

Novena to The Holy Ghost

(Start **FRIDAY** after THE ASCENSION to WHITSUNDAY EVE)



THE BLESSED TRINITY



THE HOLY GHOST and HIS SEVEN GIFTS

Foreword

The novena to the Holy Ghost is the **oldest of all novenas** since it was first made at the direction of Our Lord when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Ghost on the First Pentecost. It is still the **only novena officially prescribed by the Church**. Addressed to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, Who proceedeth from the mutual love of the Father and The Son, it is a powerful plea for the light, strength and love so sorely needed by **every Christian**.

FIRST DAY

Holy Spirit! Lord of Light!
From Thy clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give!

THE HOLY GHOST

Only one thing is important – **eternal salvation**. Only one thing, therefore, is to be feared – **sin**. **Sin** is the result of **ignorance, weakness, and indifference**. The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of Light, of Strength, and of Love. With His sevenfold gifts He **enlightens** the mind, **strengthens** the will, and **inflames** the heart with love of God. To ensure our salvation **we ought to invoke** the Divine Spirit daily, for "The Spirit helpeth our infirmity. We know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit Himself **asketh for us.**" (Romans 8:26)

Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, Who has vouchsafed to regenerate us by water and the Holy Ghost, and hast gi-

ven us forgiveness of all sins, vouchsafe to send forth from heaven upon us Thy sevenfold Spirit, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Fortitude, the Spirit of Knowledge and Piety, and fill us with the Spirit of Holy Fear. Amen.

Pater... Ave... Gloria... (7X), Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts

An Act of Oblation to The Holy Ghost

ON MY KNEES before the great cloud of heavenly witnesses, I offer myself body and soul to Thee, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Thy purity, the unerring keenness of Thy justice and the might of Thy love. Thou art the strength and light of my soul. In Thee I live and move and have my being. I desire never to grieve Thee by unfaithfulness to grace, and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against Thee. Make me faithful in every thought, and grant that I may always listen to Thy voice, watch for Thy light, and follow Thy gracious inspirations. I cling to Thee and give myself to Thee, and I ask Thee by Thy compassion to watch over me in my weaknesses. Holding the Pierced Feet of Jesus, looking at His Five Wounds, trusting in His Precious Blood and adoring His opened side and stricken Heart, I implore Thee, Adorable Spirit, Helper of my infirmity, so to keep me in Thy grace that I may never sin against Thee with the sin which Thou wilt not forgive. Grant to me the grace, O Holy Ghost, Spirit of The Father and of The Son, to say to Thee always and everywhere, "Speak, Lord, for Thy servant hears." Amen.

Prayer For The Seven Gifts of The Holy Ghost

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who, before ascending into heaven, didst promise to send the Holy Ghost to finish Thy work in the souls of Thy Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to us that He will perfect in us the work of Thy grace and Thy love. Grant us, O Lord:

The **Spirit of Fear of God** that we may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him.

The **Spirit of Piety** that we may find the service of God sweet and amiable;

The **Spirit of Fortitude** that we may bear our crosses with Thee and that we may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose our salvation;

The **Spirit of Knowledge** that we may know God and know ourselves and grow perfect in the Science of the Saints;

The **Spirit of Understanding** to enlighten our minds with the light of Thy divine truth;

The **Spirit of Counsel** that we may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven;

The **Spirit of Wisdom** that we may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal;

MARK US, dear Lord, with the sign of Thy true disciples and animate us in all things with Thy Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SECOND DAY

Come, Thou Father of the poor!
Come, with treasures which endure!
Come, Thou Light of all that live!

THE GIFT of FEAR OF GOD

The **Gift of Fear of God** fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread nothing so much as to offend Him by sin. It is a fear that arises, not from the thought of hell, but from **sentiments of reverence and filial submission** to our Heavenly Father. It is the fear that is **the beginning of wisdom**, detaching us from the worldly pleasures that could in any way separate us from God. **"They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and in His sight will sanctify their souls."** (Ecclesiasticus 2:20)

Prayer

Come, O blessed Spirit of Holy Fear, penetrate our inmost hearts, that we may set Thee, our Lord and God, before our faces forever, help us to shun all things that can offend Thee, and make us worthy to appear before the pure eyes of Thy Divine Majesty in Heaven, where Thou livest and reignest in the unity of the ever Blessed Trinity, God, world without end. Amen.

Pater... Ave... Gloria... (7X), Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts

THIRD DAY

Thou, of all consolers best,
Visiting the troubled breast,
Dost refreshing peace bestow.

THE GIFT of PIETY

The **Gift of Piety** begets in our hearts a filial affection for God as our most loving Father. It inspires us to love and respect for His sake, persons and things consecrated to Him, as well as those who are vested with His authority, His Blessed Mother and the Saints, the Church and its visible Head, our parents and superiors, our nation and its rulers. He who is filled with the gift of Piety finds the practice of his religion, not a burdensome duty, but a delightful service. Where there is love, there is no labor.

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Piety, possess our hearts. Enkindle therein such love for God, that we may find joyful satisfaction only in His service, and for His sake lovingly submit to all legitimate authority. Amen.

Pater... Ave... Gloria... (7X), Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts

FOURTH DAY

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
Pleasant coolness in the heart;
Solace in the midst of woe.

