

IMPORTANT DATES AND CHECKLIST

- **October 29: Deadline for missing items: Sponsor Form; Saint Report; Baptismal Certificate**
- **March 17/20: Confirmation Service Journals Due**
 - Works of Mercy/Service Opportunities: 3 per year
- **March 23 – Attend Half Day Confirmation Retreat: 7:45am - Noon**
- **March 1-April 12 – Review Study Guide:** Study and learn the basic material to prepare for questions at the Confirmation Mass. **Saint Report-** be prepared for questions about your saint.
- **April 4:** Parents and Sponsors: **begin 9 Day Novena to the Holy Spirit** at home with your family. This will be sent to you via email. Also available on the website.
- **April 13, Saturday –Confirmation Mass**
 - **Mandatory Rehearsal for Candidates and Sponsors in the Family Center: 2 hours prior to Mass**
 - Check in by 8:30AM for the 10:30AM Mass
 - Check in by Noon for the 2:00pm Mass
 - **CONFIRMATION MASSES**
 - Please plan on the Mass lasting two hours.
 - Candidates and Sponsors will be sitting in the front pews facing the altar.
 - No assigned seating for families
 - Make sure candidates eat a meal prior to coming to rehearsal. No food is provided.
 - **After Mass:** Pictures with the clergy
 - **CONFIRMATION MASS ASSIGNMENTS:**
 - 10:30AM MASS: All Sunday classes
 - 2:00PM MASS: All Wednesday classes; Catholic/Home School

Other Info: Online access to Service Opportunities sign-ups and forms:

➤ **Website:** www.saintmichaelcc.org

- To access the Confirmation, Documents & Forms, & Service pages: go to the website and click on the following tabs: Faith Formation/Children & Teens/Confirmation Curriculum/Confirmation Prep Forms & Documents – or—Service Opportunities—or—Service Sign-ups
- **The Service Sign-ups page requires a password: SMAserve2015**



“Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.”

CONFIRMATION MASS ***SATURDAY, April 13***

Most Rev. Bernard E. Shlesinger, III
Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta

10:30 AM- Sunday classes

2:00 PM- Wednesday classes, Catholic & Homeschool

- † Please be aware that the Confirmation Mass Rehearsal is Mandatory for both the Confirmand and sponsor. If the sponsor is unable to arrive in time, a parent may stand in for the sponsor.
- † The Confirmandi and Sponsors are required to attend the rehearsal promptly beginning 2 hours prior to Mass.
- † If you or a family member is a trained and certified Lector, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, altar server or usher here at St. Michael’s and would like to serve at the Confirmation Mass, please email Elizabeth Bonutti, ebonutti@saintmichaelcc.org.
- † If you have a guest or family member attending the Mass that is a priest or deacon, please email Elizabeth Bonutti, ebonutti@saintmichaelcc.org.
- † Please allow 2 hours for the Mass; seating is first come, first seated
- † To preserve the reverence and sanctity of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, no photography or video is allowed during Mass.
- † The Archbishop or Bishop and Fr. Larry will be available for pictures after Mass.
- † **Dress Code for Candidates and Sponsors – All attire must be appropriate for Church.** The dress code is:
 - Males: Appropriate attire is expected. Suits are optional. Attire: dress shirt, dress slacks, jacket, tie, dark shoes, socks. No jeans, no sneakers, no flip-flops.
 - Females: Modesty is expected. Dress or suit, blouse/skirt, dress shoes; shoulders should be covered. No sneakers, no flip-flops, slacks, no spaghetti straps, no low necklines or low backs; no mini-skirts or tight fitting skirts or tops. Skirts and dresses should be no more than 3” above the knee.
 - ** Please note that any Candidate or Sponsor wearing immodest/inappropriate clothing may be asked to refrain from participating in this Holy Mass.

