

NOVENA FOR PENTECOST 2021

What is a Novena? It is 9 days of prayer for a special intention. The first Novena was when Jesus told his disciples to pray for 9 days after his Ascension, in order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 1:14). On May 4, 1897, Pope Leo XIII proclaimed: "We decree and command that throughout the whole Catholic Church, this year and in every subsequent year, a novena shall take place before Pentecost Sunday, in all parish churches."

What do I do? We suggest you say the following Holy Spirit prayer each day; then meditate on the daily readings given below; then gently pray "Come Holy Spirit" for a few minutes, opening your heart to Jesus to receive His Spirit.

Holy Spirit Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of Your faithful, grant that by that same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day 1 (Friday 14th) Ezekiel 36:26-27. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my Spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. *Meditation: Lord, I give you my whole self, to be renewed completely.*

Day 2 (Saturday 15th) Romans 8: 15-16. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. But you received a spirit of adoption by which we cry, "Abba, Father!" *Meditation: Thank you Father God that, through Jesus, I am adopted into your family and can know your perfect love, which drives away fear.*

Day 3 (Sunday 16th) Galatians 5:22-23. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control: against such things there is no law. *Meditation: I receive willingly your Holy Spirit, and give Him permission to grow these fruit in my life.*

Day 4 (Monday 17th) Luke 11:13. If you then who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him? *Meditation: Father, let me not resist any good gift that you wish to give me through your Holy Spirit.*

Day 5 (Tuesday 18th) John 7: 37-38. On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, "Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: Rivers of living water will flow from within him." *Meditation: You, Jesus, are the living water that brings refreshment to me and, through me, to others.*

Day 6 (Wednesday 19th) Luke 1: 35,38: The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; hence the Holy Offspring to be born will be called Son of God. Mary said, "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." *Meditation: Lord, may your will be done in me; may your Holy Spirit bring Jesus to life in me.*

Day 7 (Thursday 20th) Acts 2:38: Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins: and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. *Meditation: Lord Jesus, I turn from my sins to your forgiving love: may the gift of the Holy Spirit which I received in baptism be released in its full power.*

Day 8 (Friday 21st) Romans 5:5. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. *Meditation: Holy Spirit, open my heart to receive and rejoice in my heavenly Father's amazing love.*

Day 9 (Saturday 22nd) 1 Corinthians 12:4,7. There are different gifts but the same Spirit...To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. *Meditation: Holy Spirit, I welcome every spiritual gift that you bring to life in me; show me how I can help others with the gifts you have given.*

Final prayers: O Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul, I adore You. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me. Tell me what I should do; give me Your orders. I promise to submit myself to all that You desire of me and to accept all that You permit to happen to me. Let me only know Your Will. *(Cardinal Mercier's prayer)*
Renew, Your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost. Grant to Your Church that, being of one mind and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of blessed Peter, it may advance the reign of our Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Amen. *(Invocation of the Holy Spirit by Pope John XXIII)*

Come, Holy Spirit! Renew the face of the earth: remove the pandemic, heal the sick, comfort the mourners, restore employment, drive away fear, reunite society, open the churches, establish your kingdom of justice, peace, and righteousness.