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# *Novena to the Holy Spirit*

## Novena to the Holy Spirit

The Novena to the Holy Spirit can be prayed over any nine-day period, however, it is particularly appropriate during the nine days between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday. This novena focuses on the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.



## Novena to the Holy Spirit

*Composed in 2019 in honor of the bicentennial of the birth of Servant of God Isaac Hecker on December 18, 1819.*

**Fr. Hecker and his companions  
founded the Paulist Fathers in 1858.**

*To learn about his life and cause for canonization,  
please visit: [paulist.org/hecker](http://paulist.org/hecker)*

# Day One

## Invocation

- L. Come Holy Spirit
- R. Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.
- L. Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.
- R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.
- L. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in the Spirit's consolation, through Christ our Lord.
- R. Amen

## Opening Prayer

Lord, you have given us eternal life through Christ your Son who rose from the dead and now sits at your right hand. When he comes again in glory, may he clothe with immortality all who have been born again in baptism. We pray this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

## Scripture Reading

But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord.

*Isaiah 11:1-3*

## Response

- L. Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my thoughts may all be holy;
- R. Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my work, too, may be holy;  
That I love only what is holy;
- R. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
To defend all that is holy;
- L. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
That I always may be holy.

*St. Augustine of Hippo*

## From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

“The age is superficial; it needs the gift of Wisdom, which enables the soul to contemplate truth in its ultimate causes. The age is materialistic; it needs the gift of Intelligence, by the light of which the intellect perpetuates into the essence of things. The age is captivated by a false and one-sided science; it needs the gift of Science, by the light of which is seen each order of truth in its true relations to other orders and in a divine unity. The age is in disorder and is ignorant of the way to true progress; it needs the gift of Counsel, which teaches how to choose the proper means to attain an object. The age is impious; it needs the gift of Piety, which leads the soul to look up to God as the Heavenly Father, and to adore Him with feelings of filial affection and love. The age is sensual; it needs the gift of Fortitude, which imparts to the will the strength to endure the greatest enterprises with ease and heroism. The age has lost and almost forgotten God; it needs the gift of Fear, to bring the soul again to God, and make it feel conscious of its responsibility and of its destiny.”

*Spend some quite time in prayer asking for the grace to be attentive to the Holy Spirit and invite the gifts of the Spirit into your life. (Quiet time follows).*

## Closing Prayer

Father, may we learn to ask for what we truly need from you, the abundant gifts of your Holy Spirit. Let Christ ever intercede for us, opening the heavens to fill earth with the Spirit's gifts. May Pentecost be ever present in our Christian lives. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Day Two

### Invocation

- L. Come Holy Spirit
- R. Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.
- L. Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.
- R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.
- L. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in the Spirit's consolation, through Christ our Lord.
- R. Amen

### Opening Prayer

Father, at the time of your Son's ascension into heaven you promised to send the Holy Spirit on your apostles. You filled them with heavenly wisdom: fill us also with the gift of your Spirit. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

### Scripture Reading

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,

and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

*Corinthians 12: 1,4-11*



## Response

- L. Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my thoughts may all be holy;
- R. Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my work, too, may be holy;
- L. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,  
That I love only what is holy;
- R. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
To defend all that is holy;
- L. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
That I always may be holy.

*St. Augustine of Hippo*

## From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

“A constant readiness to perceive the Divine guidance in the secret ways of the soul, and then to act with decision and a noble and generous courage – this is true wisdom.”

*Spend some time asking for the gift of Wisdom.  
(Quiet time follows.)*

## Closing Prayer

Lord, Jesus, you are the Word of God, eternal with the Father and the Spirit. You sent the Spirit to us that we might partake of your Word, living in you, sharing in your eternal wisdom, the wisdom which helps us see everything in you. Increase your wisdom in our minds and lives. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Day Three

### Invocation

- L. Come Holy Spirit
- R. Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.
- L. Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.
- R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.
- L. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in the Spirit's consolation, through Christ our Lord.
- R. Amen

### Opening Prayer

Father, help us to keep in mind that Christ our Savior lives with you in glory and promised to remain with us until the end of time. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

### Scripture Reading

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.

For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is. So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

*Colossians 2:2-8*



## Response

- L. Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my thoughts may all be holy;
- R. Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my work, too, may be holy;
- L. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,  
That I love only what is holy;
- R. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
To defend all that is holy;
- L. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
That I always may be holy.

*St. Augustine of Hippo*

## From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

“Religious institutions repeat the history of the church. They start from a Pentecostal gift of the Holy Spirit. Placing souls thus more and more under the immediate guidance of the Divine Spirit will have far-reaching and practical results. An advantage to the soul being guided immediately by the divine light, it will increase individual action, liberty and energy. They will take the direction as the natural leaders of all the great enterprises of society and embracing also in their view and actions the whole world.”