CONFIRMATION PREP PARENTS **2017/18 & 2018/19 CHOSEN**

2017/18 CP YEAR 1
2018/19 CP YEAR 2

REGISTRATION STEPS TO VIEW ONLINE VIDEOS.

KEEP YOUR PASSWORDS FOR 2 YEARS!!

INITIAL ONE TIME SET-UP:

Once the following has been completed you will have a password to access future videos. ONLY REDEEM ONCE.

1. Go to Redemption Link: <https://ascensionpress.com/redeem>
2. On this screen, enter the following:
 1. For the “Invite code” type in (case sensitive): **TXEXGR**
 2. Fill in your email, first and last name
 3. Click on “REDEEM CODE”
3. On the next screen, review your name and email and then click on “CONFIRM”
4. On the next screen, STUDY INVITATION, click on “SET YOUR PASSWORD and SIGN IN”
5. On the next screen, Create Account, type in your password and then click on “CREATE ACCOUNT”
6. On the next screen, Terms and Conditions, click on “ACCEPT”
7. On the next screen, go to the top right corner and hover over “YOUR DASHBOARD”
 1. On the dropdown click on “YOUR STUDIES”
 2. The picture for the CHOSEN study will be on the screen. Under the picture click on “VIEW”
 3. On the right, scroll down to find your lesson. Each lesson has 3 segments/videos and a review listed separately. Be sure to click on each one to view all the videos for the lesson.

KEEP YOUR PASSWORD TO ACCESS THE WEBSITE.

Instructions to access the videos once you’ve created your account:

1. Go to <https://ascensionpress.com/>
2. Go to the LOGIN at the top right—login with your email and password
3. The studies to which you have access should be displayed. Click on “VIEW” to watch the videos.

TO VIEW DETAILED SCREENSHOTS OF THE ABOVE STEPS CLICK ON THIS LINK: <http://www.saintmichaelcc.org/confirmation-prep-resources>

Scroll down and look for:

“Confirmation Prep Forms/Missed Class Form and Access to view videos”

CONFIRMATION PREP PARENTS

2018/19 CP YEAR

2018/19 ALTARATION

REGISTRATION STEPS TO VIEW ONLINE VIDEOS.

INITIAL ONE TIME SET-UP:

Once the following has been completed you will have a password to access future videos. ONLY REDEEM ONCE.

8. Go to Redemption Link: <https://ascensionpress.com/redeem>
9. On this screen, enter the following:
 1. For the “Invite code” type in (case sensitive): **T5LYW6**
 2. Fill in your email, first and last name
 3. Click on “REDEEM CODE”
10. On the next screen, review your name and email and then click on “CONFIRM”
11. On the next screen, STUDY INVITATION, click on “SET YOUR PASSWORD and SIGN IN”
12. On the next screen, Create Account, type in your password and then click on “CREATE ACCOUNT”
13. On the next screen, Terms and Conditions, click on “ACCEPT”
14. On the next screen, go to the top right corner and hover over “YOUR DASHBOARD”
 1. On the dropdown click on “YOUR STUDIES”
 2. The picture for the CHOSEN study will be on the screen. Under the picture click on “VIEW”
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TO VIEW DETAILED SCREENSHOTS OF THE ABOVE STEPS CLICK ON THIS LINK: <http://www.saintmichaelcc.org/confirmation-prep-resources>

Scroll down and look for:

“Confirmation Prep Forms/Missed Class Form and Access to view videos”

Confirmation Preparation – REQUIREMENTS

St. Michael's Confirmation Preparation Program is a two-year commitment. Confirmation is conferred in the Spring of the second year of the program.

THE PRECEPTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

- You shall attend Mass on Sundays and Holy days of Obligation
- You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
- You shall humbly receive the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.
- You shall observe the Holy Days of Obligation.
- You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.
- The faithful have the obligation of supporting the Church.

The Precepts of the Catholic Church are a description of the absolute minimum actions required of Catholics regarding the Church.

