

PRAYER SERVICE TO INVOKE THE HOLY SPIRIT AT THE BEGINNING OF A SCHOOL YEAR

Virtue Link: Faith, Hope, Love, Fortitude
Catholic Character Themes: Community, Discipleship, Reverence

INTRODUCTION

Good morning/afternoon, and welcome to our prayer service to begin the school year. Today, we pray as followers of Jesus, asking God the Father to bless our new school year and to send us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit opens our minds to understand what is good and true; opens our hearts to love one another as Jesus taught us; gives us the strength to follow Jesus, and comforts us with the knowledge that God is always with us.

Let us begin our prayer, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPENING SONG

Please stand and join in our opening song
(Sugg. *Come Holy Ghost; Shine, Jesus Shine; Children of the Light; You are the Voice*)

OPENING PRAYER

God our Father, all that is good comes from You through Jesus Your Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Send upon us the Holy Spirit, that we might pray now with one heart as your children. We ask you this through Christ our Lord. Amen

LEADER:

Please be seated. And now, let us now listen to God's word.

FIRST READING

A reading from the First Letter of John

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

(pause)

The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (psalm 104)

Response: *Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth.*

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,

Wrapped in light as with a garment. **R**

O Lord, how wonderful are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;

The earth is full of your creatures. **R**

These all look to you

To give them their food in due season;

When you send forth your spirit, they are created;

And you renew the face of the earth. **R**

OPTIONAL: GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel of John (John 14, 15-17, 25-27)

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

OPTIONAL: REFLECTION/HOMILY/SONG/ STUDENT PRESENTATION

-Something about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

The response to our prayers is: *Come Holy Spirit*

1. Let us pray for the Church, that all Christians will open their hearts to the Holy Spirit, to live as true followers of Jesus, with kindness, compassion and love.
We pray to the Lord: *Come Holy Spirit*
2. Let us pray for the world, that the Holy Spirit's gift of peace will take root in human hearts everywhere.

We pray to the Lord: *Come Holy Spirit*

3. Let us pray for people who suffer in our families, communities and world. That they will be comforted by our “yes” to the Holy Spirit’s call to show them God’s love.

We pray to the Lord: *Come Holy Spirit*

4. Let us pray for our bishop and pastors, that they might be guided by the Holy Spirit in all that they do.

We pray to the Lord: *Come Holy Spirit*

5. Let us pray for our teachers, EAs, staff, volunteers and parents. That the Holy Spirit might fill them with the wisdom, courage and joy in the call God has given them.

We pray to the Lord: *Come Holy Spirit*

6. Let us pray for ourselves, that the Holy Spirit will open our minds and hearts to learn from one another and grow in friendship as followers of Jesus this year.

We pray to the Lord: *Come Holy Spirit*

Let us unite all our prayers – spoken aloud and in the quiet of our hearts – in one voice, using the words that Jesus gave us: *Our Father...*

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for this new school year, for all the ways we will learn and grow. We ask you to fill us with the wisdom and joy of your Spirit. May everything we do be a sign of your Holy Spirit’s presence among us. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord. Amen

And may almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

CLOSING SONG

Please join in singing our closing song:
(see suggested songs at the beginning of this prayer)