

Solemnity of The Holy Spirit

The gift of Understanding:

The prophet Malachi compares the work of the *Holy Spirit* in us to that of a refiner of precious metals gold/silver (Malachi 3: 1-3) The *Spirit* refines and cleanses us by burning away the dross of sin, guilt and ignorance with the fire and lye of divine purity. This process of purification with patient endurance, can lead to spiritual darkness, suffering and pain as we are transformed into the image of Christ. It is the process of the "old man" dying and the "new man" arising. We can then comprehend the deep mysteries of faith with the mind of Christ and always choose what is good, perfect, and pleasing to God.

Some ways to cultivate the gift of Understanding are daily Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament once a week, simple acts of love offered to God, and learning to be docile (aware and accepting) to the movements of the *Holy Spirit* within us.



The gift of Wisdom:

The People that have grown rich in Wisdom live as though in heaven even while still on earth. They have, as St Paul says, "put on the mind and heart of Jesus Christ" and have learned to love with His love. The light of the *Spirit* outshines the light of faith and is replaced by vision. They live their lives near the threshold of heaven, waiting for the Lord Himself to welcome them in.

A sure way to cultivate the gift of Wisdom is to practise to constantly live in the presence of God each moment in all we think, do, and say each day. This brings us to a very close relationship with the Lord and to a mature spirituality.

Special Pentecost Sunday Celebration to the *Holy Spirit*

**Please join us in a special celebration of *The Holy Spirit* on Sunday, May 20th at 3:00 PM here at Ascension Parish. We will spend time in appreciation and honor of The 3rd Person of the Holy Trinity and all that He does for us in enriching our daily walk of faith, and our relationship with our Heavenly Father. All are welcome!*

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The gift of Counsel:

The gift of counsel enlightens us to know what must be done spiritually at all times, places, and circumstances, and also enlightens us to counsel others who ask for spiritual advice and direction. This gift enables us to judge individual acts as good or evil and enables us to make right decisions. Our Lord said to the Apostles, "do not worry about what you will say or how you will say it. You will be given what you are to say. The *Spirit* of your Father will be speaking in you.

The best way to cultivate the gift of Counsel is to ask the *Holy Spirit* to help us discern God's will, not our own, in all circumstances. Growing in our Knowledge of Scripture and the teachings of the Church provides fuel for this gift.



The gift of Knowledge:

The gift of Knowledge helps us see the profound vanity of earthly things. This awareness comes through the *Holy Spirit* purifying our souls then we start to contemplate the world differently. Saints share their experiences with this gift and their detachment to earthly desires by practising stewardship attitudes instead of ownership attitudes. They see all as gift not owned but loaned to them. This also encourages an attitude of profound gratitude. Joy, freedom, and happiness of perfection await as the gift of Knowledge gives us a divine glance of God.

The best way to cultivate the gift of Knowledge is to cultivate an attitude of gratitude knowing that all is gift and recognizing that without the Lord we are nothing, can do nothing, and have nothing. Continue to pray daily and study our faith. Familiarize ourselves with Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, attend daily Mass if possible. All these efforts bring us closer in relationship to our Lord and we see and discern all things with His eyes.