The Church uses these precepts to remind us that Christian life requires a commitment to prayer and active participation in the liturgy and sacraments. If we fall below this bare-minimum level, we can't rightly consider ourselves to be in full communion with the Catholic Church.

Each of these precepts of the Catholic Church is a requirement. Together with the Ten Commandments, they represent the minimum level of moral living. Intentional violation of the precepts or the Commandments is a grave matter, meaning a mortal sin.

1. **Holy Sacrifice of the Mass** – Candidates are expected to attend Mass each week and on Holy days of Obligation.
2. **Attendance** at all classes and special functions is required. There are to be no **unexcused** absences. An attendance of 85%, no more than 5 absences, is required in both years. After three absences the Candidate and parents will meet with the DRE to discuss their commitment to the program.
3. **Class work and assignments missed** due to an absence: complete the Missed class page with parent and return to the Catechist within two weeks of the missed class.
4. **Retreats:** There is a retreat each year. Attendance is mandatory each year.
5. **Service Opportunities/Works of Mercy:** 3 each year; total of 6. – Over the course of the year, the candidate is asked to devote time to 3 service opportunities to others and to write an account of this experience using the Confirmation Service Journal form. Please refer to the Works of Mercy section of this handout for more information.
6. The following items are due by the DEADLINE date on the calendar. Please be sure that all pages are complete and all required paperwork is completed before presenting to your Catechist. Catholic School and Home School submit items to the DRE, Religious Education Office.
 - a. **Sponsor Certification form:** Choose a Sponsor and have the Sponsor complete, sign this form, and if not a St. Michael's parishioner- have their Pastor sign the form.
 - b. **Saint Report:** Choose a Saint/Confirmation Name and write a saint report on your chosen name

7. **Candidate Commitment** – The candidate and parents sign the Candidate Commitment agreeing to participate fully in the program.
8. **Candidates are expected to be on time for all classes and special functions.** Tardiness is a sign of disrespect to the Catechists and fellow class Candidates. If Candidates' tardiness causes the class to start late, the Catechists will extend the class time accordingly. Habitual tardiness will count towards missed classes.
9. **Complete homework assignments:** Candidates are expected to come to class prepared by reading the Chapter assignment for the week and completing all other assignments. Each *Chosen* lesson contains a "Taking It Home" section that reinforces what was learned in class and what will be covered in the "Review Game" the following week.
10. **Doing the "Challenge of the Week":** Each week, candidates will complete a personal challenge that will help them apply that week's material to their own lives.
11. **Disciplinary Policy:** Good behavior is expected. For serious misbehavior, parents will be contacted and asked to meet with the Director of Religious Education to discuss if the Candidate is likely to be ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation with the class. Cell phone use during class is prohibited unless being used at the request of the Catechist for class activity. First time, the phone is used without permission it will be held to the end of class by the Catechist. Second time, at the end of class the Catechist will bring both the phone and Candidate to the DRE's office to wait for the parent to discuss the situation.
12. **Dress:** Please ensure you are properly and modestly dressed. Please respect our Church and Catechists: no spaghetti straps, no bare midriffs, no plunging necklines, only knee length shorts- no "short-shorts", no t-shirts with profanity or inappropriate pictures, no hats or sunglasses, no cleats or flip-flops.

Correspondence: All correspondence will be done via the parent's email.

- a. It is important that you keep us updated on any changes to your email.
- b. Only one email address per family.
- c. Constant Contact is used by the parish. Please do not unsubscribe as you will no longer receive any emails from St. Michael's including the Confirmation Prep emails. If you unsubscribe you will need to "re-subscribe" on your own.

Curriculum:

- d. For both Year 1 and Year 2, candidates need: "Catechism of the Catholic Church", a Catholic Bible (NAB or RSV-CE translation), and the "YOU CAT" – youth catechism
- e. Year 1: "*Chosen*" textbook-provided, *YD-True Beauty/True Strength* -workbook provided
- f. Year 2: "*Chosen*" textbook (from Year 1), *Altaration*- workbook provided

CONFIRMATION PREP MAKE-UP FORM FOR MISSED CLASSES

(Catechists: complete this form and hand out or email to your student to complete).

