

Meditation on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Use this complete prayer service with Chapter 4 of Meeting Jesus in the Sacraments. You may also choose to use only individual parts of the prayer service.

Needs:

- an internet connection and computer queued to play *Soul on Fire* by Third Day on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7lv9oMjv_0
- copies as needed

Introduction

Leader: The Holy Spirit is a great helper to you, giving you the gifts you need to be strong in your faith and boldly share it with others. During the Sacrament of Confirmation, seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are imparted to you in a special way. Today, we will have time to meditate on those seven gifts, as well have an opportunity to share about how you see those gifts at work in your life.

Scripture Reading

Reader 1: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:2–4),

And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

(Have the students sit down and get situated, freeing themselves from distractions.)

Meditation on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Leader: You most likely have not seen tongues of fire or heard the loud wind to signifying the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, but you can take the witness of what happened at that first Pentecost to allow yourself to arrive at a deep and transforming faith. The Holy Spirit is real and wants to enter your lives in a dramatic way. God wants to set your hearts on fire with his love, strength, and grace so you can effect change in the world. The Sacrament of Confirmation is not *only* about becoming holy, it is also about you being given what you need to go forth and bring God to all those you encounter. The gift of the Holy Spirit, perfected in Confirmation, enables you to be a powerful instrument of the transforming grace of God.

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are the work of the Holy Spirit in each of you. You have all been given these gifts in unique ways to build up our Christian community. We are going to reflect on these gifts now quietly. There will be an opportunity in a few moments for you to share about your answers to some of these questions. (*Alternatively, you can have this activity be a time to journal.*)

The Gift of Wisdom

Leader: The gift of wisdom develops over time. The gift of wisdom helps you desire the things of God and value what is most important. It helps you see the world, yourself, and others through God's perspective and in the light of faith. (Brief pause)

Question for reflection: When have you seen others in our school act with wisdom? How did they do so? (*Pause for a time of reflection.*)

The Gift of Understanding

Leader: This gift helps you to grasp what is true more easily and on a deeper level. Sometimes your human mind cannot comprehend God's mysteries. With the gift of understanding you can gain deeper insights through prayer. Often this gift is helpful in empathizing and know another person's heart. (*Brief pause*)

Question for reflection: Think about a time that you connected deeply with another person, knowing exactly how they felt. How was the gift of understanding at work in that moment? (*Pause for a time of reflection.*)

The Gift of Counsel

Leader: Counsel seeks to make right judgments by avoiding sin, seeking the advice of trusted advisors, speaking up for that right judgment, and encouraging others to do the same. When you practice counsel, you seek out the will of God in good decisions and give good advice to others who are faced with difficult decisions. *(Brief pause)*

Question for reflection: reflect on an experience you have had when someone listened to you and helped you make good choices based on virtue. *(Pause for a time of reflection.)*

The Gift of Fortitude

Leader: The gift of fortitude gives you strength to continue following Christ in every situation. With fortitude you can stand up for the faith and your conscience even when it is difficult. When you have the gift of fortitude you use your talents in service to God bravely, even in the face of obstacles. *(Brief pause)*

Question for reflection: What difficult situation have you been in where you have had to choose to do or say something even when it was difficult? *(Pause for a time of reflection.)*

The Gift of Knowledge

Leader: Knowledge can help you see and be more keenly aware of God's plan and purpose and how you ought to respond to that plan. This gift helps you be conscious of the goodness and evil in each situation. Knowledge is more than gathering information and looking at it objectively, though that is important. It also allows you to have a greater capacity and desire to know God and to be open to knowing him. *(Brief pause)*

Question for reflection: The more knowledge you have about your faith and the world, the better you will be able to make wise decisions and help others. What person in your life do you respect because they are knowledgeable about their faith? How does this knowledge help them to choose well? *(Pause for a time of reflection.)*

The Gift of Piety

Leader: Piety can also be called reverence to God. It sparks in you a desire and willingness to love and serve God, especially in worship. This goes beyond a sense of obligation to a deep respect, honor, and love for God, the Church, and all of God's

creation. Piety helps you to trust in God and give him true worship and praise. (*Brief pause*)

Question for reflection: Recall a time or experience in which you desired to pray. What was your reaction in prayer? How did you pray? (*Pause for a time of reflection.*)

The Gift of Fear of the Lord

Leader: A great reverence, wonder, and awe fill you with this gift. Through fear of the Lord, you can be keenly aware both of God's great glory, majesty, and loving presence, as well as aware of the effects of sin on your relationship with him. This can lead to a desire to avoid sin so as to never lose that connection with God. (*Brief pause*)

Question for reflection: Have you ever had a time in which you strongly felt God's presence? What thoughts and feelings did that experience elicit? How did it change your understanding of who God is in your life? (*Pause for a time of reflection.*)

Faith Sharing: Think, Pair, Share

Leader: We are now going to take a few minutes to share about some of our reflections on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. For this portion, I will first read out a question. You will then walk around the classroom quietly thinking of your answer while the music plays. When I turn the music off, find a partner, and you will each share your answer to the question. We will do this several times. Please try to find a different partner for each question. (*Get music ready by queuing Soul on Fire*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7lv9oMjv_0.)

Question 1: How have you experienced God this week through someone's spiritual gifts? Describe the gift and how it was utilized.

(Turn the music on for 30–50 seconds to give the students time to think. Have them pair up with one person sharing. Announce after about 30–50 seconds that the second person should share. After they are done, announce the second question, and then turn on the music.)

Question 2: What are one or two of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit that you have felt in your life? How did you use this gift?

(Repeat the process of think, pair, share. Announce the last question, and then turn on the music for the last time.)

Question 3: What are one or two of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit that you would like to work on in your life? How do you see this gift helping you in everyday life?

(Allow students to repeat the process of think, pair, share. Once they are done, gather the group back together for a closing prayer.)

Closing Prayer

Leader: Lord, send forth your Spirit into our lives, and set us on fire with the gifts of your Spirit. Holy Spirit, come and transform our lives. Holy Spirit, we trust in you.

All: Amen.