feast itself.

The prayers or devotions in this booklet may be used by an individual, family, or other group, alone or in combination with the Daily Office or other daily routine of prayer.

If you pray the Daily Office, the sequence hymn “Come, thou Holy Spirit, Come” may serve as a canticle or office hymn, and the daily prayers as a collect, or as the Prayer for Mission. (If you prefer to sing the hymn rather than recite it as a poem, numbers 226, 227, and 504 in the Hymnal, 1982 are drawn from the same source.) You can also use the format in this booklet alone or together with psalms, canticles, scripture readings, the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles’ Creed, and other prayers and texts.

If you would like to know more about daily prayer, talk with Father Tom at (518) 755-9716.

Leader

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sin, and have raised us to the new life of grace in your Son Jesus Christ. Sustain us, O Lord, in the gifts of your Spirit: an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

ALL

Amen.**Sequence Hymn**

Come, thou Holy Spirit, come,
and from thy celestial home
shed a ray of light divine!
Come, thou Father of the poor!
Come, thou Source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine!

Thou, of comforters the best;
thou, the soul's most welcome guest;
sweet refreshment here below;
in our labor, rest most sweet;
grateful coolness in the heat;
solace in the midst of woe.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
on our dryness pour thy dew;
wash the stains of guilt away;
bend the stubborn heart and will;
melt the frozen, warm the chill;
guide the steps that go astray.

O most blessed Light divine,
shine within these hearts of thine,
and our inmost being fill!
Where thou art not, man hath naught,
nothing good in deed or thought,
nothing free from taint of ill.

On the faithful, who adore
and confess thee, evermore
in thy sevenfold gift descend;
give them virtue's sure reward
give them thy salvation, Lord;
give them joys that never end.

XIIIth century

The prayers on the next page ask God for qualities imparted by the Holy Spirit, based on the ones mentioned in Isaiah 11:2-3.

First Day (Friday, May 14) — *for renewal*

Come, O Holy Spirit, the Lord and Lifegiver: Take up your dwelling within my soul and make of it your sacred temple. Make me live by grace as an adopted child of God. Pervade all the energies of my soul, and create in me a fountain of living water springing up into life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons, now and forever. Amen.

Second Day (Saturday, May 15) – *for Wisdom*

Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to me the mysteries of divine things, their greatness, and power, and beauty. Teach me to love them above and beyond all the transient joys and satisfactions of the mortal world. Show me the way by which I may be able to attain to them and participate in them forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons and Unity of Being, now and forever. Amen.

Third Day (Sunday, May 16) – *for Understanding*

Come, O Spirit of Understanding, and enlighten my mind, that I may know and believe all of the mysteries of salvation and discern your hand at work in the world. Teach me to see with your eyes that I may apply my heart unto wisdom in this life and be made worthy to attain to the vision glorious in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons and Unity of Being, now and forever. Amen.

Fourth Day (Monday, May 17) – *for Counsel*

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 path of him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life to the goal of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons and Unity of Being, now and forever. Amen.

Fifth Day (Tuesday, May 18) – *for Fortitude*

Come, O Spirit of Fortitude, and give courage to my soul. Make my heart strong in all trials and in all distress, generously pouring strength into it that I may be able to resist the allure of the world, the flesh, and the devil; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons and Unity of Being, now and forever. Amen.

Sixth Day (Wednesday, May 19) – *for Knowledge*

Come, O Spirit of Knowledge, and make me understand the emptiness and chaos of life without you. Give me grace to recognize the goodness of the whole creation and to honor the Creator by using the world only for your glory and for the benefit and the salvation of all whom you have made; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons and Unity of Being, now and forever. Amen.

Seventh Day (Thursday, May 20) – for Piety

Come, O Spirit of Piety, possess my heart; incline it to a true faith in you, to a holy love of you, my God, that with my whole being I may seek you, and find you to be my best, my truest joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons and Unity of Being, now and forever. Amen.

Eighth Day (Friday, May 21) – for Fear of the Lord [Holy Awe]

Come, O Spirit of Holy Awe, penetrate my inmost heart, that I may set you, my Lord and God, before my face forever. In joy and wonder may I be made worthy to appear before the pure eyes of your divine Majesty and behold your glory face to face in the heaven of heavens, where you live and reign in the unity of the Ever-blessed Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

Ninth Day (Saturday, May 22) — the Vigil of Pentecost

Come, O Holy Comforter, come in all your fullness and power. Enrich us in our poverty, inflame us in our feebleness, melt our hearts with your love. Make us wholly yours, until your gifts are ours and we are lost in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, in Trinity of Persons, now and forever. Amen.

Conclude with the Lord's Prayer and the following collect.

Holy Spirit of God, you have poured your love into our hearts and granted us a diversity of gifts for the building up of your Holy Church: Come to us now in power and stir up those gifts among your faithful people at Saint Paul's Church and in the Diocese of Albany, that we may without shame, fear, or fatigue announce to those around us the good news of your coming Kingdom, and in our common life bear winsome witness to the same, that the world may know that you are making all things new and that we are your disciples; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, ever one God. Amen.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2-3)

<i>wisdom</i>	<i>understanding</i>
<i>counsel</i>	<i>might</i>
<i>knowledge</i>	<i>fear of the LORD</i>

Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22)

<i>love</i>	<i>joy</i>
<i>peace</i>	<i>patience</i>
<i>kindness</i>	<i>goodness</i>
<i>faithfulness</i>	<i>gentleness</i>
	<i>self-control</i>

Gifts of the Holy Spirit Operating in the Church (I Corinthians 12:8-10)

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of
and to another the utterance of
to another,
to another, gifts of
to another, the working of
to another,
to another,
to another, various kinds of
to another

wisdom,
knowledge according to the same Spirit,
faith by the same Spirit,
healing by the one Spirit,
miracles,
prophecy,
the *ability to distinguish between spirits,*
tongues,
the *interpretation of tongues*