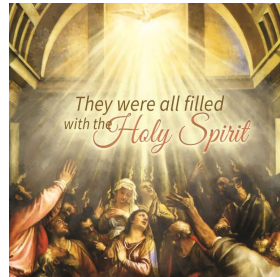


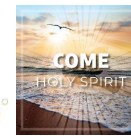
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Knowing the Holy Spirit

Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunncliff
June 5, 2025

1



Knowing the Holy Spirit



Webinar Tips

- All participants are muted to reduce background noise
- If slides are not fully visible, check at the top center of your screen for "fit to window" under arrow.
- If you would like to ask a question, at the bottom of your screen you should see a box with the letters "Q & A". Click it and you can type your question. It will show on my screen.
- In addition to the slides, you should see a video of me. It should appear in the upper right of your screen. It should not block any significant content on the slides. If it does, you can drag it around.

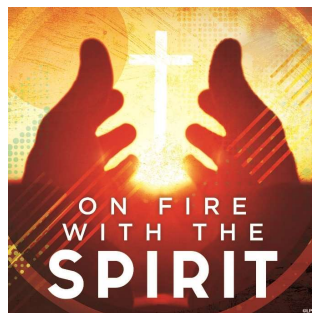
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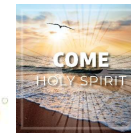
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Opening Prayer



3



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We Must Not Be Afraid to Speak
What God Asks of Us

To do so,
we need courage.
Where do we find the courage?

4



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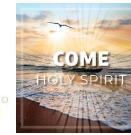


We Need the Holy Spirit

“Just like we need electricity to power our devices, we need the Holy Spirit to empower our soul.”

(Family Formation, Introduction Video, “The Holy Spirit: Power and Strength For Our Family.” Foundations series. Month 5. <https://www.familyformation.net/>)

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We Need the Holy Spirit

We need his power, strength, and grace in order to be able to live as Jesus calls us.

6



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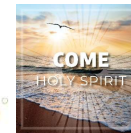
Other Names for the Holy Spirit

Jesus generally refers to the Holy Spirit as such but also refers to him as (may vary depending on Bible translation):

- **Advocate**

- John 14:16-18 – “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Advocate** to be with you always, **the Spirit of truth**, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

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Other Names for the Holy Spirit cont'd

- **Advocate** cont'd

- John 15:26 – “When the **Advocate** comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me.”
- John 16:7 – “But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the **Advocate** will not come to you.”

8



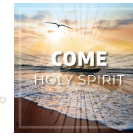
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Other Names for the Holy Spirit cont'd

- **Paraclete**
 - NABRE footnote to John 14:16 – “The Greek term derives from legal terminology for an advocate or defense attorney, and can mean spokesman, mediator, intercessor, comforter, consoler, although no one of these terms encompasses the meaning in John. The **Paraclete** in John is a teacher, a witness to Jesus, and a prosecutor of the world, who represents the continued presence on earth of the Jesus who has returned to the Father.”

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Other Names for the Holy Spirit cont'd

- Paraclete cont'd
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 692
“When he proclaims and promises the coming of the Holy Spirit, Jesus calls him the **“Paraclete,”** literally, “he who is called to one’s side,” advocatus. “Paraclete” is commonly translated by **“consoler,”** and Jesus is the first consoler. The Lord also called the Holy Spirit **“the Spirit of truth.”**”
 - The use of the term “consoler” may lead us to think of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. More on that later.

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Knowing the Holy Spirit



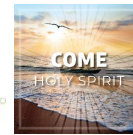
The Holy Spirit and the Bible

We also need the Bible to help us know how to live.

The Holy Spirit inspired the human authors in what they wrote.

The same Holy Spirit helps us read and understand the Bible (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 111-114).

11



Knowing the Holy Spirit



Symbols of the Holy Spirit

- Water
 - Living water
 - John 7:37-39
 - Verse 39 – “He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive.”
 - John 4 – Samaritan Woman at the well
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 694 – “The symbolism of water signifies the Holy Spirit’s action in Baptism.” We are born from above with the Holy Spirit (John 3:1-8)

12



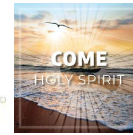
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Symbols of the Holy Spirit cont'd

- Anointing
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 695* – “The symbolism of anointing with oil also signifies the Holy Spirit, to the point of becoming a synonym for the Holy Spirit.”

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Knowing the Holy Spirit



Symbols of the Holy Spirit cont'd

- Fire
 - A cleansing fire vs. a destructive fire
 - Are you on fire with the Holy Spirit?
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 696* – “fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions.”
 - Tongues of fire (Acts 2:3)
 - Talking in other languages – unity of the Holy Spirit

14



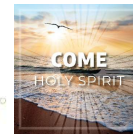
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Symbols of the Holy Spirit cont'd

- Cloud and light
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 697*
 - In the Old Testament we hear of the cloud coming over the people. They did not yet know of the Holy Spirit (Exodus 13:20-22; 14:19-23, etc.)
 - New Testament – The Spirit comes upon Mary (Luke 1:35)
- Seal
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 698* – we are sealed with Spirit at Confirmation. The seal symbolizes the indelible mark placed at Baptism, Confirmation, and Ordination.

