

# Novena to the Holy Ghost

**T**he visible sending of the Holy Ghost, which is the special object of the solemnity of Pentecost, belongs to Jesus in His Divine Nature (as it belongs also to the Father) and on this account it enters into the cycle of the feasts of Our Divine Lord. Christ Jesus prayed for this mission. He said to His disciples at the Last Supper: “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to dwell with you forever.” (John 14:16). He promised to send this Consoler. “When the Advocate has come, Whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth Who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness concerning Me... If I go, I will send Him to you.” (John 15:26; 16:7) Jesus, moreover, merited this mission. By His prayer, as by His Sacrifice on the Cross, He obtained from the Father that the Holy Ghost should be given to us. Finally, the sending of the Holy Ghost to the Apostles has no other end than to achieve the establishment of His One, True Church. Jesus had founded this Church upon Peter, but He left to the Holy Ghost the care of bringing it to perfection after His Ascension into Heaven. The Coming of the Divine Spirit was to serve for the glorification of Jesus, for He would fill the Apostles with power whereby they should render testimony to Jesus everywhere, even to the four corners of the earth. It is because this mission of the Holy Ghost to the Apostles truly belongs to Our Lord that St. Paul calls the Holy Ghost “the Spirit of Christ... the Spirit of Jesus.”

**I**t is from the gift of love from the Father to the Son and from the Son to the Father, that the Holy Ghost—the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity—proceeds, thus completing the Divine Life in God. For this reason, Holy Mother Church especially attributes to Him all the works of grace and sanctification. The work of the Holy Ghost, in the Church as in individual souls, is to lead all efforts for holiness to their end and perfection. Each increase of grace is like a new taking possession of our souls by the Holy Ghost, a new embrace of love. As a Divine Guest full of love and kindness, He comes to dwell within us. He remains in our souls as in His temple, to help, strengthen, and sanctify us. If we let ourselves be guided by Him through the grace and the teaching of Christ’s Holy Church, which He vivifies, He will make Jesus reign in us, and form Jesus in us by the gentle action of His powerful grace, for Our Lord said, “He will glorify Me, because He shall receive of what is Mine, and shall declare it to you.” (John 16:14)

**T**he Novena for Pentecost is the first and most venerable of all novenas. It was instituted by Our Divine Lord Himself: “But wait here in the city, until you are clothed with power from on High.” (Luke 24:49) It was made, out of obedience, by Christ’s own dear Mother, the Immaculate Spouse of the Holy Ghost, whose ineffable beauty drew Him forth. Pope Leo XIII, of blessed memory, officially decreed an annual Novena before Pentecost in His encyclical on the Holy Ghost, *Divinum Illud*, of May 9, 1897. A partial indulgence under the usual conditions is granted to the faithful, who devoutly take part in the pious exercises of a public novena before the feast of Christmas or Pentecost or the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (Enchiridion indulgentiarum quarto editur, n.34)



## DAILY PRAYERS

### **Act of Oblation to the Holy Spirit**

ON MY KNEES before the great cloud of heavenly witnesses, I offer myself body and soul to Thee, eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Thy purity, the unerring keenness of Thy justice and the might of Thy love. Thou art the strength and light of my soul. In Thee I live and move and have my being. I desire never to grieve Thee by unfaithfulness to grace, and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against Thee. Make me faithful in every thought, and grant that I may always listen to Thy voice, watch for Thy light, and follow Thy gracious inspirations. I cling to Thee and give myself to Thee, and I ask Thee by Thy compassion to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced feet of Jesus, looking at His five Wounds, trusting in His Precious Blood and adoring His opened side and stricken Heart, I implore Thee, adorable Spirit, Helper of my infirmity, so to keep me in Thy grace that I may never sin against Thee with the sin which Thou wilt not forgive. Grant to me the grace, O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and of the Son, to say to Thee always and everywhere, "Speak, Lord, for Thy servant hears." Amen. (After a prayer by Cardinal Newman)

### **Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost**

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who before ascending into Heaven didst promise to send the Holy Ghost to finish Thy work in the souls of Thine Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me, that He may perfect in my soul the work of Thy grace and Thy 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 Thy 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 Thee 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 Thy true disciples, and animate me in all things with Thy Spirit. Amen.

## NOVENA PRAYERS

### FIRST DAY

O Holy Spirit! Lord of light!  
From Thy clear celestial height,  
Thy pure and beaming radiance give!

### **The Holy Ghost**

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 Ghost 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 Ghost, and hast given us forgiveness of all sins, vouchsafe to send forth

from Heaven upon us Thy 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.*

*Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts.*

### SECOND DAY

Come, Thou Father of the poor!  
Come, with treasures which endure!  
Come, Thou 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 my inmost heart, that I may set Thee, my Lord and God, before my face forever; help me to shun all things that can offend Thee, and make me worthy to appear before the pure eyes of Thy Divine Majesty in Heaven, where Thou livest and reignest in the unity of the ever Blessed Trinity, God, world without end. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be (7x)  
Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts.*

#### **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, 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 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, Glory be (7x)  
Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts.*

#### **FOURTH DAY**

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 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 that shall persevere unto the end, he shall be saved.”

#### **Prayer**

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 Thee, my God and greatest Good. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be (7x)  
Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts.*

#### **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. “Knowledge is a fountain of life to him that possesseth it.”

#### **Prayer**

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 Thy glory and my own salvation, looking ever beyond them to Thee, and Thy eternal rewards. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be (7x)  
Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts.*

#### **SIXTH DAY**

If Thou take Thy grace away,  
Nothing pure in man will stay;  
All his good is turned to ill.

#### **The Gift of Understanding**

Understanding, as a gift of the Holy Ghost, 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, Hail Mary, Glory be (7x)  
Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts.*

#### **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 Catholic 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 me in all my ways, that I may always do Thy 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 Thy Commandments to that goal of eternal life for which I long. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be (7x)  
Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts.*

#### **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 Saviour: “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 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 for ever. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be (7x)  
Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts.*

#### **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 Ghost**

The gifts of the Holy Ghost 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 Ghost, 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 Ghost. 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 my heart with Thy heavenly fruits, Thy 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 Thy inspiration may merit to be united eternally with Thee in the love of the Father and the Son. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be (7x)  
Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts.*