Candidate Name: _____

Date of class missed: _____ Chapter missed: _____

DATE DUE: _____ DATE SUBMITTED: _____

Catechist's assignment for that week (if any):

1. Read through the chapter.
2. Complete and document the following from the chapter:
 - a. The first time you miss a class your catechist will email the video link and code to access the missed videos online. Thereafter, use your password.
 - b. View the videos with your parents.
 - c. Pick a Challenge of the Week and complete it. Write down your experience, as indicated on that page.
 - d. Complete the Taking It Home section.
 - e. Review "What's That Word?"
 - f. Review "Any Question?"
3. Parents: using your Parent Guide:
 - a. Read the lesson overview.
 - b. Have a conversation with your teen using the Conversation Starters. (Teen- write down some of the ideas, topics discussed. Use the back of this page).
 - c. Please sign below - indicates your teen has completed all the make-up items.
4. Complete any other items that your catechist assigned.
5. Hand in this paper to your catechist within two weeks of your missed class.

Parent Signature: _____

CONFIRMATION SERVICE JOURNAL

“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.” -John 12:26

Student’s Name: _____

Service/Project Name: _____

Date: _____ How much time did you spend?: _____

What did you do?: _____

Who went with you? _____

Whom did you serve? _____

Did you find this easy or hard to do (and why)? _____

How did doing this type of work of service make you feel? _____

How does this work of service relate to Matthew 25:31-46? _____

What did you learn about yourself in doing this kind of service? _____

Would you do it again in the future (and why or why not)? _____

Does this service fall under any of the Works of Mercy? _____ (Y/N)

If Yes, which one and why: _____

My participation in this service project has helped me to understand that...

Student’s Signature

Adult Supervisor’s Signature

The Apostles' Creed

The chief truths taught by Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church are contained in the Apostles' Creed. I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of

God the Father almighty;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all **things visible and invisible. I believe** in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only **Begotten** Son of God, **born** of the Father **before all ages.**

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, **consubstantial** with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, **and by** the Holy Spirit **was incarnate** of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, **he suffered death** and was buried, **and rose again on the third day** in accordance **with** the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son **is adored** and glorified, **who** has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins **and I look forward to** the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sacraments

The Sacraments are efficacious signs instituted and given to the Church by Christ.

A. In the sacraments, we meet Christ and he gives us Sanctifying Grace.

B. The sacraments act *ex opera operato*. This means that the sacraments unfailingly give grace because Christ works through them.

- C. Sanctifying grace is a free gift of God which allows us to become children of God, to share in the divine nature, and to inherit eternal life.

