

SIXTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER

MAY 10, 2026



Knowing Christ + Loving Christ + Serving Christ *Together*



WELCOME!

We are delighted to extend a heartfelt welcome to everyone visiting St. Peter or St. Julie Billiart Parish. Our goal is to help you know, love & serve Christ together and assist you in any way possible. If you have any questions or wish to learn more about our parishes, please reach out to us at the office.

Thank you for joining us in worship, and we hope to see you again soon.

To become a parishioner, please register online or stop by the St. Julie or St. Peter parish office.



Congratulations 2026 First Communion Class

Saint Peter Parish

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Everly Ackerman | Juliana Hyde | Richard Rankin |
| Ezekiel Awrey | Leila Julio | Hanna Rini |
| Tobias Baon | Colin Keller | Ella Satanek |
| Jack Barisono | Rowan Keter | Eleanor Schulze |
| Ivey Barnes | Wyatt Kitko | Jackson Schuster |
| Raegan Brookbank | Abigail Klosterman | Paisley Schuster |
| Selina Cagle | Camden LaLonde | Isaac Serrano |
| Eric Chen | Everett Martin | Brenna Smith |
| Dean Cirillo | Alexander Mazzeo | Joseph Styer |
| Leo Cirillo | Logan Meehan | Lincoln Sukis |
| Sawyer Dawson | Theodore Miller | Seth Suttles |
| Aiden Demko | Olive Nutter | Audrey Urig |
| Camryn Denk | Kaden Padgett | Kealani Utrata |
| Calvin Deucher | Kace Palmieri | Coen Ventura |
| Gabriella Evaldi | Victor Perez | Noah Wainwright |
| Eamon Gallagher | Christopher Pinkerton | Samantha Watt |
| Thomas Hallal | Shayanne Pinzon | Levi Willis |
| Lukas Hamker | Ryan Powers | |

ST. JULIE BILLIART PARISH

Church: 5500 Lear Nagle Rd., North Ridgeville, OH 44039
Office: 5545 Opal Street, North Ridgeville, OH 44039
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am -5:00pm

- 440-327-1978 stjbc@stjuliebilliart.org
- PSR: stjbcyouth@gmail.com
- www.stjuliebilliart.org
- St Julie Billiart Church

ST. PETER PARISH

35777 Center Ridge Road North Ridgeville, OH 44039
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00am -5:00pm

- 440-327-2201 parishoffice@stpeternr.org
- www.stpeternr.org
- Saint Peter Catholic Church StPeterNR1

ST. PETER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

- www.stpeterschoolnr.org
- St. Peter School North Ridgeville
- stpeterschoolnr

ST. PETER ENDOWMENT FUND

- www.stpetereducationendowment.org
- St. Peter Education Endowment Fund

RIDGEVILLE CATHOLIC YOUTH

- ridgevillecatholicyouth

CYO ATHLETICS

- www.stpetercyo.com stpeternr cyo

Saint Julie Billiart Parish

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Penelope Cawrse | Colin Krupa |
| Bruce Eliot | Sienna Orlando |
| Adriel Hernandez | Charlotte Reynolds |

MASS TIMES

ST. JULIE BILLIART

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm
Sunday: 9:00am and 11:00am
Weekdays: Mon, Wed, Fri 5:30pm

ST. PETER

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am and 12:00pm
Weekdays: Monday thru Friday 8:15am

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PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners,

We need the Holy Spirit.



In the Eastern Church, they have a very simple saying: No Spirit, no Church. Jesus highlighted the necessity of the Holy Spirit in the words Luke records after He rose from the dead:

Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And [behold] I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high. (Luke 24:46-49)

Jesus outlined the mission of the Apostles: to preach repentance to all nations. He went on to say: Don't go anywhere until you receive power from on high. In other words, Be filled with the Holy Spirit first, then go on mission!

Last Monday I met with the parish councils of both parishes. We reviewed those things that our parishes do that bring people to Know Christ (PSR, Day School, The ChristLife Series, Reach More, et cetera), Love Christ (Masses, Confessions, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Corpus Christi Procession, other devotions and prayer groups) and Serve Christ (outreach and crockpot meals, Vincentians and Walking with Moms in Need, et cetera). Many of these things our parishes do Together.

