

PRAYERS IN THE PEW™ MONTHLY

FAITH IN ACTION CALENDAR / HIGHLIGHTS

MONDAY MAY 1	St. Joseph the Worker
SATURDAY MAY 13	Our Lady of Fatima
SUNDAY MAY 28	PENTECOST SUNDAY

Faith Formation Companion to Prayers in the Pew™

→ MONTHLY SYNOPSIS ←

May 2023 – May begins with St. Joseph the Worker (especially fitting in this Year of Joseph) and ends with the Visitation of Our Lady to St. Elizabeth (May 31). It is a month full of blessings which will bring us through the great post - Easter feasts as well as the feasts of numerous wonderful saints. Let us open our hearts to receive so many blessings!

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus told His disciples that whoever prays for the gift of the Holy Spirit will always receive what he asks for: "If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the holy Spirit to those who ask him?" (Luke 11:13).

Since the Day of Pentecost, the Church has been devoted to praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit, not only into our hearts and minds, but also into the Church and the world. We call to Him with fervor – "Come, Holy Spirit!" – as if we cannot wait for God to rescue us from the problems of this world. The marvelous Prayer to the Holy Spirit is one of the most heartfelt prayers of the faithful because it is a prayer for God to transform us and the world.

This prayer may already be familiar to you. Here it is in all its simplicity and beauty:

THE PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, O Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who has taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Church's guiding and protecting force until the end of time. The Holy Spirit Prayer recognizes the roles that the Holy Spirit plays in the life of believers: He "fills [our] hearts", he "enkindles" our love, he "enlightens" our minds, He "instructs," "creates," and "renews" us, and He is the source of all spiritual gifts.

There is no better prayer to pray on a daily basis than the Prayer to the Holy Spirit. This marvelous prayer is easy to memorize, and when you do, make a habit of saying it every day so that the Holy Spirit will be your constant companion in all the trials and joys of life.

BIBLE BASICS



John 20: 21-23 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Psalms 139:7 Where can I go from your spirit? From your presence, where can I flee?

Romans 8:11 If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you.

SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

This month I challenge you to deepen your relationship with the Holy Spirit by praying the words "Come, Holy Spirit" as you begin your daily time of prayer, your workday, or an activity at home. Secondly I challenge you to invite a friend or family member (who is not active in their faith) to join you at Mass or at Adoration.

- CA State Chaplain, Father John P. Grace, OSA



The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Our Lady and the Apostles prayed for nine days before Pentecost that the “promise of the Father” (Acts 1:4) would come upon them and fill them with divine life. We too await for the Holy Spirit prior to Pentecost and ask for His seven-fold gift from on high.

Our belief in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit is based primarily upon one passage of the Old Testament, Isaiah 11:2, which lists six spiritual gifts. To this list the Church adds “piety”, which is the virtue of devotion.

God’s gift of the Holy Spirit is, therefore, seven gifts in one: the Church usually calls Him the “seven-fold gift” or enumerates them as the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

1. Wisdom
2. Understanding
3. Knowledge
4. Counsel
5. Piety
6. Fear of the Lord, and
7. Fortitude

Let us resolve to pray for these gifts from on high every day!

— FAITH IN ACTION —

— FEATURED PROGRAM —

FAMILY FULLY ALIVE

To cultivate life as a domestic church, a family must deliberately welcome God into its home. This program has been created to help each family do this. The Family Fully Alive program provides monthly themes, reflections, meditations, family projects and Scripture verses designed to help each family place God and the Catholic faith at the center of its life.

Through prayer and reflection each family can grow in holiness together. Those who wish to implement this program in their own family can see the Knights of Columbus website (www.kofc.org) or contact your local K of C representative for the program booklet.



Knights of Columbus®

CALENDAR OF FAITH | MAY

MAY 1 <i>Mon</i>	St. Joseph the Worker
MAY 2 <i>Tue</i>	St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
MAY 3 <i>Wed</i>	Sts. Philip and James, Apostles
MAY 10 <i>Wed</i>	St. Damien de Veuster, Priest
MAY 12 <i>Fri</i>	Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs
MAY 13 <i>Sat</i>	Our Lady of Fatima
MAY 14 <i>Sun</i>	St. Matthias, Apostle
MAY 15 <i>Mon</i>	St. Isidore the Farmer
MAY 18 <i>Thu</i>	St. John I, Pope and Martyr
MAY 20 <i>Sat</i>	St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
MAY 21 <i>Sun</i>	ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
MAY 22 <i>Mon</i>	St. Rita of Cascia
MAY 25 <i>Thu</i>	St. Gregory VII, Pope; Venerable Bede, Priest and Doctor
MAY 26 <i>Fri</i>	St. Phillip Neri, Priest
MAY 27 <i>Sat</i>	St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
MAY 28 <i>Sun</i>	PENTECOST SUNDAY
MAY 29 <i>Mon</i>	St. Paul VI, Pope

— THE SCHOOL OF SAINTS —



"Keep to the ancient way and custom of the Church, established and confirmed by so many Saints under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. And live a new life. Pray, and get others to pray, that God not abandon His Church, but reform it as He pleases, and as He sees best for us, and more to His honor and glory." ~ *St. Angela Merici*

"Virtues are formed by prayer. Prayer preserves temperance. Prayer suppresses anger. Prayer prevents emotions of pride and envy. Prayer draws into the soul the Holy Spirit, and raises man to Heaven." ~ *St. Ephrem the Syrian*

— CATECHISM CONNECTION —



852 The Holy Spirit is the principal agent of the whole of the Church's mission...This mission continues and, in the course of history, unfolds the mission of Christ, who was sent to evangelize the poor; so the Church, urged on by the Spirit of Christ, must walk the road Christ himself walked, a way of poverty and obedience, of service and self-sacrifice even to death, a death from which he emerged victorious by his resurrection.

831 The moral life of Christians is sustained by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are permanent dispositions which make man docile in following the promptings of the Holy Spirit.