

Pentecost Novena 2024

Each day, as we gather before the Lord in His Presence in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, we recall the very first novena, when the Apostles and the Blessed Mother waited in the Upper Room. They were not waiting passively, but with anticipation that the Advocate would descend and give them power and gifts for mission and direct them in the way to follow the Risen Christ. Let us, too, wait with expectant hope for the gifts of this same Spirit, confident that as the Lord worked through His friends, He calls us friends and invites us into a life of transformation and power.

NOVENA PRAYER (to be prayed after each daily selection):

Oh, God, as we wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, just as the apostles and Mary did after the Ascension of the Risen Jesus, give us the gift of faith to anticipate the power You have promised. Help us to give you permission to transform us radically, as You make bread and wine into Your Body and Blood. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that we might experience new gifts and power this Pentecost.

Friday, May 10 *Praying with Expectation: Faithfulness*

Acts 1:3-5 "He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after He had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, He enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

As Jesus invites His friends to wait for baptism with the Holy Spirit, we respond to the same invitation. We gather, praying together, waiting on the fulfillment of the promise of the Father. Holy Spirit, we ask for the gift of **faithfulness**, that we would trust in Your Word and pray with confidence and expectation.

Saturday, May 11 *Praying as a Community: Self-Control*

Acts 1:6-9,13-14 "When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers."

Jesus proclaims before his Ascension that His friends "will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." We want to understand the Lord's entire plan, but sometimes we just have to take one virtuous step at a time, trusting that He will help us to be witnesses to the ends of the earth. Holy Spirit, we ask for the gift of **self-control**, that we would look to You with trusting obedience and devote ourselves with one accord to prayer.

Sunday, May 12 *Praying with Our Mother: Gentleness*

Luke 1:30-35,37-38 "Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her."

Those gathered in the upper room are comforted in Mary's gentle presence. She has already experienced this Presence of the Holy Spirit and is a witness of courage and holding unimaginable mysteries in her heart. She has accompanied Jesus from the Incarnation through His Passion and Death and is evidence of the power of the Holy Spirit giving supernatural trust and power through her fiat. Her motherly presence brings a calm and stability to those waiting during these days of prayer. Holy Spirit, we ask for the gift of **gentleness**, that we can respond, "May it be done to me according to Your Word."

Monday, May 13 *Praying with Confidence: Peace*

John 14:16-17, 26-27 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—He will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

As we gather together in prayer these days, we take comfort that Jesus continues to remind us to bring our anxieties to the Father. He wants to replace the fear and troubles in our hearts with His peace. Holy Spirit, we ask for the gift of **peace**, that we would acknowledge our fears and anxieties and give them to You, our helper and Advocate, allowing the Spirit of truth to fill our hearts.

Tuesday, May 14 *Praying as Children of God: Love*

Romans 8:14-17 "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him."

So often we fall back into fear because we are focused on our own strength and the struggles in this world. But by our baptism, we are truly children of God. Holy Spirit, we ask for the gift of **love**, that we would live as children of God, willing run to Him, crying "Abba, Father!"

Wednesday, May 15 *Praying with Awareness: Joy*

Acts 2:14, 25-28 "Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them ... For David says of him: 'I saw the Lord ever before me, with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted; my flesh, too, will dwell in hope, because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.'"

The joy of the Lord is my strength! (Neh 8:10) As we are surrounded by disturbing circumstances and the worries of life, we are reminded to dwell in hope, confident that the Lord does not abandon us. Holy Spirit, we ask for the gift of **joy**, that we would be aware of your presence in each moment so that our hearts might be glad and our tongues exult.

Thursday, May 16 *Praying with One Voice: Kindness*

Romans 15:5-7, 13 "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the holy Spirit."

Jesus gathered a group of friends to live and pray with Him as He fulfilled God's mission. We want our own community to be one voice, in harmony with one another, that glorifies the Father. Holy Spirit, we ask for the gift of **kindness**, that we might welcome one another as Christ welcomes us, that we may abound in hope by Your Divine Power.

Friday, May 17 *Praying with Expectation: Generosity*

Acts 2:17-19 "'It will come to pass in the last days,' God says, 'that I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. Indeed, upon my servants and my handmaids I will pour out a portion of my spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy. And I will work wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below.'"

Oh God, You have been so generous to us in pouring out a portion of Your Spirit. Thank You for the mighty signs and wonders which You have worked in heaven and on earth. Holy Spirit, we ask for the gift of **generosity**, that as your servants and handmaids, may we, too, be generous in serving the body of Christ.

Saturday, May 18 *Praying with a Desire to be Transformed with Power*

Acts 2:1-4 "When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim."

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, enkindle in us the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit, and we shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth! Lord, thank you for these days, as we have prayed to receive Your gifts of faithfulness, self-control, gentleness, peace, love, joy, kindness, and generosity. We beg for these graces, that we would be transformed by Your Presence and empowered to fulfill our mission to renew the face of the earth.