We also talked about what kind of initiatives we seek to do in the upcoming year. Amid those discussions, a couple of our council members expressed a desire to encounter the Holy Spirit on a deeper level. This began a discussion about the original "novena": the time that the Apostles gathered with Mary and others in the Upper Room praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of their prayer is recorded in Acts 2. The Spirit came in power. Peter and the Apostles preached with boldness. 3000 people were baptized that day!

I welcomed this discussion. When we realize our dependence on the Holy Spirit, we are in a good place. For this reason, I adapted a Novena to the Holy Spirit and put in this week's bulletin. I am asking each person in our parishes to pray this Novena in preparation for the Church's celebration of Pentecost. It is my hope that, as individuals and as parishes, we experience the power, wisdom and love of the Holy Spirit in new and fresh ways. The Holy Spirit renews individuals, unites communities and equips the Church to fulfill its mission. Come Holy Spirit!

Last Sunday evening, I oversaw Confirmation rehearsal with our young people. I was impressed by the variety of confirmation names chosen by those to be confirmed. They included saints from the New Testament (Mary, the mother of Jesus and Lydia of Thyatira) to modern day saints like St. Carlos Acutis and St. Pier Giorgio Frassati. Pray for them. They will be confirmed by Bishop Woost on Monday, May 11.

Finally let me simply say: HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! Where would we be without our mothers! Let us honor them with profound respect and gratitude!

In Christ,
Fr. Bob Franco

THE MASS INTENTIONS

 LIVE STREAMING

SATURDAY VIGIL May 9

4:00pm	St. Peter	Denise Semmens
5:00pm	● St. Julie Billiart	Rachel Juskiewicz (Marian Juskiewicz)

SUNDAY May 10

8:00am	St. Peter	Della Juchem & Shirley Zeh
9:00am	St. Julie Billiart	Saint Julie Billiart Parishioners
10:00am	● St. Peter Church	Alex Sismour
11:00am	St. Julie Billiart	Lottie Ford (David & Cindy Ford)
12:00pm	St. Peter	For the People of Saint Peter Parish

MONDAY May 11

8:15am	● St. Peter	Joan Remy
5:30pm	St. Julie Billiart	Linda LaLonde (LaLonde Family)

TUESDAY May 12

8:15am	● St. Peter	Kathy Steirer
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WEDNESDAY May 13

8:15am	● St. Peter	Linda & Richard Ziemnik
5:30pm	St. Julie Billiart	Dennis Payne (Elaine Payne)

THURSDAY May 14

8:15am	● St. Peter	Maria Kaga
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FRIDAY May 15

8:15am	● St. Peter	All Souls
5:30pm	St. Julie Billiart	Ray Mitchell (Pat Mitchell)

SATURDAY May 16

4:00pm	St. Peter	Leonard Barszcz
5:00pm	● St. Julie Billiart	Daniel Sumerauer (Richard & Elaine Galik)

SUNDAY May 17

8:00am	St. Peter	Living and Deceased of Malysa Family
9:00am	St. Julie Billiart	Fidelis Harvan (Bak Family)
10:00am	● St. Peter	For the People of Saint Peter Parish
11:00am	St. Julie Billiart	Saint Julie Billiart Parishioners
12:00pm	St. Peter	Denise Semmens

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Readings for the week of May 10, 2026

Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16 and 20/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Jn 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138: 1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1/Ps 148: 1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Jn 15:9-17

Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 16:20-23

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47: 2-3, 8-9, 10/Jn 16:23b-28

Next Sunday: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-2

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

St. Peter:

Wednesday: 9:00am (after 8:15am Mass)

Saturday: 2:30pm to 3:30pm

St. Julie:

Saturday: 3:30pm - 4:30pm in Library (by the PSR Office)

BAPTISMS

First-time parents must attend Pre-Baptism instruction. This should be done during pregnancy so as not to delay the time of Baptism. Call your parish office for class registration.

St. Julie: 1st & 3rd Sundays at 12:15pm

St. Peter: 2nd & 4th Sundays at 1:15pm

MARRIAGE

Couples should contact the parish priest at least six months prior to the date for marriage.

