



NICCSJ 2026 Novena to the Holy Spirit

This Novena is the original and oldest one in the Church. Jesus Himself instituted this novena when, after His Ascension, He told His Apostles to go to Jerusalem and pray for nine days before receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The disciples gathered in the upper room together with Our Blessed Mother for the Novena, in anticipation of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was given to the disciples to empower them to “be my witnesses...even to the ends of the earth.”

(Acts 1:8) Thus, over the centuries, 9-day novenas of prayer have developed in the Church, and Catholics pray novenas for specific intentions. In the Novena to the Holy Spirit, we pray for the renewal of the 7 gifts and 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit in us. Amen

Friday May 15th to Saturday May 23rd, 2026

Modality: (Part of May Devotions- through Community Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9206647431> (ID-920 6647431 Passcode- 424258). **See NICCSJ 20th Anniversary Prayer book, page 117-120**

Steps:

1. **Begin-** In the name of the Father, And of the Son, And of the Holy Spirit. Amen (Pray the prayer for a particular day (like Day 1 or Day 2...))
2. Mention the intentions:
 - a. Thanksgiving to God for all our answered prayers
 - b. For Marital Blessings and Job Opportunities for all our young adults & young professionals
 - c. For vocations to priestly and religious life from our Igbo Community
 - d. For families praying for the blessings of the fruits of the womb
 - e. For peace, security, and respect for human life in our home country Nigeria, especially in the Igbo Land
 - f. For God’s guidance, wisdom, & strength on our newly elected executives.
 - g. Peace & Progress for all the Igbo Catholic Communities, especially the Igbo Catholic Communities of the Bay Area
 - h. For God’s protection & healing on all of us and for those who are sick, especially Chief Adolph Obilor, Chief Goddy Duru & Kate Diru
 - i. For deceased members of our families, especially Mr. Paul C. Aninyei, Ezinne Angelina S. Nwagwu, & all the names in our virtual book of remembrance & for God’s consolation & strength on all the bereaved families. For other private intentions.
3. Pray the Rosary (May Devotions).
4. Pray the Daily Prayer for Priests
5. Pray the Prayer for the Family
6. Pray the Prayer for St. Michael the Archangel
7. Pray the Prayer for the Sick
8. Conclusion

General Opening Prayer For Each Day:

L- Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful

R- And kindle in them the fire of your love.

L- Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

R- And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us Pray: O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Opening Prayer Day 1- Friday 05/15 : For Gift of Wisdom:

Omnipotent and eternal God, who has willed to regenerate your servants in water and in the Holy Spirit, you have granted us the remission of our sins; let the Holy Spirit, our Divine Consoler, descend from heaven upon us with his seven precious gifts. Design to send us your Spirit of WISDOM, that he may alert us to the enemies that we ought to fear, and the dangers that we ought to avoid amid the deceptive appearances of this world; we ask that he inspire us to choose in every circumstance what is most useful for the preservation and increase of divine life in our souls. *We present these Intentions:*

Opening Prayer Day 2- Saturday 05/16: For Gift of Understanding:

Omnipotent and eternal God, who has willed to regenerate your servants in water and in the Holy Spirit, you have granted us the remission of our sins; let the Holy Spirit, our Divine Consoler, descend from heaven upon us with his seven precious gifts. Send us your Spirit of UNDERSTANDING, that he may make us understand the beauty, the sweetness and the fruitfulness of the holy truths whose light illumines our path in this world; truths which you our Heavenly Father reveal with so much love to the humble while you hide them from the proud. *We present these Intentions:*

Opening Prayer Day 3- Sunday 05/17: For Gift of Counsel:

Omnipotent and eternal God, who has willed to regenerate your servants in water and in the Holy Spirit, you have granted us the remission of our sins; let the Holy Spirit, our Divine Consoler, descend from heaven upon us with his seven precious gifts. Send us the Spirit of COUNSEL, that in the moment of action he may always incline us to the most opportune and prudent of reflections; that he may make us perfectly docile to your secret inspiration and that he may make us, in time of need, the courageous and self-denying counselors of our brothers. *We present these Intentions:*

Opening Prayer Day 4- Monday 05/18: For Gift of Fortitude:

Omnipotent and eternal God, who has willed to regenerate your servants in water and in the Holy Spirit, you have granted us the remission of our sins; let the Holy Spirit, our Divine Consoler, descend from heaven upon us with his seven precious gifts. Send us the Spirit of FORTITUDE, that he may change our weakness into strength and that of the faint-hearted, he may make apostles full of burning zeal. *We present these Intentions:*

Opening Prayer Day 5- Tuesday 05/19: For Gift of Knowledge:

Omnipotent and eternal God, who has willed to regenerate your servants in water and in the Holy Spirit, you have granted us the remission of our sins; let the Holy Spirit, our Divine Consoler, descend from heaven upon us with his seven precious gifts. Send us your Spirit of KNOWLEDGE, that he may inspire us with a horror of lying and error, that he may inflame us with a noble and holy love of all the truths that you have taught us; and that, to guard our heart a constant memory of them such as that possessed by the Most Holy Virgin Our Beloved Mother. *We present these Intentions:*

Opening Prayer Day 6- Wednesday 05/20: For Gift of Piety:

