



Novena for Pentecost

St. Anthony Parish

May 11-19, 2018

What is a novena?

According to Acts, before ascending, Jesus told the disciples to stay in Jerusalem until the fulfillment of the promise of the Father, and they did so and prayed. Novenas take as their precedent those nine days of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost shared by the earliest disciples, which included Blessed Mary and the Twelve Apostles and others, such as St. Mary Magdalene.

Novenas can be addressed to the Holy Trinity, or to any one Persona of the Trinity, or to Holy Mother Mary, or to one or more saints or angels and while honoring the one addressed, they are also done to make a specific prayer request. This could be for oneself or for another, *or in the case of this novena a request for the members of St. Anthony Parish to grow into Dynamic Disciples.*

Why this Novena Now?

Fr. John Henderson is leading the parish on a two- year journey to enliven our members to become Dynamic Disciples who have the skills, desire, and faith to bring others to salvation through Jesus Christ. Many Catholics are uncomfortable or not confident that they can speak about their faith to others who do not believe. Many Catholics only need to recognize the talents God has provided them to share to build the Kingdom of God. Many Catholics desire a deeper faith and need opportunities for personal growth. Your prayers are intended to bring forth the actions needed for our parish to better love as Jesus loved through these means and others. Our hope is that this love will ignite a flame wherever we go and encourage whomever we encounter to become who they are called to become...a beloved child of God.

Thank you for becoming a prayer warrior for our parish by praying this Novena on behalf of all members!

Directions:

- 1) Find a quiet place and time in your day to pray. This may join with your established daily prayer or begin another time of daily prayer.
You may also choose to pray in the sanctuary of the church or in front of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel.

- 2) We ask that you follow the prayers assigned for each day of the Novena - for nine days, one each day. *These prayers can be said on your own or with someone.*
 - A- Begin with the sign of the cross.
 - B- Next, read the daily scripture passage three times slowly. Let it sink in and imagine being with Jesus or St. Paul as they say these words.
 - C- Next, read the comment about the passage and take it into your own life.
 - D- Follow this by lifting your voice and praying aloud the prayer provided for each day.
 - E- Give yourself some quiet time to see if Jesus provides you any other insight.
 - F- End with the sign of the cross.

- 3) **At the end of the nine days** attend any of the Sunday Masses and pray a special concluding blessing for our parish with Fr. John Henderson.

The Holy Spirit is “the presence living and working in us”...

--Pope Francis, Angelus, August 14, 2016

Dynamic Discipleship Novena to the Holy Spirit

Day #1: May 11

Introduction: Romans 8: 14-17

“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, ‘Abba, Father!’. The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.”

Paul’s letter to the Romans reminds them as baptized Christians they now have a new life, one led by the Spirit of God! This makes them adopted children of God. He wants the Romans to know God loves them unconditionally and is with them no matter what!

So we pray...

Lord God, make us open to the indwelling of your Holy Spirit within us. Help us to trust your unconditional love for us. When we need it, remind us we are part of a family -all of us adopted by you. Guide us to help our fellow parishioners as brothers and sisters to fulfill your will for our community and our world.

May your Holy Spirit give us eyes to see the gifts in one another and encourage each other through fear, pain and sorrow. Help us become on fire with hope that we may be hope for one another!

As people of hope, may we share our own love unconditionally as we are called to do as Jesus did.

We ask this through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day #2: May 12

Belief: 1 Corinthians 3:16 & John 7:37-39a

“Do you not know you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

“On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, “Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says:

‘Rivers of living water will flow from within him.’

He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive.”

In these passages Jesus reminds us once we believe in him we are changed and empowered with the Holy Spirit. This free gift of the Spirit is one to help build our belief. But the Spirit is not just to help us believe, it comes with the responsibility to trust that we have the ability to share this gift of God’s love and salvation with others!

So we pray...

Jesus, companion and friend, help us grow in whatever way we need to become a river of living water for others. Build up our faith in you that we may stand firm in our belief. Help us always turn to the Holy Spirit within to guide, protect, teach, and love us.

May God’s Spirit find a trusting home in us, a home that welcomes others in truth and love and where living water pours out. May we be blessed with the desire to put our belief into action.

We ask this through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day #3: May 13

Loves: Galatians 5:22-23, 25

“In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.... If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.”

Paul’s letter to the Galatians tells us that those who are led by the Spirit will be called by the Spirit to live their lives with the fruits of the Spirit. It will not be difficult because as true believers we can’t help but live a life of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

So we pray....

Creator God we praise you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Open our hearts today to the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Help us see how your love allows us to be free to choose a life of service and love to others over a life according to the flesh.

We ask that the Fruits of the Spirit be generously poured into our hearts as we become more open to your love and grace.

We ask this through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Here I am, Holy Spirit! Come and fill me with your love, your wisdom and your strength.”

--The Word Among Us – May 2018

Day #4: May 14

Growth: Matthew 13:1-8

“On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables saying: ‘A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear.’”

