



# ST. MARY

## Catholic Community

# Novena

## to the Holy Spirit

I ask you to join me in prayer over these nine days as we petition the Holy Spirit to be our Advocate and Guide as we prepare for our Parish Family Synodal Experience in the Spirit of Pope Francis. Just as the disciples gathered in the Upper Room, with Mary, the Mother of the Church, in their midst, and waited for the coming in power of the Holy Spirit, so, we do the same, trusting that the same Spirit's coming among us will bring about a powerful renewal in our parish family, all for the Greater Glory of God. -Fr. Bill+

**FRIDAY, MAY 27**

*The First Day of our Novena to the Holy Spirit*

-from Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit,  
*The First Pentecost*

*That was the day when Fire came down from heaven, inaugurating the first spring of love.*

-from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans  
*Let love be sincere...Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in faith. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality... Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*

-in Preparation for our Synodal Experience in the Spirit of Pope Francis  
God does not speak from a megaphone on high. Rather, God sows seeds in our hearts that are watered as we gather together as a Church. By walking together, we are able to go out into the world to bear fruit in society, in our families, in the workplace, and across humanity. So don't miss the opportunity to let your voice be heard, as we journey towards the Church that God wants us to be for tomorrow and today. Everyone has a part to play. In this way, the Church is like a puzzle - each piece is necessary, otherwise, something is missing.

Let us pray...Holy Spirit of Jesus, give to us a heart that listens, learns, and loves. Help us to treasure every person and reverence their experiences of Church. Make us truly a universal and inclusive community of faith.

**SATURDAY, MAY 28**

*The Second Day of our Novena to the Holy Spirit*

-from Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit,  
*The Wind of Pentecost*

*Zephyr and gentle breeze they say You and so You are in Your domain, But if it please You, God, I pray You possess me as a hurricane.*

-from the Gospel of John  
*On the day before he was to suffer, on the night of the Last Supper, Jesus said to his disciples, "The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but I will tell you clearly about the Father. On that day you will ask in my name..."*

-in Preparation for our Synodal Experience in the Spirit of Pope Francis  
Here, we will indicate the main objectives, which manifest synodality as the form, the style, and the structure of the Church: recalling how the Spirit has guided the Church's journey through history, and, today, calls us to be, together, witnesses of God's love; living a participative and inclusive ecclesial process that offers everyone - especially those who for various reasons find themselves on the margins, the opportunity to express themselves and to be heard in order to contribute to the edification of the People of God; recognizing and appreciating the wealth and the variety of the gifts and charisms that the Spirit liberally bestows for the good of the community and the benefit of the entire human family.

Let us pray...Holy Spirit of Jesus, give to us a heart that listens, learns, and loves. Help us to leave the comfort of our established community and to go out to encounter those whose lives are different from ours. Give us a heart to be instruments of your healing and hope.



## SUNDAY, MAY 29

### The Third Day of our Novena to the Holy Spirit

-from Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit,  
*This is a Beautiful Time*

*This is a beautiful time, this last age, the age of the Holy Spirit. This is the long-awaited day of His (Her) reign in our souls through grace. He (She) is crying to every soul that is walled: Open to Me, My spouse, My sister.*

-from the Acts of the Apostles

*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the world.*

-in Preparation for our Synodal Experience  
in the Spirit of Pope Francis

These are objectives of great importance for the quality of ecclesial life and for accomplishing the mission of evangelization: exploring participatory ways of exercising responsibility in the proclamation of the Gospel and in the effort to build a more beautiful and habitable world; examining how responsibility and power are lived in the Church as well as the structures by which they are managed, bringing to light and trying to convert prejudices and distorted practices that are not rooted in the Gospel; accrediting the Christian community as a credible subject and reliable partner in paths of social dialogue, healing, reconciliation, inclusion and participation, the reconstruction of democracy, the promotion of fraternity and social friendship.

Let us pray...Holy Spirit of Jesus, give to us a heart that listens, learns, and loves. Break us wide open to include our sisters and brothers who always feel less than welcome and accepted in our Church. May our listening and learning lead towards our loving of all people.