*Spend some time asking for the gift of Understanding.  
(Quiet time follows.)*

## Closing Prayer

Lord, by the coming of your Spirit into our lives, erase the dullness of our minds, sharpen us to see the signs of your presence and power in our lives, awaken us to see those truths without which we cannot truly live. We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.





## Day Four

### Invocation

- L. Come Holy Spirit
- R. Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.
- L. Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.
- R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.
- L. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in the Spirit's consolation, through Christ our Lord.
- R. Amen

### Opening Prayer

Father, let your Spirit come upon us with power to fill us with his gifts. May he make our hearts pleasing to you and ready to do your will. We ask through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

### Scripture Reading

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

*1 Corinthians 2:1-5*

## Response

- L. Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my thoughts may all be holy;
- R. Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my work, too, may be holy;
- L. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,  
That I love only what is holy;
- R. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
To defend all that is holy;
- L. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
That I always may be holy.

*St. Augustine of Hippo*

## From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

“The essential and universal principle which saves and sanctifies souls is the Holy Spirit. The actual and habitual guidance of the soul by the Holy Spirit is the essential principle of all divine life.”

*Spend some time asking for the gift of Counsel.  
(Quiet time follows.)*

## Closing Prayer

In times of doubt and darkness, let us know, O Holy Spirit, your steady presence. When we are pulled in directions that seem to tear us apart, hold us together, O Spirit of God. When we feel at a loss for what path to take, lead us, guide us and show us the way. Help us to keep our hearts fixed on you, Counselor of God, and on your abiding warmth. We pray this in the name of the one who sent you, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.



## Day Five

### Invocation

- L. Come Holy Spirit
- R. Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.
- L. Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.
- R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.
- L. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in the Spirit's consolation, through Christ our Lord.
- R. Amen

### Opening Prayer

God of mercy, unite your Church in the Holy Spirit that we may serve you with all our hearts and work together with unselfish love. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

### Scripture Reading

But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.”

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.”

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

*2 Corinthians 1:18-22*

## Response

- L. Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my thoughts may all be holy;  
R. Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my work, too, may be holy;  
L. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,  
That I love only what is holy;  
R. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
To defend all that is holy;  
L. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
That I always may be holy.

*St. Augustine of Hippo*

## From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

“That divine action which is the immediate and principal cause of the salvation and perfection of the soul, claims by right the soul’s direct and main attention. From this source within the soul there will gradually come to birth the consciousness of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, out of which will spring a force surpassing all human strength, a courage higher than all human heroism, a sense of dignity excelling all human greatness.”

*Spend some time asking for the gift of Fortitude.  
(Quiet time follows.)*

## Closing Prayer

Spirit of God, strengthen us. Make us strong with a power that trusts in your presence above all things, and hopes in your guiding love through all creation. Take away our doubts and hesitations when we know your path. Take away our quibbling when we know the truth of your divine light. Guide us along the path in such a way that, in your strength, we may guide others as you wish. We pray this through the one who sent you to us, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.



## Day Six

### Invocation

- L. Come Holy Spirit
- R. Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.
- L. Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.
- R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.
- L. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in the Spirit's consolation, through Christ our Lord.
- R. Amen

### Opening Prayer

Lord, send the power of your Holy Spirit upon us that we may remain faithful and do your will in our daily lives. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

### Scripture Reading

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

*Corinthians 12: 1,4-11*



## Response

- L. Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my thoughts may all be holy;
- R. Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my work, too, may be holy;  
That I love only what is holy;
- R. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
To defend all that is holy;
- L. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
That I always may be holy.
- St. Augustine of Hippo*

## From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

“Through the Holy Spirit the world was called out of chaos.  
Through the Holy Spirit the patriarchs and prophets were inspired.  
Through the Holy Spirit the way to Incarnation was prepared.  
Through the Holy Spirit the Church was established.  
Through the Holy Spirit every Christian soul is regenerated.  
Through the Holy Spirit all things receive their perfection and are glorified.  
Through the Holy Spirit the martyrs receive their strength to sustain triumphantly over their sufferings.

Through the Holy Spirit the innumerable litany of the Saints were sanctified.  
Through the Holy Spirit we receive all that is Holy, Good, and Beautiful.”

*Spend some time asking for the gift of Knowledge.*  
(Quiet time follows.)

