

# A Novena to the Holy Spirit to Prepare for Confirmation

The idea of a novena – nine days of prayer – began with the time period between Jesus’s Ascension and Pentecost. In that time, the disciples were hiding, out of fear, trying to figure out what to do next, but they also gathered in prayer. The coming of the Holy Spirit, and the Lord promised, answered their prayers on the tenth day. Filled with power of the Spirit and given its gifts, they began to witness to the Lord’s death and resurrection both near and far.

***Begin this novena 10 days before Confirmation Day...***

***Begin each day by reciting the following prayer...***

Holy Spirit, Divine Counselor! I adore you as my True God. I give you praise with the angels and saints. I offer you my whole heart and give you thanks for all you have given me. You shower your gifts on all the faithful. I ask you to visit me with your grace and your love as I prepare to be sealed with your power at Confirmation. Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle them with the fire of you love.

***Continue with the prayer for the appropriate day.***

## **Day 1**

Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Give us wisdom that Your will may be clear to us and that we may accept it. Grant us the gift of counsel that we may always perceive what is right. Strengthen us that we may always be capable of fulfilling Your will. May You reconcile all divisions in the friendships, families, nations, and in Your Church. May the gift of knowledge help us work for reconciliation and peace.

**Practice:** Seek forgiveness when necessary. Pray for peace in a particular part of the world.

## **Day 2**

O Holy Spirit, make me faithful in every thought, and grant that I may always listen to Your voice, and watch for Your light, and follow Your gracious inspirations. Come, Holy Spirit, shine on us with the radiance of Your love. May You help us to rejoice in the countless blessings that God has given us and teach us to do God’s will. May Your wisdom guide us and all God’s people.

**Practice:** Spend extra time in silent prayer to talk and listen to the Spirit in your heart.

### **Day 3**

You have called me to be a member of the Church, the Body of Christ, and to be a temple of the Holy Spirit. I ask You to give me these gifts: wisdom to seek You, understanding and knowledge of You, counsel to recognize You, the strength and the faith to hold fast to You, and the awe that I may honor You. Make me a true disciple of Christ. Who was anointed by the Spirit to bring us Good News. May I act with justice, see Christ in the face of the poor, and pray for those who mourn.

**Practice:** Earn or set aside money for a charitable cause.

### **Day 4**

Loving God, by the light of the Holy Spirit, You instructed the hearts of the faithful. Give us, by the light of the same Spirit, a love for what is right and just. May the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with love for You and respect for all of Your creation. Give us the gift of reverence for You and for all You have made.

**Practice:** Use everything with care and gratitude today.

### **Day 5**

Come, O Spirit of holiness from the glory of heaven and send forth the radiance of Your light. Father of all the poor, light and peace of our hearts, come with Your countless gifts. May Your gift of understanding enlighten us to grasp better Christ's love for us and show us how to love others as He loves us. May we show our love by serving our brothers and sisters.

**Practice:** Do something nice for someone today, and do not let the person know you did it. (Think of random acts of kindness)

### **Day 6**

Gracious God, I ask You to send the Holy Spirit, as You have promised. May Your Spirit remind me when I forget You and the path You set before me. May the Spirit help me to remember Your goodness, Your wisdom, and Your unfailing mercy. Give me a new heart and place Your Spirit with me.

**Practice:** Do not complain but speak positively.

### **Day 7**

Come Holy Spirit, creator of all things. Come visit our hearts with Your power. Fill the hearts You created with Your grace. You are the source of life, light, and love, and all that is good. Join us all together as Your sons and daughters.

**Practice:** Be kind to someone with whom you have had a disagreement.

## **Day 8**

O Holy Spirit, life and light of the Church, give us thoughts higher than our own thoughts, and prayers better than our own prayers, and powers beyond our own powers, that we may love and live, imitating Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. May the gifts of wonder and awe enable us to reject sin and may the Spirit of the Lord live in us as His temple.

**Practice:** Keep God in mind as you make decisions throughout the day.

## **Day 9**

Holy Spirit, grant me sight to see the wondrous promise of Your love, insight to see my own weaknesses, and the grace to help for Your help and mercy. As I come to my own Confirmation, may I be filled with zeal to proclaim the Gospel in joy and strength.

**Practice:** Look on others in your life as gifts and graces of the God who loves you.