THE GIFT of FORTITUDE

By the **Gift of Fortitude** the soul is strengthened against natural fear, and supported to the end in the performance of duty. Fortitude imparts to the will an impulse and energy which move it to undertake without hesitancy the most arduous tasks, to face dangers, to trample under foot human respect, and to endure without complaint the slow martyrdom of even lifelong tribulations. "He that shall persevere unto the end, he shall be saved." (Matthew 10:22)

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Fortitude uphold our souls in time of troubles and adversity, sustain our efforts after holiness, strengthen our weakness, give us courage against all the assaults of our enemies, that we may never be overcome and separated from Thee, our God and greatest Good. Amen.

Pater... Ave... Gloria... (7X), Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts

FIFTH DAY

Light immortal! Light Divine!
Visit Thou these hearts of Thine,
And our inmost being fill!

THE GIFT of KNOWLEDGE

The **Gift of Knowledge** enables the soul to evaluate created things at their true worth – in their relation to God. Knowledge unmasks the pretense of creatures, reveals their emptiness, and points out their only

true purpose as instruments in the service of God. It shows us the loving care of God even in adversity, and directs us to glorify Him in every circumstance of life. Guided by its light, we put first things first, and prize the friendship of God beyond all else. "Knowledge is a fountain of life to him that possesseth it." (Proverbs 16:22)

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Knowledge, and grant that we may perceive the will of the Father; show us the nothingness of earthly things, that we may realize their vanity and use them only for Thy glory and our own salvation, looking ever beyond them to Thee, and Thy eternal rewards. Amen.

Pater... Ave... Gloria... (7X), Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts

SIXTH DAY

If Thou take Thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.

THE GIFT of UNDERSTANDING

Understanding, as a Gift of the Holy Ghost, helps us to grasp the meaning of the truths of our holy religion. By faith we know them, but by Understanding we learn to appreciate and relish them. It enables us to penetrate the inner meaning of revealed truths and through them to be quickened to newness of life. Our faith ceases to be sterile and inactive, but inspires a mode of life that bears eloquent testimony to the faith that is in us; we begin to "walk worthy of God in all things pleasing, and increasing in the knowledge of God." (Colossians 1:10)

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Understanding, and enlighten our minds, that we may know and believe all the mysteries of salvation; and may merit at last to see the eternal light of Thy Light; and in the light of glory to have a clear vision of Thee and the Father and the Son. Amen.

Pater... Ave... Gloria... (7X), Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts

SEVENTH DAY

Heal our wounds – our strength renew;
On our dryness pour Thy dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away!

THE GIFT of COUNSEL

The **Gift of Counsel** endows the soul with supernatural prudence, enabling it to judge promptly and rightly all that must be done, especially in difficult circumstances. Counsel applies the principles furnished by **Knowledge** and **Understanding** to the innumerable concrete cases that confront us in the course of our daily duty as parents, teachers, public servants, and Christian citizens. Counsel is **supernatural common sense**, a priceless treasure in the quest of salvation. "Above all things, pray to the Most High, that He may direct thy way in truth." (Ecclesiasticus 37:19)

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide us in all our ways, that we may always do Thy holy will. Incline our hearts to that which is good; turn it away from all that is evil, and direct us by the straight path of Thy commandments to that goal of eternal life for which we long. Amen.

Pater... Ave... Gloria... (7X), Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts

EIGHTH DAY

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray!

THE GIFT of WISDOM

Embodying all the other gifts, as charity embraces all the other virtues, **Wisdom** is the most perfect of all the gifts. Of Wisdom it is written "all good things come to me with her, and innumerable riches through her hands." It is the gift of Wisdom that strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity, and promotes the practice of virtue in the highest degree. Wisdom enlightens the mind to discern and relish things divine, in the appreciation of which earthly joys lose their savor, whilst the Cross of Christ yields a divine sweetness according to the words of the Savior: "Take up thy cross and follow Me, for My yoke is sweet and My burden light." (Matthew 16:24, 11:30)

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to our souls the mysteries of heavenly things, their exceeding greatness, power and beauty. Teach us to love them above and beyond all the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Help us to attain them and possess them forever. Amen.

Pater... Ave... Gloria... (7X), Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts

NINTH DAY

Thou, on those who evermore
Thee confess and Thee adore
In Thy sevenfold gifts, descend:
Give them comfort when they die;
Give the life with Thee on high;
Give them joys which never end. Amen.

THE FRUIT of the HOLY GHOST

The gifts of the Holy Ghost perfect the supernatural virtues by enabling us to practice them with greater docility to divine inspiration. As we grow in the knowledge and love of God under the direction of the Holy Ghost, our service becomes more sincere and generous; the practice of virtue becomes more perfect. Such acts of virtue leave the heart filled with joy and consolation and is known as the **Fruit of the Holy Ghost**, the original Greek term translated as "fruit" is singular, signifying that there is one Fruit with twelve attributes. This Fruit in turn render the practice of virtue more attractive and become a powerful incentive for still greater efforts in the service of God, to serve Whom is to reign.

Prayer

Come, O Divine Spirit, fill our hearts with Thy Heavenly Fruit, Thy **Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Benignity, Faith, Goodness, Longanimity, Mildness, Modesty, Contineny, Chastity**, that we may never weary on the service of God, but by continued faithful submission to Thy inspiration may merit to be united eternally with Thee in the love of the Father and the Son. Amen.

Pater... Ave... Gloria... (7X), Act of Oblation, Prayer for the Seven Gifts