## Closing Prayer

Lord, our minds and hearts are weak. Scattered thoughts and half-impressions guide our steps most of the time, leading us to be erratic in the direction of our lives. Help us to see how our lives come together, and how they come together in you. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



# Day Seven

## Invocation

- L. Come Holy Spirit
- R. Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.
- L. Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.
- R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.
- L. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in the Spirit's consolation, through Christ our Lord.
- R. Amen

## Opening Prayer

God of power and mercy, send your Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and make us temples of his glory. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

## Scripture Reading

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

*Romans 8:26-28*

## Response

- L. Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my thoughts may all be holy;
- R. Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my work, too, may be holy;
- L. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,  
That I love only what is holy;
- R. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
To defend all that is holy;
- L. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
That I always may be holy.

*St. Augustine of Hippo*



## From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

“True piety is not something foreign to the common duties of our daily life; it consists in performing these duties with an eye to God.”

*Spend some time asking for the gift of Piety.*  
(Quiet time follows.)

## Closing Prayer

Lord, God, our hearts grow lukewarm and our minds grow dull, seeking things we do not need and bypassing your Love and Grace which we need most of all. Awaken us to you, our need for you, and the passionate love which would lead us always to cling to you. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





## Day Eight

### Invocation

- L. Come Holy Spirit
- R. Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.
- L. Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.
- R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.
- L. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in the Spirit's consolation, through Christ our Lord.
- R. Amen

### Opening Prayer

O God, you opened up for us the way to eternity when you took your Son up in glory and enlightened us by the Holy Spirit. Grant that these great gifts may deepen our faith and increase our devotion to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

### Scripture Reading

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

*Acts 2:38-43*

## Response

- L. Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my thoughts may all be holy;
- R. Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my work, too, may be holy;
- L. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,  
That I love only what is holy;
- R. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
To defend all that is holy;
- L. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
That I always may be holy.

*St. Augustine of Hippo*

## From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

“I feel the presence of God wherever I am.  
I would kneel and praise God in all places.”

*Spend some time asking for the gift of Fear of the Lord  
or Sacred Awe.*

*(Quiet time follows.)*

## Closing Prayer

Be close to me, Spirit of God, but never let me take you for granted. Be my strength, Spirit of Jesus, but never let me use you as only a crutch. Be present to me, Holy Spirit, but as what is most special to me, most crucial for my life, most certain among all that I know. Be my center, Spirit of God. Be the core of my life. I pray this through the one who sent you to us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



# Day Nine

## Invocation

- L. Come Holy Spirit
- R. Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.
- L. Send forth your Spirit and they will be created.
- R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.
- L. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructed the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit we may know what is right and always rejoice in the Spirit's consolation, through Christ our Lord.
- R. Amen

## Opening Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, by your will the celebration of Easter is summed up in the mystery of Pentecost. Grant that the peoples you have scattered across the earth, speaking many tongues, may unite in proclaiming your greatness and be gathered back together by the gift of your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

## Scripture Reading

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

*Act 2:1-4*

## Response

- L. Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my thoughts may all be holy;
- R. Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my work, too, may be holy;
- L. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,  
That I love only what is holy;
- R. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
To defend all that is holy;
- L. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
That I always may be holy.

*St. Augustine of Hippo*

## From Servant of God Isaac Hecker

“The Christian Church dates her birth from the day of Pentecost, when she was endowed from on high with the never-failing presence of the Holy Spirit who is her indwelling life and power.”

*Spend some time reflecting on the action of the Holy Spirit in the Church. (Quiet time follows.)*

## Closing Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all your faithful people and re-ignite in us the fire you first brought to the world in the feast of Pentecost, when your followers, intoxicated on the wine of your life, proclaimed your salvation to the world. Come to us again. Make us know you. Make us sure of your presence. Make us signs of your presence to each other and to the world. Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.



# Hecker Prayer

If you or a loved one is need of a miracle for healing, please consider praying the words below and stating your request where indicated. Two miracles must be attributed to Servant of God Isaac Hecker's intercession before he may be canonized as a saint.

## Prayer for the Intercession of Servant of God Isaac Hecker

“Heavenly Father, you called your servant Isaac Thomas Hecker to preach the Gospel to the people of North America and, through his teaching, to know the peace and the power of your indwelling Spirit.

He walked in the footsteps of St. Paul the Apostle, and like Paul spoke your Word with a zeal for souls and a burning love for all who came to him in need.

Look upon us this day, with compassion and hope. Hear our prayer.

We ask that, through the intercession of Fr. Hecker your servant, you might grant us *(state the request)*.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. One God, forever and ever. Amen.”

If God grants your prayer at the intercession of Fr. Hecker, please contact the Paulist Fathers at (212) 586-2017 or [media@paulist.org](mailto:media@paulist.org).





**Servant of God Isaac Hecker**

1819 - 1888



*Scenes of the life of Fr. Hecker are details from this painting by Lumen Martin Winter.*