

Holy  
Spirit



PRAYER BOOK



# Holy Spirit Prayer Book

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## *Introduction*

The Holy Spirit is truly God, a distinct person of the Holy Trinity, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son, sent to us by our heavenly Father and by Jesus Christ to guide, enlighten, comfort, and strengthen us throughout our life's journey. As Catholics we believe that God dwells with us and within us through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the New Testament, we are first introduced to the power of the Holy Spirit at the Annunciation (Mt 1:18–24; Lk 1:35). Then, in the Gospel of Luke, as we read about the public ministry of Jesus, we begin to get a better understanding of how the mission of the Holy Spirit is linked to the redemptive mission of Jesus Christ (Lk 3:21–22; 4:14; 4:18; 10:21; 12:12).

In the Gospel of John, especially, Jesus teaches that after his death, when he has returned to his Father, the Spirit will come. The Paraclete or Advocate will pour out his spirit on the Apostles. The work of the Holy Spirit will be to confirm the Apostles in the truth of the Gospel.

John's gospel account of Christ's words speaks clearly of the Holy Spirit as a Person distinct from the Father and the Son: "I will ask the Father and he will give you another Intercessor to be with you forever, the Spirit of Truth . . ." (Jn 14:16).

"When the Intercessor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who comes forth from the Father—he will bear witness to me . . ." (Jn 15:26). Here we receive a glimpse into the Trinitarian relationship.

The Spirit is distinct from Jesus and there is an essential and intimate relationship among the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. He is their spirit, theirs to send. Jesus told us that when his mission on earth was finished, he would return to his Heavenly Father and they would send the Holy Spirit to continue the work of salvation. Jesus

Christ continues his redemptive work through the presence of the Holy Spirit whose mission it is to fill us with grace and God's presence so that we are able to become adopted children of the Father.

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was sent from the Father and the Son with power, just as Jesus had promised (see Acts 2). Timid, insecure, and fearful men were transformed into courageous, confident, and self-sacrificing Apostles on fire with the teachings of Jesus. We speak of the day of Pentecost as the birth of the Church because it was on that day that the promise of Jesus was fulfilled and the Holy Spirit came down on the Apostles to remain with them and with the Church forever. On that day the Church was publicly revealed; the Gospel began to spread to all nations. Initially, the Apostles and disciples of Jesus remained in their own country, but gradually went out to various parts of the world preaching, healing, and baptizing. Saints Peter and Paul eventually made their way to Rome where Peter became the first Bishop of Rome.

The mission of the Church is the same as that of the Spirit: to sanctify—to pour out the graces and

merits of Christ's redemption on all men and women, giving us a participation in the life of God. The Holy Spirit is the breath of life, the life-giving principle of every saving action. The Church lives the life of the Spirit, and in the grace of the Holy Spirit, the Church is able to continue the saving work of Christ—proclaiming the gospel; forgiving sins; as well as offering healing to the broken and redemption to those seeking salvation.

Through the Church's ministry, Baptism is imparted by water and the Holy Spirit. Through Confirmation, one is strengthened in virtue by the power of the Holy Spirit. The words of absolution in the sacrament of Penance point to the role of the Holy Spirit in the forgiveness of sins. The words of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick invoke the grace of the Holy Spirit. All the gifts that assist us in our pursuit of holiness and growth in grace come from the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier.

The power of the Holy Spirit is poured into the heart of every believer with the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. The Spirit gives us a

new life, the life of God within us. When this new life is nurtured and encouraged to grow, it will flourish and increase so that we may become the presence of God to others.