## MONDAY, MAY 30

### The Fourth Day of our Novena to the Holy Spirit

-from Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit,  
*This is a Beautiful Time*

*O hear Him (Her) within you speaking this infinite love,  
moving like some divine and audible leaven,  
lifting the sky of the soul with expansions of light,  
shaping new heights and new depths...*

-from the Gospel of John

*On the day before He was to suffer, on the night of the Last Supper, Jesus said to his disciples, "Behold, the hour is coming and has arrived when each of you will be scattered to your own home and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."*

-in Preparation for our Synodal Experience  
in the Spirit of Pope Francis

These are objectives of great importance for the quality of ecclesial life and for accomplishing the mission of evangelization: regenerating relationships among members of Christian communities as well as between communities and other social groups, e.g., communities of believers of other denominations and religions, civil society organizations, popular movements, etc.; fostering the appreciation and appropriation of the fruits of recent synodal experiences on the universal, regional, national, and local levels.

Let us pray...Holy Spirit of Jesus, give to us a heart that listens, learns, and loves. Help us to celebrate beauty, goodness, and truth wherever we discover them. May we treasure our unity which is deepened by our diversity.



**TUESDAY, May 31**

**The Fifth Day of our Novena to the Holy Spirit**

-from Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit,  
*O Spirita Sancta*  
And yet He (She) has been waiting,  
the weary ages through,  
until the hush of heaven  
has entered you.

-from Acts of the Apostles  
Compelled by the Spirit, I (Paul) am going to  
Jerusalem. What will happen to me there I do  
not know...if only I may finish my course and  
the ministry that I received from the Lord  
Jesus, to bear witness to the Gospel of God's  
grace.

-in Preparation for our Synodal Experience  
in the Spirit of Pope Francis  
We are continually challenged as the People  
of God to take on the pain of our brothers  
and sisters wounded in the flesh and in their  
spirit. For too long the cry of the victims [of  
clergy sexual abuse] has been a cry that the  
Church has not been able to hear sufficiently.  
These are deep wounds that are difficult to  
heal, for which forgiveness can never be  
asked for enough and which constitute  
obstacles, sometimes imposing ones, to  
advancing in the direction of journeying  
together. The whole Church is called to deal  
with the weight of a culture imbued with  
clericalism...

Let us pray...Holy Spirit of Jesus, give to us a  
heart that listens, learns, and loves. May we  
always reverence the stories of our sisters and  
brothers who are hurting. May we always  
extend genuine sorrow for the crime of clergy  
abuse and a promise to protect the beautiful  
innocence of our children and vulnerable  
adults.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1**

**The Sixth Day of our Novena to the Holy Spirit**

-from Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit,  
*Lo Spirito Santo*  
So beauty's bird, wind-wisdom seeking,  
and sorrow's flood, and love's flame stirred,  
are one voice speaking a word called God.

-from the Gospel of John  
On the day before he was to suffer, on the night  
of the Last Supper, Jesus prayed to His Father,  
"Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth.  
As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into  
the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so  
they also may be consecrated to truth."

-in Preparation for our Synodal Experience  
in the Spirit of Pope Francis  
It is a reason for great hope that more than a  
few Churches have already begun more or less  
structured meetings, and consultation processes  
with the People of God. Where they have been  
marked by a synodal style, the sense of Church  
has flourished and the participation of all has  
given new impetus to ecclesial life. The desire of  
young people to be protagonists within the  
Church and the request for a greater  
appreciation of women and space for  
participation in the mission of the Church,  
already signaled by the Synodal Assemblies of  
2018 and 2019, are also confirmed...to journey  
together, we need to let ourselves be educated  
by the Spirit to a truly synodal mentality,  
entering with courage and freedom of heart into  
a conversion process...

Let us pray...Holy Spirit of Jesus, give to us a  
heart that listens, learns, and loves. May we  
treasure our young people and our women who  
are integral members of our Church family. May  
their wise gifts for leadership be truly welcomed.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 2**

**The Seventh Day of our Novena to the Holy Spirit**

-from Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit,  
*Ruaj-Elohim*  
Spirit in Hebrew, feminine in gender  
lifts my surmise to touch sweet certainty  
that with a goodness like maternity  
The Holy Ghost is tender.

