

Overview of the Gifts of the Spirit

The Gifts of the Spirit help to perfect our Theological and Cardinal Virtues (Faith, Hope, Charity; Justice, Fortitude, Prudence, Temperance).

Four Gifts help us to know God's will:

- **Wisdom** helps us to see as God sees, to recognize the value of others and the importance of keeping God central in our lives.
- **Understanding** is the ability to comprehend the meaning of God's message, to read the Scriptures not just as literature but as the story of God's continual outreach to his people over time and as evidence of God's love and mercy.
- **Knowledge** is the ability to think about and explore God's revelation through the person of Jesus, and also to recognize there are mysteries of faith and miracles beyond our human reason.
- **Counsel (Right Judgment)** is the ability to see the best way to follow God's plan when we have moral choices to make, and to be able to speak with the words of God to others when they ask for our advice.

Three Gifts help us to do God's will

- **Fortitude (Courage)** is the ability to *do actively* what is right in the face of challenges to our faith, and it is the perfection of the (similarly named) Cardinal Virtue of Fortitude (the strength to *resist* excessive desires). This can be confusing; just remember that Cardinal Virtue of Fortitude is a result of human effort, but the Gift of Courage is sealed in us by the Holy Spirit to make that Virtue perfect.
- **Piety (Reverence)** helps us pray to God in true devotion, and to make everything we do into a prayer by showing respect for God and for others in all that we say and do.
- **Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe)** is the feeling of amazement and smallness before God, who is all-present and has expressed love for us through all of creation. This is different from the fear you might have of something scary, but it similarly comes from a place of feeling powerless compared to something else. You might be afraid of a tornado because of its incredible power, or fear looking over the edge of a canyon because of how far down the cliff drops. God is a mystery, full of things that seem like contradictions to our limited human logic: both transcendent (beyond the limits of the universe) and immanent (incredibly close to us), both three persons and one God. God has unimaginable power, unending mercy, and infinite love, and so we cannot help but feel a little small and a little afraid.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit Windows in Queen of Angels Church
*photos by Jim Hohner * windows located in sanctuary on servers' side of altar*
images printed on front of Gifts of the H.S. gift cards received at Sponsor & Parent Night

<u>Window</u>	<u>Gift of the Spirit</u>	<u>This gift helps you to...</u>
	Wisdom	...see things from God's perspective. Wisdom helps us recognize the importance of others and the importance of keeping God central in our lives.
	Understanding	...comprehend the meaning of God's message.
	Right Judgment (Counsel)	...see the best way to follow God's plan when we have choices that relate to him.
	Knowledge	...think about and explore God's revelation, and also to recognize there are mysteries of faith beyond us.

<u>Window</u>	<u>Gift of the Spirit</u>	<u>This gift helps you to...</u>
	Courage (Fortitude)	...do what one knows is right.
	Reverence (Piety)	...pray to God in true devotion.
	Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord)	...feel amazement before God, who is all-present, and whose friendship we do not want to lose.
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION		PENTECOST, THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
		