PENTECOST

NOVENA

NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALKS

ABOUT THE NOVENA

The Novena in honor of the Holy Spirit is the original novena, of which all other novenas are only imitations. Our Lord Himself instituted this novena when, on the day of His ascension, He sent His Apostles back to Jerusalem to pray for nine days that they might be ready on the tenth day, which was Pentecost, to receive the Holy Spirit.

You are invited to join in this Novena consisting of 9 days of prayer beginning Friday May 26th, and concluding Saturday June 3rd on the eve of Pentecost. This Novena consists of just two prayers, an Opening Prayer which comes from the Diocese of Lansing's 2012 Year of Prayer, and a prayer for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Novena, Opening Prayer

Let us pray that every person within the Catholic Diocese of Lansing will come to know and love our Lord Jesus Christ in a personal way, grow in maturity as a disciple of Christ, become actively engaged in the full life of the Church, and joyfully utilize his or her gifts for the building up of the Kingdom of God and the salvation of souls.

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. 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.

Novena, Prayer for the Seven Gifts

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, before you ascended into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit into the souls of your apostles and disciples, graciously grant me the same Holy Spirit. Grant that He may perfect in my soul your grace and love and graciously fill me with your spirit of:

- *Wonder and Awe, that I may be filled with an infinite and loving reverence towards God, and dread in any way to   displease Him.*

- *Reverence, that I may find service of God sweet and amiable.*

- *Knowledge, that I may know God and myself- to grow perfect in holiness.*

- *Courage, that I may joyfully bear my cross with you and overcome all obstacles that oppose my salvation.*

- *Right Judgment, that I may gain beatitude by always choosing the surest way of pleasing God.*

- *Understanding, that I may enlighten my mind with Your divine truth.*

- *Wisdom, that I may aspire only for the things that are eternal and despise the things of this world.*

Mark me Lord with the sign of Your true disciple, animate me in all things with Your Spirit, and grant that I may achieve the Fruits of the Holy Spirits in my lifetime. Amen.

Neighborhood Prayer Walks

Pope Francis has said, *"The Church which "goes forth" is a   community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the   initiative, he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast." (*Evangelii Gaudium no.24)

You're invited to walk the streets of your neighborhood and intercede for your neighbors. As we go, let's pray for their needs– material, emotional, and spiritual. Below are some ideas of different ways to pray as you walk.

Pray the Opening Prayer from the Pentecost Novena

Pray the Rosary, offering each decade for a particular intention:
1. *Lord, provide for the real, physical needs of my neighbors.*
2. *Lord, provide for the emotional needs of my neighbors, heal any woundedness.*
3. *Lord, let my neighbors recognize their spiritual needs and spiritual hungers.*
4. *Lord, let me be a sign of your deep love for my neighbors.*
5. *Lord, enable me to be a beacon lighting the way to you, who alone can satisfy our restless hearts.*

Ask the Lord:
> *Lord Jesus, how do you want me to bless the people in this neighborhood?*
> *Lord Jesus, what is a practical next step for me here?*