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Knowing the Holy Spirit



Symbols of the Holy Spirit cont'd

- Hand
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 699* - Imposition of Hands, aka “laying of hands” (see Acts 8:14-17)
- Finger
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 700*
 - “It is by the finger of God that [Jesus] cast out demons.” (Luke 11:20) If God's law was written on tablets of stone “by the finger of God,” then the “letter from Christ” entrusted to the care of the apostles, is written with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.” The hymn “Veni Creator Spiritus” invokes the Holy Spirit as the “finger of the Father's right hand.”

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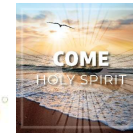
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Symbols of the Holy Spirit cont'd

- Dove
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 701 - Symbolized by a dove (Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22, John 1:32)*
- “Strong driving winds” but not the wind we feel outside (Acts 2:2)
 - “Breath of God” (Genesis 2:7)

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Knowing the Holy Spirit



The Holy Spirit in the Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed (used at Sunday and Holy Day Masses) is a foundational statement of our faith.

What does it say about the Holy Spirit?

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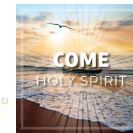
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The Holy Spirit in the Nicene Creed cont'd

- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity “who proceeds from the Father and the Son”
 - “*When the Advocate Comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that **proceeds from the Father**, he will testify to me*” (John 15:26).
 - “*But I tell you it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you*” (John 16:7).
- “...and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man” (Luke 1:35).

19



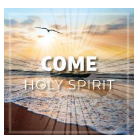
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The Holy Spirit in the Nicene Creed cont'd

- “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life” (Nicene Creed)
 - “*Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the **breath of life**, and the man **became a living being***” (Genesis 2:7).
- “Who has spoken through the prophets” (Nicene Creed)

20



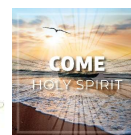
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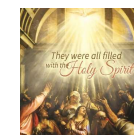
The Holy Spirit in Other Prayers at Mass

- The Collect (aka Opening Prayer)
 - “Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you **in the unity of the Holy Spirit**” (end of opening prayer (aka “Collect”) and the prayer at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass)
 - Reflects the Communion between the three persons of the Trinity who are always working together.

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Knowing the Holy Spirit



Do we cooperate with the Holy Spirit?

“The Holy Spirit is a Person, not a force”

(Family Formation, “The Holy Spirit at Work in Your Life.” Foundations Home Lesson Month 5-Week 2. <https://www.familyformation.net/>)

We are Catholics, not Jedi’s.

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Knowing the Holy Spirit

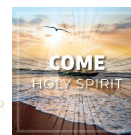


Where We Encounter the Holy Spirit

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 688

- In the Scriptures (**inspired** by the Spirit)
- In the Tradition of the Church
- In the Sacraments
- In Prayer
 - “*In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought*” (Romans 8:26).
- In ministries
- Through the witness of the saints

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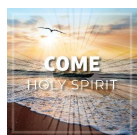
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Recognizing the Holy Spirit at Work

- When you say something about our faith that is brilliant but don’t know where it came from, that’s the Holy Spirit.
 - Don’t worry about what to say, the Holy Spirit will provide - Luke 12:10-12, Mark 13:9-13
- When you say or do something that requires courage
- The Holy Spirit is the one who led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the Devil (Matthew 4:1-11, Mark, 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13)

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Knowing the Holy Spirit

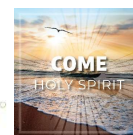


Recognizing the Holy Spirit at Work In Biblical Stories

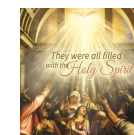
- Acts 13:1-13 – In verse 2, “the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”
- Acts 16:6 – “because they were prevented by the Holy Spirit from preaching the message in the province of Asia.”
- We think we can't feel the Holy Spirit in our lives but yet we read in I Corinthians 12:3b “And no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.”

→ Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2670 – “Every time we begin to pray to Jesus it is the Holy Spirit who draws us on the way of prayer by his prevenient grace.”

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Knowing the Holy Spirit

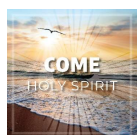


The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

The Holy Spirit is not explicitly mentioned in the Old Testament but

- We believe the prophets were inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- Isaiah 61:1-3 speaks of the “spirit of the Lord God”
- While King David did not know of the Holy Spirit, in Mark 12:36, Jesus referred to David as “inspired by the Holy Spirit.”