The people had come to learn at the feet of the Rabbi who taught great things of God: Jesus. As any good teacher he made the listeners ponder their own situation in order to transform and grow. We too need to ponder how we are growing in our faith. Are we being eaten up by everyday life and no longer give God priority? Is our faith planted in the promises of a good God and when something goes wrong we blame him? Have we fallen into unbelief because of who we let influence us? Are we actively walking our journey of faith with all the hills and valleys and growing in love as we journey? If you actively walk, Jesus will walk with you and make your life a healthy plant that blossoms and produces beautiful fruit with each passing year.

So we pray...

Dear Jesus, help us to not only hear your word, but also actively seek to grow in love and faith.

Make of us sturdy plants that can bend with the wind but not break and that bear fruit for others to be nourished. May we always have our feet planted in rich soil. In this way may we build your kingdom and produce fruit ***“hundred, or sixty, or thirtyfold.”***

We ask this through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day #5: May 15

Gathers: 1 Corinthians 12:12-3 & Hebrews 10:25

“As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.”

“We should not stay away from our assembly, as is the custom of some, but encourage one another, and this all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians and his letter to the Hebrews gives us a vision of true community; a place where we encourage and support one another. When we acknowledge our individual gifts and the importance of each member of the Body of Christ we realize our absolute need for each other. If we are to make a difference in the world we must gather the individual parts together to become one body, one Lord.

So we pray...

We praise you God for the gift of a church family and the freedom to gather. Help us to see and utilize the individual gifts that make up our parish community.

Give us expanding hearts for one another as we strive to build the Body of Christ for the transformation of the world.

We ask this through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

“No one saves oneself. The community is essential.”

--Pope Francis

Day #6: May 16

Love as Jesus: 1 John 4: 11-13

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us. This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit.”

In his letter, John sums up the Christian life as love for one another. He tells us, “Whoever is without love does not know God” (1Jn 4:8). If we know God, He remains in us and His love is shown through our love. What a big task! Nevertheless, we are up to this task as Christians because we have the Spirit living within us!

So we pray...

Heavenly Creator, who loves us so, help us to love as your son Jesus demonstrated to us. With the power of the Spirit help us to love others even if it feels difficult sometimes. Forgive us when we fall short of loving others.

Give us courage to reach out to our immediate families and brothers and sisters at St. Anthony in loving ways. Help us to make a priority time to be love for those living on the margins. Help us to be fearless in love as was your son Jesus.

We ask this through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day #7: May 17

Leads: 1 Corinthians 2:12-13

“We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the things freely given us by God. And we speak about them not with words taught by human wisdom, but with words taught by the Spirit, describing spiritual realities in spiritual terms.”

Paul is clear when speaking to the Corinthians that the heart is where the Spirit resides. When we listen and speak with the heart rather than our human wisdom, God reveals his nature to us through the gift of understanding. It is then our responsibility to be God’s voice to the world and lead others to him.

So we pray...

Heavenly Father, we praise you for the gift of understanding brought to us through the Holy Spirit. Empower us to be open to the wisdom of the Spirit spoken in our hearts and give us the words to speak this truth to all we meet.

We love and adore you Lord and desire the words and actions needed to spread the Good News of your salvation.

We ask this through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*“The Holy Spirit wants to take the truths of our faith and
“declare” them to our hearts.”*

--The Word Among Us, May 2018

Day #8: May 18

Leads others to Jesus: Acts 4:31

“As they prayed, the place where they were gathered shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness”

After the event of Pentecost Peter healed a cripple and raised the ire of the Jewish leaders and was brought before them to account for the miracle. Peter spoke boldly before the leaders and gave credit for the miracle to Jesus. He was ordered not to speak any further of this Jesus. But nothing could stop Peter from speaking out! He gathered those who followed him as a result of the miracle, prayed with them and “the place shook and they were all filled with the holy Spirit” – they went forth to speak the word of God with boldness.

So we pray...

God of all peoples, thank you for your love that patiently awaits us on our faith journeys.

Give us the desire to speak out your word with boldness. Give us trust in your word and promises of salvation and eternal life. May that trust grow so large as to burst out of us and inspire others to want that same trust.

We ask this through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

“If we open ourselves completely to the action of this fire which is the Holy Spirit, he will give us the boldness and the fervor to proclaim to everyone Jesus.”

--Pope Francis

Day #9: May 19

Ending: Romans 5:1-5

“Faith, Hope, and Love. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access [by faith] to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

Paul’s discourse to the Romans is a beautiful vision of the grace of the Holy Spirit which covers us in faith, hope and love. Praise be to Christ Jesus that even through our afflictions we are given the grace to endure. Can you imagine how the Romans felt when they heard this Good News!

So we pray...

Creator God, we kneel before you like St. Paul. We are awed by your power and majesty. We are awed by the love for us by your son Jesus, the Christ.

Grant us O Lord, strength in our inner selves – strength to do your will with the power of the Holy Spirit given to us. Bring about the faith and courage you have planted within us to become your dynamic disciples.

May the fire be ignited with your people here at St. Anthony’s to walk with Jesus, grow with Jesus, love like Jesus and awaken the same with everyone we encounter.

We ask this through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Thank you for taking the time to pray this novena. Please give us some feedback by answering the following questions:

Did you pray this novena alone or with others? Was the format of this novena easy to follow?

How has your spiritual life been enhanced by this novena?

Email your answers to cmarchese@satigard.org or call 503-639-4179 x121.