

COME HOLY SPIRIT



PREPARE

Chapter Focus: The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity and is often represented through various symbols.

Scripture: “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Opening Prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle 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.

Let us pray.

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

(Written by Saint Augustine)



PROCLAIM

Proclamation: The Holy Spirit is active in our daily lives, prompting us to do good and strengthening us to remain in his grace.



EXPLORE

Come Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity and present throughout the Old and New Testaments. He is active at the moment of creation for “the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2) and throughout the Old Testament. The Holy Spirit frequently guided and strengthened the prophets and servants of God such as Joshua and Samson (see Numbers 27:18 and Judges 13:25). He is particularly present in the New Testament descending as a dove upon Jesus when



he was baptized in the River Jordan and when he appeared as tongues of fire upon the Apostles at Pentecost (see Matthew 3:16 and Acts 2:3–4).

Throughout Scripture, the Holy Spirit often manifests himself in different ways—sometimes as wind, fire, or a dove. Likewise, water and oil are often used as symbols for the Holy Spirit. Each of these symbols reveals something about the Holy Spirit and how he works in our lives.

Symbol	Meaning
	Just as the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus at the Baptism in the Jordan, so too, the Holy Spirit comes down upon us through the Sacrament of Baptism and remains with us.
	Just as wind moves us without being seen, so too the Holy Spirit is unseen and inspires us.
	Just as fire burns and purifies, the Holy Spirit purifies us and enlivens us with God's love.
	Just as water washes away dirt and filth, in the Sacrament of Baptism, the Holy Spirit sanctifies us.
	Just as oil was used to anoint kings, the Holy Spirit anoints us as sons and daughters of God—priests, prophets, and kings

Throughout Scripture and the history of the Church, the Holy Spirit is also given different names that reveal who he is to us.

Name	Meaning
The Consoler	The Holy Spirit consoles and strengthens us when we are sad or suffering.
The Spirit of Truth	The Holy Spirit leads us to the truth that is God Himself.
The Counselor	The Holy Spirit guides us to do what is right.
Paraclete	“Paraclete” means “called to one’s side,” so the Holy Spirit is the one who helps us along the path of salvation.

These names reveal how the Holy Spirit is still very active today in the Church and in each one of us. At your Baptism, you became a temple of the Holy Spirit, which means that the Holy Spirit dwells in you. If we are open to his movements and guidance, he can console, lead, guide, and help us.

But what does it mean to be “open to” the Holy Spirit? First, it means that we want to receive the guidance and aid of the Holy Spirit. In many ways the Holy Spirit is like a friend, teacher, or advocate. If we want to receive the consolation, guidance, and help of the Holy Spirit, we must be willing to receive it.



Second, we must listen to the Holy Spirit. We will find it difficult to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit if we are always distracted by the things of the world and make little or no time for prayer. Also, if we are trapped in a cycle of sin, we will find it challenging to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, to be open to the Holy Spirit we should receive the sacraments often, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and make time for silent prayer.

Taking time to pray is especially important as you prepare for your Confirmation. Ask the Holy Spirit to comfort, guide, and help you to lead a truly virtuous and grace-filled life. Spend time in silent prayer listening for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit—it may not be an audible voice, but he will still direct your thoughts and actions if you continue to pray and receive the sacraments.



EXPLORE



Live your Faith:

Every day, pray the Come Holy Spirit prayer provided at the beginning and end of this chapter ask. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you prepare for your Confirmation. If possible, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation so that you are forgiven of your sins and more open to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

**We Pray:**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle 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.

Let us pray.

O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful
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grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise
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