

CONFIRMATION NOVENA

As the day of your Confirmation Retreat approaches, take time to meditate on the meaning of living in the Spirit of Jesus. We invite you and your family to pray a novena. A novena is nine days of prayer. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read of Jesus' disciples spending nine days in prayer after his Ascension (Acts 1: 12-14) before the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Making this novena with your family is very important to prepare for your Confirmation retreat. If you want to be open to the Holy Spirit working in your life, you will uncover more about God's great love for you and you will be ready to respond more readily to His compassionate love for you.

For each of the nine days leading up to your Confirmation Retreat, set aside time to pray the Novena with your family.

NINE DAYS OF PRAYER BEFORE THE CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Day 1:

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and together as a Family pray one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.

Reading: (*Proverbs 1: 2, 5, and 7*) "Here are proverbs that will help you recognize wisdom and good advice, and understand sayings with deep meaning. These proverbs can even add to the knowledge of the wise and give guidance to the educated. To have knowledge, you must first have reverence for the Lord. Stupid people have no respect for wisdom and refuse to learn." (*St. Mary's Press, Catholic Children's Bible*)

"That people may know wisdom and discipline, may understand intelligent sayings; the wise by hearing them will advance in learning, the intelligent will gain sound guidance. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline." (Proverbs 1:2, 5, 7)

Share a word or a phrase from the reading that touched your heart:

Prayer:

Come, Holy Spirit! Help us rejoice in the countless blessings God has given us. Teach us to do God's will. Reveal to each of us what is necessary to rest in the knowledge of God's love. Amen.

Action:

Spend extra time in silent prayer to talk and listen to the Spirit in your heart.

Let's finish this day praying:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit, help us to know what is truly right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Day 2:

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and together as a Family pray one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.

Reading: *Proverbs 3: 13-15*

"Happy is anyone who becomes wise, who comes to have understanding. There is more profit in it than there is in silver; it is worth more to you than gold. Wisdom is more valuable than jewels; nothing you could want can compare with it." (*St. Mary's Press, Catholic Children's Bible*)

"Happy the one who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding. Her profit is better than profit in silver, and better than gold is her revenue; she is more precious than corals, and no treasure of yours can compare with her." (Proverbs 3:13-15)

Share a word or a phrase from the reading that touched your heart:

Prayer:

May the Holy Spirit reconcile all divisions in friendships, families, among nations, and in the Church! May the Spirit's wisdom help us work for reconciliation and peace. Amen.

Action:

Seek forgiveness when necessary. Pray for peace in a particular part of the world that you have heard about through the news.

Let's finish this day praying:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit, help us to know what is truly right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Day 3

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and together as a Family pray one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.

Reading: *Proverbs 8: 12, 14, 17*

"I am Wisdom, and I have insight; I have knowledge and sound judgement. I make plans and carry them out. I have understanding, and I am strong. I love those who love me; whoever looks for me can find me. (*St. Mary's Press, Catholic Children's Bible*)

"I, Wisdom, dwell with prudence, and useful knowledge I have. Mine are counsel and advice; mine is strength; I am understanding. Those who love me I also love, and those who seek me find me." (Proverbs 8:12, 14, 17)

Share a word or a phrase from the reading that touched your heart:

Prayer:

May the Holy Spirit give me counsel to act justly, to see Christ in those who are poor, and to pray for those who mourn. Amen.

Action:

Earn and set aside some of your own money to donate to a place in the collection basket during the Confirmation Mass or give to another charitable cause.

Let's finish this day saying:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit, help us to know what is truly right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Day 4

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and together as a Family pray one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.

Reading: *Proverbs 21: 1-3*

"The Lord controls the mind of a king as easily as he directs the course of a stream. You may think that everything you do is right, but remember that the Lord Judges your motives. Do what is right and fair; that pleases the Lord more than bringing him sacrifices." (*St. Mary's Press, Catholic Children's Bible*)

"A king's heart is channeled water in the hand of the Lord; God directs it where he pleases. All your ways may be straight in your own eyes, but it is the Lord who weighs hearts. To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord." (Proverbs 21:1-3)

Share a word or a phrase from the reading that touched your heart:**Prayer:**

May the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with love of the Father and respect for creation. May the gift of piety enable me to respect and care for nature and not destroy it. Amen.