Omnipotent and eternal God, who has willed to regenerate your servants in water and in the Holy Spirit, you have granted us the remission of our sins; let the Holy Spirit, our Divine Consoler, descend from heaven upon us with his seven precious gifts. Give us your Spirit of PIETY, that he may enkindle in us the fire of your love; of that love which makes us love your divine will ardently even in things most minute, that is to say, in our duty! That love which carries, even to heroism and martyrdom, the soul that it has filled and which by means of faith in prayer, secures for them strength, perseverance, and victory in all things. *We present these Intentions:*

Opening Prayer Day 7- Thursday 05/21: For Gift of Fear of God:

Omnipotent and eternal God, who has willed to regenerate your servants in water and in the Holy Spirit, you have granted us the remission of our sins; let the Holy Spirit, our Divine Consoler, descend from heaven upon us with his seven precious gifts. Fill us, Lord, with your Spirit of FEAR, that we may remember in the midst of the sweet intimacies here and now, your majesty, your boundless power and your dread judgement; send us that spirit of fear that he may keep us ever under your gaze, your direction and your sovereign dominion and that above all, forming in our heart a sublime and delicious union of respect and love he may make us see that the only real misfortune for the creature is the black ingratitude that is contracted through sin. *We present these Intentions:*

Opening Prayer Day 8- Friday 05/22: For Fruits of Holy Spirit:

O Holy Spirit, Eternal love of the Father and the Son, deign to grant me the fruit of CHARITY, that it may unite me to you by means of love: the fruit of JOY that it may fill me with a holy happiness even in the midst of affliction; the fruit of PEACE, that it may give me tranquility of conscience; the fruit of PATIENCE; that it may make me love the cross and help me bear it, the fruit of BEGNIGNITY; that it may incline me to relieve the necessities of my neighbor, the fruit of LONG SUFFERING, that it may maintain me in patience in the midst of opposition, the fruit of MILDNESS, that it may make me endure tranquility whatever there may be in my neighbor to cause me annoyance, the fruit of FAITH; that it may permeate me with respect and love of the word of God; the fruit of MODESTY; that it may regulate all my external acts; the fruit of CONTINENCY; that it may preserve my body in holiness, the fruit of GOODNESS that it may make me seek unreservedly the goodness of all humanity, and the fruit of CHASTITY that by keeping my heart always in this world, I may deserve to see you in the mansions of your Glory. *We present these Intentions:*

Opening Prayer Day 9- Saturday 05/23: For Fruits of Holy Spirit:

O Holy Spirit, Eternal love of the Father and the Son, deign to grant me the fruit of CHARITY, that it may unite me to you by means of love: the fruit of JOY that it may fill me with a holy happiness even in the midst of affliction; the fruit of PEACE, that it may give me tranquility of conscience; the fruit of PATIENCE; that it may make me love the cross and help me bear it, the fruit of BEGNIGNITY; that it may incline me to relieve the necessities of my neighbor, the fruit of LONG SUFFERING, that it may maintain me in patience in the midst of opposition, the fruit of MILDNESS, that it may make me endure tranquility whatever there may be in my neighbor to cause me annoyance, the fruit of FAITH; that it may permeate me with respect and love of the word of God; the fruit of MODESTY; that it may regulate all my external acts; the fruit of CONTINENCY; that it may preserve my body in holiness, the fruit of GOODNESS that it may make me seek unreservedly the goodness of all humanity, and the fruit of CHASTITY that by keeping my heart always in this world, I may deserve to see you in the mansions of your Glory. *We present these Intentions: Novena Prayers adapted from <https://novenaprayer.com/novena-to-the-holy-spirit/>*

The Dail Prayer for Priests by St. Therese of the Child Jesus (St. Therese of Lisieux)

O Jesus, we pray for your faithful and fervent priests;

For your unfaithful and tepid priests;

For your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields.

For your tempted priests; for your lonely and desolate priests;

For your old and young priests; for your dying priests;

For the souls of your priests in Purgatory.

But above all, we recommend to you the priests dearest to us:

the priests who baptized us; the priests who absolved us from our sins;

the priests at whose Masses we participated and who gave us Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion;

the priests who taught and instructed us; all the priests to whom we are indebted in any other way. O

Jesus, keep them all close to your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. Amen.



Prayer for the Family



Heavenly Father, most good and gracious God sustain our family in your love. Make it a place where holiness can abound. Help us to learn to be like Jesus in all our actions. Aid our family to imitate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Help us to learn from the good example of others and to give good examples to others. Assist us in learning to bear our pain and suffering as Jesus did. Aid us in overcoming difficulties and carry our crosses. Help our family life to lead only to Jesus, the source of true happiness. Please give wholesome habits to our family. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen



Prayer For the Sick

O God of the heavenly virtues, who from the bodies of men and women drives forth all sickness and all infirmities by the power of thy word: draw graciously upon all our brothers and sisters who are sick that with weakness put to flight and health and strength continually renewed, they will continue to bless your holy name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Mary health of the Sick- Pray for us

O Mary help of Christians- Pray for us

O Mary Comforter of the afflicted- Pray for us

Conclusion

We fly to your patronage, O holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

