

Novena to the Holy Spirit for Parish Renewal

Building an *Evangelized* and *Evangelizing* Community

A Novena consists of praying a prayer during a period of nine days for a specific intention. Praying this prayer to the Holy Spirit each day will allow you to deepen your relationship with Jesus as He is revealed to you by the Person of the Holy Spirit. Follow the steps that are listed below. Then ponder the short reading each day that accompanies this Novena to the Holy Spirit found here: diolc.org/deeper.



The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person. The dove is a Biblical symbol.

Begin your prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

The Sign of the Cross affirms our belief in the three Persons of the Triune God and that we are saved by Jesus' death on the cross.

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

(Pray together aloud when praying with others)

Holy Spirit, please give me the grace to quiet down inside so as to become aware of Your love for me. Holy Spirit, I want to spend this time with You. Help me to give You my full attention & to pray from my heart.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

O Holy Spirit, Beloved of my soul, I adore You.

Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen and console me. Tell me what I ought to do and command me to do it. I promise to submit to everything that You ask of me and to accept all that You allow to happen to me. Just show me what is Your will, O Holy Spirit.

- **EXPRESS** silently your sorrow for any sins you committed, remembering that all sin offends God.
- **PRAY** the *Prayer to the Holy Spirit* a second time, silently from the heart, more slowly the second time.
- **CHOOSE a word** or phrase from the Prayer that stood out for you. Silently think about it, speak with God about it, (and share it aloud with those with whom you are praying).
- **THANK** the Holy Spirit in your own words for a blessing received. (Share this aloud.)
- **ASK** the Lord for any request that is in your heart. (Share this aloud.)

Close this time of prayer with the Sign of the Cross

Dear Friend in Christ,

Thank you for your commitment to daily prayer. The grace that you are praying for in the first part, that of asking the Holy Spirit for the grace of a deeper experience of His personal love for you, is essential to developing a true relationship with Him. As you experience this love in any way, write it down. Thank the Holy Spirit for this blessing in your life.

Why pray a Novena for Parish Renewal? We are always in need of renewal: both individual renewal and that of the parish community. Does the parish have a situation or a problem or an issue with which you need help and guidance? As you pray this prayer, give the situation to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to show you the way to the best resolution or answer. Be listening and on the “lookout” for ways in which the Holy Spirit will answer this Novena for the best way forward for the parish community.

When to pray... With most things in life, when we schedule something, it takes place. When we don't, it usually does not happen. Choose a specific time to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your desire to pray, leading to a stronger commitment: in the morning, after dinner, in the evening. As we speak with the Holy Spirit each day in prayer, we will come to recognize more and more how much He loves us and find **peace** and **calm** in the midst of life's difficulties.

It is common to experience **distractions** during prayer. It is important not to follow the distraction, but as you notice it, simply turn back to the prayer at hand. If the same distraction keeps returning, it could be something you will want to talk about with the Holy Spirit.

Where to pray... Set up a sacred space in the home, keeping it simple. It is helpful to have a picture or statue of Jesus to help stay focused on Him during prayer time. The following may be included in the Sacred Space: a Bible, a Crucifix, a statue of Mary

Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity. He is the love between the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to live in our hearts and bring us closer to Him. It is His power in us that enables us to recognize the voice of Jesus and follow His guidance. As you pray this prayer daily you will grow in an awareness and learn to listen to the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit and practice following His guidance while allowing His Gifts to be operative in your life.

When we pray for something, we can trust that God will answer every prayer in a way that is best for us. Remember, sometimes the answer will be “yes,” sometimes the answer will be “no,” and sometimes the answer will be “not now, but later” as God's timing is perfect.

The first letter of the five bulleted, bolded words on page 1 under the words of the *Prayer to the Holy Spirit* (**E**xpress, **P**ray, **C**hoose, **T**hank, **A**sk) are EPCTA, which stands for “Every Prayer Counts To Almighty God.” This mnemonic device (EPCTA) helps for remembering the steps.

For the Readings that accompany this Novena Prayer Card, go to: diolc.org/deeper
For children's prayer cards, grades pre-school through 12th grade, go to diolc.org/prayer