Action:

Take a walk outside, admiring God's handiwork.

Let's finish this day praying:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit, help us to know what is truly right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Day 5

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and together as a Family pray one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.

Reading: *Proverbs 10: 23-25*

"It is foolish to enjoy doing wrong. Intelligent people take pleasure in wisdom. The righteous get what they want, but the wicked will get what they fear most. Storms come, and the wicked are blown away, but honest people are always safe. (*St. Mary's Press, Catholic Children's Bible*)

"Crime is the entertainment of the fool; but wisdom is for the person of understanding. What the wicked fear will befall them, but the desire of the just will be granted. When the tempest passes, the wicked are no more; but the just are established forever." (Proverbs 10:23–25)

Prayer:

Let us pray. May the Holy Spirit's gift of understanding enlighten us to better grasp Christ's love for us. May we show our love by serving our brothers and sisters. Amen.

Share a word or a phrase from the reading that touched your heart:

Action:

Do something nice for someone, and don't let him or her know that you did it.

Let's finish this day praying:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit, help us to know what is truly right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Day 6

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and together as a Family pray one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.

Reading: Proverbs 21: 20-22

"Wise people live in wealth and luxury, but stupid people spend their money as fast as they get it. Be kind and honest and you will live a long life; others will respect you and treat you fairly. A shrewd general can take a city defended by strong men, and destroy the wall they relied on." (St. Mary's Press, Catholic Children's Bible)

"Precious treasure and oil are in the house of the wise, but the fool consumes them. Whoever pursues justice and kindness will find life and honor. The wise person storms the city of the mighty, and overthrows the stronghold in which they trust." (Proverbs 21:20–22)

Share a word or a phrase from the reading that touched your heart:

Prayer:

May the Holy Spirit strengthen us with fortitude to accept suffering with faith. Let our prayers comfort the dying, and may all who have died be welcomed to eternal life. Amen.

Action:

Speak and think positively; do not complain.

Let's finish this day praying:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit, help us to know what is truly right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Day 7

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and together as a Family pray one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.

Reading: *Proverbs 1: 29-30, 33*

"You have never had any use for knowledge and have always refused to obey the Lord. You have never wanted my advice or paid any attention when I corrected you. But whoever listens to me will have security. He will be safe, with no reason to be afraid." (*St. Mary's Press, Catholic Children's Bible*)

"Because they hated knowledge, and the fear of the Lord they did not choose. They ignored my counsel, they spurned all my reproof; but whoever obeys me dwells in security, in peace, without fear of harm."
(*Proverbs 1:29-30, 33*)

Share a word or a phrase from the reading that touched your heart:

Prayer:

May the gift of fear of the Lord enables us to reject sin, and may the Spirit of the Lord live in us as his temple. Amen.

Action:

Keep God in mind as you make decisions throughout the day.

Let's finish this day praying:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit, help us to know what is truly right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Day 8

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and together as a Family pray one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.

Reading: *Proverbs 27: 1-2, 18*

"Never boast about tomorrow. You don't know what will happen between now and then. Let other people praise you – even strangers; never do it yourself. Take care of a fig tree and you will have figs to eat. Servants who take care of their master will be honored." (*St. Mary's Press, Catholic Children's Bible*)

"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what any day may bring forth. Let another praise you, not your own mouth; a stranger, not your own lips. Those who tend a fig tree eat its fruit; so those attentive to their master will be honored." (*Proverbs 27:1-2, 18*)

Share a word or a phrase from the reading that touched your heart:

Prayer:

By tending to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, may my life overflow with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity. Amen.

Action:

Be kind to someone with whom you've had a disagreement.

Let's finish this day praying:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit, help us to know what is truly right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Day 9

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and together as a Family pray one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.

Reading: *John 6: 27*

"Do not work for food that spoils; instead, work for the food that lasts for eternal life. This is the food which the Son of Man will give you, because God, the Father, has put his mark of approval on him." (*St. Mary's Press, Catholic Children's Bible*)

"Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." (John 6:27)

Share a word or a phrase from the reading that touched your heart:**Prayer:**

May each person in our family be filled with zeal to proclaim the Gospel and with the joy and strength of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Action:

Be pleasant and gracious to all

Let's finish each day praying:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit, help us to know what is truly right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

(Prayers adapted from: Prayer Text © Loyola Press)