-from the Gospel of John  
On the day before he was to suffer, on the  
night of the Last Supper, Jesus prayed,  
"Righteous Father, the world also does not know  
you, but I know you, and they know that you  
sent me. I make known to them your name and  
I will make it known, that the love with which  
you loved me may be in them and I in them."

-in Preparation for our Synodal Experience  
in the Spirit of Pope Francis  
Synodality is much more than the celebration  
of ecclesial meetings and Bishops' assemblies,  
or a matter of simple internal administration  
within the Church; it is the specific *modus*  
*vivendi et operandi* of the Church, the People  
of God, which reveals and gives substance to  
her being as communion when all her members  
journey together, gather in assembly and take  
an active part in her evangelizing mission. Thus  
are intertwined the main axes of a synodal  
Church that the title of the Synod proposes:  
communion, participation, and mission.

Let us pray...Holy Spirit of Jesus, give us a heart  
that listens, learns, and loves. Remind us of the  
dignity of our Baptism. We are one in the call  
to be your Priests, your Prophets, and your  
Teachers. May our treasured worth in the  
Church always be celebrated and affirmed.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

The Eighth Day of our Novena to the Holy Spirit

-from Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit,  
*Ruaj-Elohim*

*Two are the Son and Father, but the Other  
so shapes my will its dear theology.  
Come but to kiss and cradle tenderly  
is Love who seeks to mother.*

-from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians  
*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,  
kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and  
self-control. Against such there is no law.*

-in Preparation for our Synodal Experience  
in the Spirit of Pope Francis  
The proclamation of the Gospel is not addressed  
only to an enlightened or chosen few. Jesus'  
interlocutor is the people of ordinary life, the  
"everyone" of the human condition, whom he puts  
directly in contact with God's gift and the call to  
salvation. In a way that surprises and sometimes  
scandalizes the witnesses, Jesus accepts as  
interlocutors all those who emerge from the crowd:  
he listens to the impassioned remonstrances of the  
Canaanite woman, who cannot accept being  
excluded from the blessing he brings; he allows  
himself to dialogue with the Samaritan woman,  
despite her condition as a socially and religiously  
compromised woman; he solicits the free and  
grateful act of faith of the man born blind, whom  
official religion had dismissed as outside the  
perimeter of grace.

Let us pray... Holy Spirit of Jesus, give us a heart  
that listens, learns, and loves. May we treasure our  
sisters and brothers who always feel like they are on  
the outside of the Church, and who, hoping against  
hope, so long to feel welcomed and accepted inside  
the Church.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

The Eve of Pentecost and the  
Ninth Day of our Novena to the Holy Spirit

-from Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit, *The Spirit's Name*

*But when at least you are alone with Him (Her)  
deep in the soul and past the senses' choir,  
Oh, give Him (Her) then the title which will place  
His (Her) unpredictable breath upon your face:  
O Dove, O Flame, O Water, Wind, and Cloud!  
O Love that lifts us wholly into God!*

-from the Acts of the Apostles

*When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly  
there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in  
which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to  
rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...*

-in Preparation for our Synodal Experience in the Spirit of Pope Francis

Jesus, the crowd in its diversity, the apostles: this is the imagery and the mystery that must be  
constantly contemplated and explored in depth so that the Church may increasingly become what  
she is. None of the three actors can leave the scene. If Jesus is absent, and someone else takes his  
place, the Church then becomes a contract between the apostles and the crowd and whose  
dialogue will end up following the plot of the political game. Without the apostles, authorized by  
Jesus and instructed by the Holy Spirit, the relationship with the evangelical truth is broken, and  
the crowd, whether it accepts or rejects Jesus, remains exposed to a truth or an ideology about  
him. Without the crowd, the apostles' relationship with Jesus becomes corrupted into a sectarian  
and self-referential form of religion, and evangelization, which emanates from the direct self-  
revelation that God addressed personally to all, offering His salvation, loses its light.

Let us pray..Holy Spirit of Jesus, give to us a heart that listens, learns and loves. Give us a wide  
vision of the Church, that includes our bishops, our engaged believers, and our sisters and  
brothers on the margin. Bind us together in a circle of love.

All selections for In Preparation for our Synodal Experience taken from The Preparatory  
Document: For a Synodal Church. Communion | Participation | Mission