The SEVEN Sacraments

1. **Baptism** – is the sacrament of rebirth. In receiving baptism, we are united with Jesus in His death and resurrection, cleansed from original sin and personal sins, welcomed into the community of the Church, and more closely related to God.
2. **Confirmation** – is the sacrament by which baptized persons receive the seal of the Holy Spirit, the Gift of the Father and Son. It is linked with the other two sacraments of initiation, Baptism and the Eucharist. In celebrating Confirmation, we ask for the graces needed to live a mature Christian life and to deepen our faith.
3. **Penance or Reconciliation** – is the sacrament by which Christians celebrate God’s merciful forgiveness for sins committed after Baptism. After a sincere confession of sin, true sorrow, and resolution not to sin again, we receive absolution as a means of reconciliation with God and the community. In penance, Christians are also reconciled with the Church. Although perfect sorrow or contrition restores a sinner to grace, sacramental confession is the ordinary way for serious sinners to be reconciled with Christ and the Church.
4. **Holy Orders** – is the sacrament by which members of the Christian community are given special powers and are put in position of special service for the building up of the Body of Christ. Among other things, they preside at the celebration of the Eucharist. They serve as ministers for the sacraments of penance and anointing of the sick.
5. **The Anointing of the Sick** – is the sacrament for the seriously ill, the infirm, and the aged, by which the Church asks God to lighten their sufferings, forgive their sins, and bring them to eternal salvation.
6. **The Holy Eucharist** – is the center of sacramental life and is primary among the sacraments. We celebrate the Eucharist in obedience to Jesus’ instruction at the Last Supper: “Do this in memory of me.” When the priest consecrates bread and wine, they are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. Christ Himself, true God and true Man, is really and substantially present in a mysterious way, under the appearances of bread and wine. In the Mass, the Holy Eucharist is a sacramental sacrifice—the death and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated and renewed. The Eucharist is also a meal which recalls the Last Supper, celebrates our unity in Christ, and anticipates the messianic banquet of the kingdom. In the meal, Jesus nourishes us with the Bread of Life, His own self, and unites us more closely with God and with one another. A Christian must be in the state of grace to receive the Eucharist worthily.
7. **Matrimony** – is the sacrament which joins a baptized man and woman together as husband and wife in a union that is permanent and indissoluble. The married couple receives special grace to help them direct their family in loving relationships and toward full participation in the Christian community.

Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism Eucharist Confirmation

Sacraments of Healing: Penance Anointing of the Sick

Sacraments of Vocation: Matrimony Holy Orders

Grace and Commandments

Sanctifying Grace

- A. Sanctifying Grace is a free gift of God which allows us to become children of God, to share in the divine nature, and to inherit eternal life. It is the very life of God given to us through Christ in the sacraments.
- B. Sanctifying grace gives us the **THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES** Of
Faith Hope Charity
- C. Sanctifying grace strengthens and helps us further develop the human virtues, the **THE CARDINAL VIRTUES** of
Prudence Justice Fortitude Temperance
- D. Sanctifying grace brings with it the **GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom Understanding Counsel Fortitude
Knowledge Piety Fear of the Lord

- E. Those who possess sanctifying grace are able to act according to the

FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Charity Joy Peace Patience Kindness Goodness Generosity
Gentleness Faithfulness Modesty Self-control Chastity

- F. Those who possess sanctifying grace perform the
SPIRITUAL AND CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY.

Corporal Works of Mercy

To feed the hungry
To give drink to the thirsty
To clothe the naked
To visit the imprisoned
To shelter the homeless
To visit the sick
To bury the dead

Chief Spiritual Works of Mercy

To admonish the sinner
To instruct the ignorant
To counsel the doubtful
To comfort the sorrowful
To bear wrongs patiently
To forgive all injuries
To pray for the living and the dead

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God; You shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. 3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.

7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Two Great Commandments of Love

- Love God with all your heart, and soul, and mind.
- Love your neighbor as yourself.

The Beatitudes

- Blest are the poor in spirit; the reign of God is theirs.
- Blest are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.
- Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land.
- Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill.
- Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
- Blest are the single-hearted; for they shall see God.
- Blest are the peacemakers; they shall be called sons of God.
- Blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake; the reign of God is theirs.

The Precepts of the Catholic Church

- You shall attend Mass on Sundays and Holy days of Obligation ➤ You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
- You shall humbly receive the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.
- You shall observe the Holy Days of Obligation.
- You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.
- The faithful have the obligation of supporting the Church.

Holy Days of Obligation

- ***Solemnity of Mary, January 1st***
- ***Ascension Thursday, (forty days after Easter)***
- ***Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15th***
- ***Solemnity of All Saints, November 1st***
- ***Immaculate Conception, December 8th***
- ***Christmas, December 25th***



WHAT is a NOVENA?

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

A Novena (novem, nine) is nine days of private or public devotion to obtain special graces.

