

Homily Pentecost Sunday May 24, 2026
Come Holy Spirit live within our lives

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These or similar words are heard when we gather to pray. Calling on the Holy Spirit, in whatever form, is a profound plea for His divine presence and wisdom. It calls upon the Holy Spirit to enter into the soul, ignite it with divine love, and guide the faithful in truth and understanding. It is invoked at confirmation, ordinations, and dedication of churches.

This prayer asks for the Spirit to move within us, as He once moved over the waters at the beginning of creation. Saying “Come Holy Spirit” is a surrender of one’s heart and mind to God’s transforming grace. We pray it in everyday life when discernment and courage are needed. It opens the heart to God’s movement and invites the Holy Spirit to dwell within us, bringing clarity, peace, and the flame of love. The Holy Spirit is invoked over the bread and wine at Mass. He sanctifies it and makes it holy.

The Holy Spirit has been leading the people of God for thousands of years. We hear it from the prophet Micah “But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might.”

In the Old Testament we can discern four general areas in which the Holy Spirit works: regeneration, restraint, empowerment for service and being filled with the Spirit. This being filled with the spirit was selective and temporary. The Spirit “came upon” such people as Moses, Joshua, David and Solomon. God raised them up to deliver Israel from their oppressors. The Holy Spirit came upon these individuals for specific tasks and for a specific time.

In the New Testament the Spirit comes into believers and that indwelling is permanent. It is the same in the Church today. It is normally received through the sacraments of the Church especially baptism, confirmation and holy orders. Luke, in his writing on the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan he says, “And the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form, like a dove”.

Jesus tells his apostles, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. But the Holy Spirit, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

There are several images in art and literature that represents the Holy Spirit. The first is the image of the Dove. We see this is the baptism of Jesus. The Holy Spirit hovered like a dove over the chaotic waters at the dawn of creation. The other is fire or tongues of fire. We see this in the story of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. He is the wind at Pentecost and at the cave with Elija. Yet another image is “the finger of God” as seen in the writing of the commandments. The Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary so that the Son of God might be conceived in her womb.

The Holy Spirit also acts today. We must ask the Holy Spirit to fill our lives today. When we say, “Come, Holy Spirit” it means we choose to empty oneself, to literally ‘leave room for the Holy Spirit’ in our hearts. It means giving permission for the Holy Spirit to act upon your life. We must be willing to be led by the Spirit whom we invoke. When we pray “Come, Holy Spirit,” we should pray in the next breath that we might be willing to follow wherever that Spirit might lead.

When we pray “Come Holy Spirit”, we ask for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge our need, our dependence on the Holy Spirit to live a virtuous life. We express our humility and seek the Holy Spirit’s power to transform our lives.

The Spirit is present in the ordinary, everyday moments: helping us respond with patience when we’re tired, giving us courage when we feel afraid, and stirring our hearts to pray when we don’t even know what words to say. He is God’s gracious gift: our Comforter, and Guide.

Call on the Holy Spirit in everyday things. Invite the Spirit to guide your decisions and set your heart toward what matters most. In conflict, when a conversation spirals toward hurt, call the Spirit to prompt you to speak a calming word. In parenting, when sleepless nights and weariness make you impatient, ask the Spirit to give you a loving way to connect with your child.

Our mission today is to make the presence of the Holy Spirit visible in our world. This is seen when we help the sick, the homeless and the hungry and in many other ways. The Holy Spirit will empower us to make a difference in our families and in the lives of others.

But, if we don't have the presence of the Holy Spirit, if we don't have the manifestation of his presence, his anointing, his power; then we will **fail**.

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