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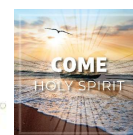
Knowing the Holy Spirit



The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

- Mary conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit – Luke 1:35, Matthew 1:20
- John the Baptist was to be filled with the Holy Spirit – Luke 1:15
- Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit – Luke 1:41
- Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit – Luke 2:25-26

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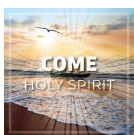
Knowing the Holy Spirit



The Holy Spirit in the New Testament cont'd

- Jesus foretold the coming of the Spirit
 - John 14:25-26
 - John 15:26
 - John 16:4b-7
- Numerous stories involving the Holy Spirit in the Acts of the Apostles (example 4:6, chapters 10 & 11)
- Paul speaks of how we are no longer under the Law but are now under the Holy Spirit.

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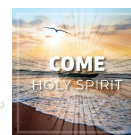
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Ways in Which the Holy Spirit May Be Active In Your Lives

- For lapsed Catholics – What drew you back to the Catholic Church?
- For converts – What drew you to the Catholic Church?
- For cradle Catholics – Have you had a time of awakening?
- When you have persevered in what seems like unsurmountable challenges? Or you have shown more patience than you thought you had.

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Knowing the Holy Spirit



Ways in Which the Holy Spirit Has Been Active in the Church For 2,000 years

- Applying what God has always taught to our world in the present age
- Overcoming scandal
- Finding new ways to proclaim the Gospel
- The role of the Holy Spirit at the papal conclave

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Knowing the Holy Spirit



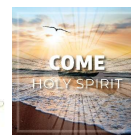
Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

*"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 11:1-2).

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1831)

"wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord"

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Knowing the Holy Spirit




Fruits of the Holy Spirit

"In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control"
(Galatians 5:22-23a).


From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1832

"charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity"

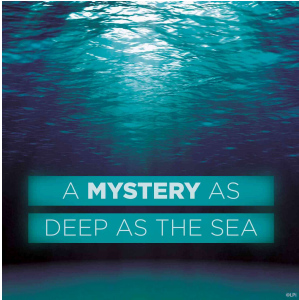
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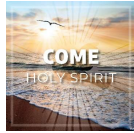


Three Persons, One God. Say What?




A **MYSTERY** AS
DEEP AS THE SEA

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Knowing the Holy Spirit




Three Persons, One God. Say What?

The Trinity is a mystery (If you want to know more about the Trinity, see my video *Praying with the Trinity* at <https://renewaloffaith.org/video-praying-with-the-trinity/>)


Catechism of the Catholic Church, 234

“The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central **mystery** of Christian faith and life. It is the **mystery** of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the “hierarchy of the truths of faith.”

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Knowing the Holy Spirit




When Do We Receive the Holy Spirit

- Jesus' first disciples received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-11).
- Since then, the Holy Spirit is received
 - At Baptism
 - Anointing with the Sacred Chrism
 - Remember how the Holy Spirit came down upon Jesus
 - Sealed with at Confirmation
 - Laying of hands (Confirmation, see Acts 8:14-17)
 - And at Ordination (laying of hands)

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Knowing the Holy Spirit

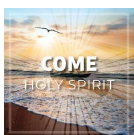


When Do We Receive the Holy Spirit cont'd

→ The Holy Spirit is the one who is in action in the all the Sacraments to make us “holy” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1116*).

- For example, at Mass during the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest says, “Let your Spirit come upon these gifts...” (This is the Epiclesis and transubstantiation at Mass, *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1353*)

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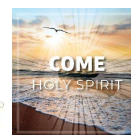
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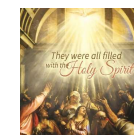
When Do We Receive the Holy Spirit cont'd

- At Mass, we also ask the Holy Spirit to transform us, *“grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ.”* We are made temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19) and should be treated as such.

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Knowing the Holy Spirit



The Unforgiveable Sin

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1864

“Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.” There are no limits to the mercy of God, but anyone who deliberately refuses to accept his mercy by repenting, rejects the forgiveness of his sins and the salvation offered by the Holy Spirit. Such hardness of heart can lead to final impenitence and eternal loss” (see also Matthew 12:31, Mark 3:29, Luke 12:10)

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Knowing the Holy Spirit



Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

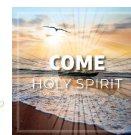
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Knowing the Holy Spirit



After We Finish

- When you exit this webinar a short evaluation questionnaire should come up to invite your feedback.
- The slides for this presentation will be available online at <https://renewaloffaith.org/the-holy-spirit/>

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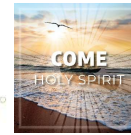
Resources

Catechism of the Catholic Church. Second Edition. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997.

Family Formation, Introduction Video, "The Holy Spirit: Power and Strength For Our Family." Foundations series. Month 5. <https://www.familyformation.net/>.

Family Formation, "The Holy Spirit at Work in Your Life." Foundations Home Lesson Month 5-Week 2. <https://www.familyformation.net/>.

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Knowing the Holy Spirit



Resources (cont'd)

St. Joseph Edition of The New American Bible Revised Edition. New Jersey, Catholic Book Publishing Corp. 2010.

Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunnick, "The Holy Spirit" (video presentation). May 13, 2013. Available online at <https://renewaloffaith.org/the-holy-spirit/>

USCCB, *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults.* Washington, DC: USCCB, 2006.

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