

Confirmation Novena

v. February 2024

Praying a Novena

As the day of your Confirmation approaches, take time to reflect on what it means to live in the Spirit of Jesus. One way to do this is by making a novena. A novena is nine days of prayer focused on a special intention. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read of Jesus' disciples spending nine days in prayer after his Ascension before the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Making this novena could be one of the most important things you do to prepare for Confirmation. If you are truly open to the Holy Spirit at work in your heart, you will discover more about God's great love for you and be ready to respond to his love as a confirmed Catholic.

For each of the nine days leading up to your Confirmation, set aside time to read and reflect on the Scripture passage. After the Reading, pause for private reflection and to pray. The novena also includes brief activities for each day to help you practice what is stated in the prayer.

Read / Pray / Do

Novena Day 1, Fri. 2/16

"That people may know wisdom and discipline, may understand intelligent sayings; the wise by hearing them will advance in learning, the intelligent will gain sound guidance. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline." – *Proverbs 1:2, 5, 7*

Come, Holy Spirit! Help me rejoice in the countless blessings God has given me. Teach me to do God's will. Reveal to me what is necessary to rest in the knowledge of God's love. Amen.

Spend extra time in silent prayer to talk and listen to the Spirit in your heart.

Day 2, Saturday 2/17

"Happy the one who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding! Her profit is better than profit in silver, and better than gold is her revenue; she is more precious than corals, and no treasure of yours can compare with her." – *Proverbs 3:13-15* →

May the Holy Spirit reconcile all divisions in friendships, families, among nations, and in the Church. May the Spirit's wisdom help me work for reconciliation and peace. Amen.

Seek forgiveness when necessary. Pray for peace in a particular part of the world that you have heard about through the news.

Day 3, Sunday 2/18

"I, Wisdom, dwell with prudence, and useful knowledge I have. Mine are counsel and advice; Mine is strength; I am understanding. Those who love me I also love, and those who seek me find me." – *Proverbs 8:12,14,17*

May the Holy Spirit give me counsel to act justly, to see Christ in those who are poor, and to pray for those who mourn. Amen.

Earn and set aside some of your own money to donate to a place in the collection basket during the Confirmation Mass. This will be added to your family's contribution for an envelope you will receive at the Confirmation Practice.

Day 4, Monday 2/19

Presidents' Day Holiday

"A king's heart is channeled water in the hand of the Lord; God directs it where he pleases. All your ways may be straight in your own eyes, but it is the Lord who weighs hearts. To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord." – *Proverbs 21:1-3*

May the Holy Spirit fill my heart with love of the Father and respect for creation. May the gift of piety enable me to respect and care for nature and not destroy it. Amen.

Take a walk outside, admiring God's handiwork.

Day 5, Tuesday 2/20

Evening Confirmation Rehearsal

"Crime is the entertainment of the fool; but wisdom is for the person of understanding. What the wicked fear will befall them, but the desire of the just will be granted. When the tempest passes, the wicked are no more; but the just are established forever." – *Proverbs 10:23-25* →

May the Holy Spirit's gift of understanding enlighten me to better grasp Christ's love for me. May I show my love by serving my brothers and sisters. Amen.

Do something nice for someone, and don't let them know that you did it.

Day 6, Wed. 2/21

“Precious treasure and oil are in the house of the wise, but the fool consumes them. Whoever pursues justice and kindness will find life and honor. The wise person storms the city of the mighty, and overthrows the stronghold in which they trust.”
– Proverbs 21:20–22

May the Holy Spirit strengthen me with fortitude to accept suffering with faith. Let my prayers comfort the dying, and may all who have died be welcomed to eternal life. Amen.

Think about your Confirmation Name saint; name some qualities they had which you want to imitate. Tell their story to someone in your family.

Day 7, Thu. 2/22

“Because they hated knowledge, and the fear of the Lord they did not choose. They ignored my counsel, they spurned all my reproof; but whoever obeys me dwells in security, in peace, without fear of harm.”
– Proverbs 1:29-30, 33

May the gift of fear of the Lord enable me to reject sin, and may the Spirit of the Lord live in us as his temple. Amen.

Keep God in mind as you make decisions today.

Day 8, Fri. 2/23

“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what any day may bring forth. Let another praise you, not your own mouth; a stranger, not your own lips. Those who tend a fig tree eat its fruit; so those attentive to their master will be honored.”
– Proverbs 27:1–2, 18

By tending to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, may my life overflow with the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity. Amen.

Be kind to someone with whom you've disagreed. →

Day 9, Sat. 2/24

Day of the Confirmation Mass

“Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal.” – John 6:27

Come, Holy Spirit! On this day of Confirmation, may I be filled with zeal to proclaim the Gospel and with the joy and strength of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Be pleasant and gracious to all. Thank those who have helped you prepare for this day!

PRAYER AFTER CONFIRMATION

Praying At Church: When you go to Mass, pause at the entrance or exit and bless yourself with Holy Water. Recall that your parents and godparents chose to have you baptized. As you make the Sign of the Cross, choose consciously and for yourself to live as a committed, confirmed Catholic.

Praying At Home:

OPTION 1: Study the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit using pp. 53-56 in the textbook.

Wisdom	Understanding
Counsel (Right Judgment)	Knowledge
Fortitude (Courage)	Piety (Reverence)
Fear of the Lord (Wonder & Awe)	

At the Confirmation Mass the Bishop asked the Holy Spirit to fill you with these Gifts. Which do you think you will need the most and why? Talk it over with God in prayer.

OPTION 2: Study the 12 Fruits of the Holy Spirit using pp. 76-80 in the textbook.

Love (Charity)	Joy	Peace
Patience	Kindness	Goodness
Faithfulness	Gentleness	Self Control
Modesty	Chastity	Generosity

These can grow in you after Confirmation, showing that you are gifted by the Holy Spirit and fed by the Eucharist. Which do you most hope will grow in you and why? Talk it over with God in prayer.

OPTION 3: Open your *Catholic Youth Bible* to pages 1732-1733. Use instructions to teach yourself to pray *Lectio Divina*.

OPTION 4: Use your journal as a journal: the unanswered questions can help you continue to reflect.