

Keeping Faith First

An RCL Resource
Supporting the
Whole Community
of Faith

The Holy Spirit Is God with Us Today?

Sometimes we may envy the people of biblical times. Old Testament prophets spoke for God, and marvelous events revealed the power of heaven. In the New Testament, Jesus, the Word of God, is available to everyone who could hear and accept him. But how does God come to us “who have not seen and yet believe”? In our age we experience the indwelling presence of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.



The coming of the Spirit at Pentecost—in fiery tongues and inspired speech—seems to be the beginning of the Spirit’s journey with us. In fact, the Spirit is eternally present as one of the Persons of the Holy Trinity who was first revealed in the movement stirring the waters before creation.

In the oracles of prophets and the wisdom of biblical heroes, we see the Spirit’s activity behind the scenes of history. Through the action of the Holy Spirit, Mary became the mother of Jesus. However, it wasn’t until Jesus predicted the coming of the *Paraclete*, our advocate and consoler, that the Spirit’s role in our world was spelled out. Since Pentecost, the church continues to invoke the action of the Spirit in the symbols of water, anointing, and the laying on of hands.

The Spirit bestows God’s abundant gifts on the church: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, courage, reverence, and wonder in God’s presence. We see the results of these gifts in the fruit they bear in our lives, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. In our inspired Scripture and Tradition, in the church’s teaching and liturgy, in the lives of its members and in the witness of the saints, God’s Spirit continues to shower holiness on our world.

Faith Sharing

Which gifts of the Holy Spirit are most active in me? Which fruits of the Holy Spirit do I most hope to bear in my life?

Faith Focus

The Spirit bestows God’s abundant gifts on the church.

The Church Says . . .

Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, we are brought to faith in Christ, communion with God, and are inspired to continue the work of the church. See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 684, 737–738

For More . . .

The Strangest Way: Walking the Christian Path by Robert Barron (Orbis Books, 2002).
“Only when we realize that our lives are situated in a context of life that stretches infinitely beyond are we ready to live.”

For additional resources visit
www.FaithFirst.com
and
www.wholecommunitycatechesis.com

WE PRAY . . . BEARER OF GIFTS

Prayer for Gathering in the Parish and at Home

Gathering

LEADER: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Prayer

LEADER: Let us pray.
(Silence)
God of life,
the Holy Spirit is a true
gift from you.
May we recognize all the
gifts of the Spirit,
may we live in the hope
of eternal life,
and may we praise you
as God who lives and
reigns forever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

Reading

READER: Proclaim Acts 2:1-4

Reflection: What difference does faith make?

*(This may be done one-on-one,
in small groups, or at tables.)*

What gift of the Holy Spirit can you
identify in your life? How can this
gift help you make a difference in
the world?

Ritual/Prayer

LEADER: Give everyone a small slip of
paper and have them write
down or draw a picture
symbolizing the gift of the
Spirit they have identified.
Let everyone come to the
center of the room, put their
piece of paper in a basket, and
call out the gift they have to
offer the world.

Sign of Peace

LEADER: As the People of God
gathered in Christ, let us
offer one another a sign
of peace.

Sending Forth Prayer

LEADER: Let us pray.
(Silence)
God our Father,
you have loved us and given
us eternal hope.
With the help of the
Holy Spirit,
may we continue to develop
and use our gifts to build a
better world.
May our lives be blessed
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.