

NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR PENTECOST: MAY 19

Nine days passed between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost. The followers of Jesus chose these days of prayer to prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit. This Novena, or nine days of prayer, we also set aside to prepare for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that we hope to receive at Pentecost. Please take a few minutes each of these days to ask God's Spirit for the gifts we need.



Friday, May 10th: Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with the clear light of your wisdom. Help us to pray for what we need to follow Jesus faithfully. Help us to use the gift of wisdom to serve one another. Help us to see that wisdom is a gift to all those you have gathered, not just a few. Give us the wisdom to embrace the truth wherever we may find it. Amen.

Saturday, May 11th: Understanding

Come, Holy Spirit, make alive in us the gift of understanding. May we grasp how much you love us and all creation. Help us understand how we might better live our faith in our ordinary, everyday lives. Guide us as we struggle with difficult decisions. Amen

Sunday, May 12th: The Gift of Counsel

Come, Holy Spirit, nourish in our hearts the gift of counsel that we may know when to speak and when to be silent. By your gift of counsel, strengthen us in our ability to advise and guide one another as we respond to your guidance in our lives. Help us, as a community of faith, to counsel our society in ways of love, not condemnation. Amen

Monday, May 13th: The Gift of Fortitude

Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with your gift of courage. Help us see that life's sufferings and troubles do not last. By your gift of courage, may we face each day with the determination to act in all things with love and compassion. "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Amen.

Tuesday, May 14th: The Gift of Knowledge

Come, Holy Spirit, increase in us your gift of knowledge that we may know you more intimately. Help us to see more clearly what we are to believe. We live in such a complex time! Our knowledge is so limited, help us know how you would have us act so that our behavior may show forth your infinite love. Amen.

Wednesday, May 15th: Reverence

Come, Holy Spirit, renew in us your gift of reverence that we might treat one another with honor and respect. In our homes, with family members, at work, in our relationships, and even with people we do not know, help us show respect. Help us above all to have a faith that is deeply reverent. Amen.

Thursday, May 16th: Awe—Fear of the Lord

Come, Holy Spirit, increase in us your gift of awe and fear of the Lord. Help us see with the eyes of faith God's tremendous love for us. Through this gift, deepen the spirit of prayer in our lives, and help us to share more generously our time, talent and financial resources. Amen.

Friday, May 17th: Patience

Come, Holy Spirit, slow us down so that we may take time to be present to one another. Help us to realize we are not going to accomplish anything worth-while unless people come before any other priority in our life. Help us each day to realize we show our love for you by our concern for one another. Amen.

Saturday, May 18th: All Gifts for the Parish

Come, Holy Spirit, open our hearts to receive and use the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our St John the Baptist Parish community. May we support and encourage each other to be the living Body of Christ. Send your Holy Spirit upon each of us as we work together to give glory to God. Amen.