

Novena in Honor of God the Holy Spirit

Prayers and Daily Meditations from:

The Paraclete: A Manual of Instruction and Devotion

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First day of the novena

1. ***“Come, O Holy Spirit.”***

The term “Holy Spirit” expresses both the personality of the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, as well as His Divine Mission.

His Divine Personality.

The first person of the Blessed Trinity is called the Father, and the Second the Son, on account of the mutual relationship between them, the Son being begotten of the father from all eternity. The Third Divine Person, however, is simply called the Holy Ghost, the Holy Spirit. This does not, at first sight, appear to be a distinctive name, and yet it is so.

As a Second Person proceeds from the First by way of generation, that is, for the reason called the Son of the Eternal Father, so the Third Divine Person proceeds from the First and from the Second by way of spiration, or breathing, that is, therefore, rightly called the Breath, or Spirit, of the Father and of the Son.

Again, as the Son is the expression of the Eternal Mind of the Father, and is, for that reason, called the Eternal Word, the Eternal Wisdom, the Eternal Truth, so the Third Person is the expression of the Divine Will of the Father and of the Son, and is, therefore, called the Uncreated Love and Holiness of the Godhead.

Hence, the term, “Holy Spirit,” or the Divine Spirit of Love and Holiness, fully expresses His Divine Personality.

His Divine Mission.

As the Son proceeds from the Father, and has, by Him, been sent on earth to redeem mankind and merit for men Divine grace, so the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, has been sent on earth by the Father and the Son to sanctify men, by applying to their souls, the merits of their Divine Redeemer.

By His personal indwelling in the hearts of men, He clothes their souls with the garment of sanctifying grace, and, by His constant assistance, He gives them all the actual graces they need to work out their eternal salvation.

He is, therefore, rightly called the Holy Spirit; for he is the spirit, the Breath of God, quickening the souls of men into a new life, the life of justice and holiness. Hence, holy scripture, speaking of the creation of man, says; *“God breathed into his face, the breath of life, and the man became a living soul;”* and concerning the foundation of the Church, are the regeneration of man, it says; *“And there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty wind coming... and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost,”* God, the Father and the Son, so to speak, breathing down the Divine Spirit to take up His abode in the hearts of men and filling them with His Divine Love and Holiness.

Then go on your knees, and adore the Holy Ghost with all your heart and soul; for He is your God, consubstantial, co-eternal with the Father and the Son, to Whom the honor and glory for ever more.

Thank Him for all He is doing for you; for He is your Sanctifier. To Him you owe everything directly. Be guided by Him. Yield to His Divine operations. Make use of the graces and blessing He bestows upon you.

2. If the Holy Ghost be sent, why ask him to come?

If He has already take possession of your soul by His personal in dwelling why ask Him again and again; Come take possession of our souls!

The reason is this; God gave you freedom, and He so respects this gift that He does nothing in your regard against your own free will. True, He gave you existence, and, along with your existence, countless blessings of soul and body, without first consulting you.

But ever, since the moment that you were able to employ the gift of freedom, "He has left you in the hand of your own counsel," so that now He will not save you, unless you, of your own free will, desire it.

Therefore, although the HolyGhost has been sent to you, He will not come to abide with you, unless you are willing to receive Him, and to say to Him with all humility; Come, Holy Ghost! fill my soul with Thy Divine Presence. If you desire an increase a sanctifying grace, you must say; Come, Holy Ghost! Do Thou strengthen, within me, the life of grace. If you need the assistance of His actual grace, again, you must say; Come, Holy Ghost! Help me by the all powerful aid of Thy Divine Grace.

If you ever have the misfortune to drive Him away from your soul by grievous sin, then more than ever must you cry out to Him; Come, Holy Spirit! Fill my heart with sorrow, repentance, and restore unto me, the life of grace and the joy of Thy salvation.

Hence be ever constant in imploring the aid of the Holy Ghost. Make it a practice to call upon the Divine Spirit at once whenever you need a special assistance; Come, Holy Ghost! Assist me by Thy oly grace. Incline, unto mine aid, O God. Oh Lord, make haste to help me.

3. "And from heaven send forth of Thy light one ray."

When the Holy Ghost, bestows upon you, His grace, He first illumines your mind to show you what to do or what to avoid, and then moves and strengthens your will, so that, of your own free will, you may do what you know to be right.

The Holy Ghost may, under this aspect, be said to be to your soul with the sun is to the physical world. The sun primarily gives light, but along with the light, it also in parts warmth in heat, renders the earth fertile to yield fruit in due season, and fills all terrestrial beings with joy and gladness.

Thus, in like manner, when you are under the genial influence of God, the Holy Ghost, your mind is enlightened, your heart is set on fire with Divine charity, your soul is unable to bring forth fruits of virtue in good works, and your entire being is, in consequence, flooded with peace and joy in the Lord.

But again bear in mind, that Grace is not given to you unless you ask for it. Hence, once more you are taught to look up to the Holy Ghost, on His throne of Love above and to beseech Him to send into your poor ignorant and sinful soul, if but one single ray of His heavenly light.

For His Divine grace is like Himself, all powerful, so that one single ray suffices to light up the darkness of your mind, give life and activity to your will, and fill you with His heavenly comfort.

Then say to Him with all earnestness and humility; "Come, O Holy Spirit! Send down from heaven, but one ray of Thy Divine Light, that I may know what Thou wishes me to do, and be enable to do it. Amen.