According to New Advent, 'The number nine in Holy Writ is indicative of suffering and grief'. However, it is also faithfully used by people who are searching for answers, healing and personal needs.

The novena in honor of the Holy Spirit is the oldest of all novenas since it was first made at the direction of Our Lord Himself when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost. It is still the only novena officially prescribed by the Church. Addressed to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, it is a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian.

Novena for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Day 1

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

All: Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and all will be reborn

All: And you will renew the face of the earth. Amen



Scripture Reading –

Romans 8:14-17

Thought for the day

The Holy Spirit

Only one thing is important – eternal salvation. Only one thing then is to be feared – sin. Sin keeps us from eternal salvation. It is the result of ignorance, weakness or indifference. That is why Christ sent the Holy Spirit to us. He is the Spirit of Light to dispel ignorance, the Spirit of Strength to combat weakness, the Spirit of Love to overcome indifference. He enlightens our mind, strengthens our will and inflames our heart with the love of God. Let us then invoke the Holy Spirit daily, for “the Spirit helps our infirmity. We know not what we should pray for. But the Spirit Himself ask for us.”

Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, Who has vouchsafed to regenerate us by water and the Holy Spirit, and has given us forgiveness of all sins, vouchsafe to send forth from heaven upon us your sevenfold Spirit, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Fortitude, the Spirit of Knowledge and Piety, and fill us with the Spirit of Holy Fear. Amen.

Day 2

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

All: Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and all will be reborn

All: And you will renew the face of the earth. Amen



love.

Scripture Reading -

Romans 8: 5-9

Thought for the day

The Gift of Fear

The gift of Fear fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread nothing so much as to offend Him by sin. It is a fear that arises, not from the thought of hell, but from sentiments of reverence and filial submission to our heavenly Father. It is the fear that is the beginning of wisdom, detaching us from worldly pleasures that could in any way separate us from God. "They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and in His sight will sanctify their souls."

Prayer

Come, O blessed Spirit of Holy Fear, penetrate my inmost heart, that I may set you, my Lord and God,

before my face forever. Help me to shun all things that can offend You, and make me worthy to appear before the pure eyes of Your Divine Majesty in heaven, where You live and reign in the unity of the ever Blessed Trinity, God world without end. Amen.

Day 3

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

All: Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and all will be reborn

All: And you will renew the face of the earth. Amen



Scripture Reading –

1 John 4:12-16

Thought for the day

The Gift of Piety

The gift of Piety begets in our hearts a filial affection for God as our most loving Father. It inspires us to love and respect for His sake persons and things consecrated to Him, as well as those who are vested with His authority, His Blessed Mother and the Saints, the Church and its visible Head, our parents and superiors, our country and its rulers. He who is filled with the gift of Piety finds the practice of his religion, not a burdensome duty, but a delightful service. Where there is love, there is no labor.

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Piety, possess my heart. Enkindle therein such a love for God, that I may find satisfaction only in His service, and for His sake lovingly submit to all legitimate authority. Amen.

Day 4

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

All: Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and all will be reborn

All: And you will renew the face of the earth. Amen

Scripture Reading

1 John 4:17-21

Thought for the day

The Gift of Fortitude

By the gift of Fortitude the soul is strengthened against natural fear, and supported to the end in the performance of duty. Fortitude imparts to the will an impulse and energy which move it to under take without hesitancy the most arduous tasks, to face dangers, to trample under foot human respect, and to endure without complaint the slow martyrdom of even lifelong tribulation. "He that shall persevere unto the end, he shall be saved."

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Fortitude, uphold my soul in time of trouble and adversity, sustain my efforts after holiness, strengthen my weakness, give me courage against all the assaults of my enemies, that I may never be overcome and separated from You, my God and greatest Good. Amen.

Day 5

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

All: Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and all will be reborn

All: And you will renew the face of the earth. Amen



Thought for the day

The Gift of Knowledge

The gift of Knowledge enables the soul to evaluate created things at their true worth--in their relation to God. Knowledge unmask the pretense of creatures, reveals their emptiness and points out their only true purpose as instruments in the service of God. It shows us the loving care of God even in adversity, and directs us to glorify Him in every circumstance of life. Guided by its light, we put first things first, and prize the friendship of God beyond all else. "Knowledge is a fountain of life to him that possesses it."

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Knowledge, and grant that I may perceive the will of the Father; show me the nothingness of earthly things, that I may realize their vanity and use them only for Your glory and my own salvation, looking ever beyond them to You, and Your eternal rewards. Amen

Day 6

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

All: Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and all will be reborn

All: And you will renew the face of the earth. Amen



Scripture Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-5

Thought for the day

The Gift of Understanding

Understanding, as a gift of the Holy Spirit, helps us to grasp the meaning of the truths of our holy religion. By faith we know them, but by Understanding we learn to appreciate and relish them. It enables us to penetrate the inner meaning of revealed truths and through them to be quickened to newness of life. Our faith ceases to be sterile and inactive, but inspires a mode of life that bears eloquent testimony to the faith that is in us; we begin to "walk worthy of God in all things pleasing, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Understanding, and enlighten our minds, that we may know and believe all the mysteries of salvation; and may merit at last to see the eternal light in Your Light; and in the light of glory to have a clear vision of You, Holy Spirit and the Father and the Son. Amen.

Day 7

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

All: Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and all will be reborn

All: And you will renew the face of the earth. Amen



Scripture Reading

Acts 1:6-9

Thought for the day

The Gift of Counsel

The gift of Counsel endows the soul with supernatural prudence, enabling it to judge promptly and rightly what must done, especially in difficult circumstances. Counsel applies the principles furnished by Knowledge and Understanding to the innumerable concrete cases that confront us in the course of our daily duty as parents, teachers, public servants, and Christian citizens. Counsel is supernatural common sense, a priceless treasure in the quest of salvation. "Above all these things, pray to the Most High, that He may direct Your way in truth."

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide me in all my ways, that I may always do Your holy will. Incline my heart to that which is good; turn it away from all that is evil, and direct me by the straight path of Your commandments to that goal of eternal life for which I long. Amen.

Day 8

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

All: Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and all will be reborn

All: And you will renew the face of the earth. Amen

Scripture Readings

Acts 1:12-14

Thought for the day

The Gift of Wisdom

Embodying all the other gifts, as charity embraces all the other virtues, Wisdom is the most perfect of the gifts. Of wisdom it is written "all good things came to me with her, and innumerable riches through her hands." It is the gift of Wisdom that strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity and promotes the practice of virtue in the highest degree. Wisdom enlightens the mind to discern and relish things divine, in the appreciation of which earthly joys lose their savor, while the Cross of Christ yields a divine sweetness according to the words of the Savior: "Take up your cross and follow me, for my yoke is sweet and my burden light".

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to my soul the mysteries of heavenly things, their exceeding greatness, power and beauty. Teach me to love them above and beyond all the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Help me to attain them and possess them for ever. Amen.

Day 9

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

All: Come Holy Spirit, inflame the hearts of all people with the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and all will be reborn

All: And you will renew the face of the earth. Amen

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:1-4

Thought for the Day

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of the Holy Spirit perfect the supernatural virtues by enabling us to practice them with greater docility to divine inspiration. As we grow in the knowledge and love of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit, our service becomes more sincere and generous, the practice of virtue more perfect. Such acts of virtue leave the heart filled with joy and consolation and are known as Fruits of the Holy Spirit. These Fruits in turn render the practice of virtue more attractive and become a powerful incentive for still greater efforts in the service of God.

Prayer

Come, O Divine Spirit, fill my heart with Your heavenly fruits, Your charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, faith, mildness, and temperance, that I may never weary in the service of God, but by continued faithful submission to Your inspiration may merit to be united eternally with You in the love of the Father and the Son. Amen.