OTHER SACRAMENTS

Contact your parish office with questions. Preparation for First Holy Communion & Confirmation will be facilitated through your PSR, St. Peter School, OCIA, or OCIC programs.

BECOMING CATHOLIC (OCIA & OCIC)

To join the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children to receive the Sacraments of Initiation, please contact your parish office.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St. Peter: Tuesday: 9:00am to 6:15pm; Evening Prayer begins at 6:00pm

St. Julie: Wednesdays: 2:00 to 5:00pm; Evening Prayer begins at 4:45 pm.

DEVOTIONS

Miraculous Medal Novena: Mondays after the 8:15am Mass at St. Peter.

Morning Prayer: Monday thru Friday at 7:35am at St. Peter.

Rosary: Pray with members of St. Peter's staff every Saturday at 10:00am on-line on St. Peter's website or Facebook page. You can also pray in person immediately after the 8:15am daily Mass in St. Peter's Church and at 1:00pm on Wednesdays in St. Julie's Church.

Divine Mercy Chaplet: Prayed on-line every Friday at 3:00pm at St. Peter's website or Facebook page.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

St. Julie Billiard

Rose Rugula & Family,
Emma Brandt, Susan Mahoney, Pat Hoffman
Marian Juskiewicz
Richard and Elaine Galik
Carol Gosselin, June Kearney, Daniel Delaat
Louise Alexander
Dolores Rivera, Lola Cook, Kathleen Sobczak
Father George
Father Gonser

St. Peter

Nick, Maggie, Michael J., and for the intentions of all of our parishioners.

Please Note: We are currently updating the Prayer Chain for St. Julie and St. Peter parishes. Please call or email your parish office to add a name to the list.

RIDGEVILLE CATHOLIC YOUTH (RCY) GROUPS

MIDDLE SCHOOL RCY - May 14th, 2026

Middle School students (Grades 6-8) will be gathering in St. Peter's Apostles Hall on May 14th, from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Join us for an evening of fellowship, faith, and fun! All are welcome. Bring your Bible!



ST. PETER CATHOLIC SCHOOL



SAINT PETER SCHOOL

FAITH FIRST

Congratulations to all of the second grade students who made their First Holy Communion this past Saturday! This is a very special and meaningful milestone in their faith journey, and they should be proud of all the hard work and preparation that brought them to this day. Receiving your First Holy Communion is a beautiful step in growing closer to God and being part of the Church community. May this joyful occasion fill your hearts with peace, love, and faith that continues to grow stronger each day. Wishing you and your families many blessings as you celebrate this important moment together. Congratulations again on this wonderful achievement! Thank you to Mrs. Joyce, Mrs. Trampush, Fr. Bob and Fr. Isidore for getting these awesome students ready to receive Jesus for the first time.

ACADEMICS

As the school year is winding down our students are still hard at work. Third grade students are working on irregular verbs. First grade students have written a short paragraph about where their newly hatched birds were going to fly. The birds went to Mexico, Florida, Hawaii and Disney World. They all went along with their birds to have an exciting adventure. Fifth grade students are studying how American Indians developed unique cultures with many different ways of life and how tribes and nations can be classified into cultural groups based on geographic and cultural similarities. They will then design a cultural poster to be present in class.

EVERYTHING ELSE

Many fun events took place last week at school. Field trips, Eighth grade going to Dairy Grove and the main event Field Day! The Eighth grade students with the guidance of Mrs. Zuercher, planned and ran the event for the rest of the school. Every student and staff member had a great day. Thank you to PTU for providing lunch for the students and staff! Great job Mrs. Zuercher and Eighth graders!

PTU was busy all week providing staff with fun treats all week for staff appreciation week. The entire staff of St. Peter can't thank you enough for the awesome job you do for all of us!

New families interested in enrolling at St. Peter School: Please call the main office at (440) 327-3212 to reserve a time for a tour and to learn more about enrollment in Pre-Kindergarten - 8th grade for the 2026-2027 school year. Please visit our website at stpeterschoolnr.org to learn more about our school. We look forward to showing your family why We Are The Difference! Yours in Catholic Education, Roger C Brooks
Principal Saint Peter School

ST PETER'S PARISH JOYFULLY CELEBRATES AN ORDINATION

With great joy and gratitude to God, we are pleased to announce that one of our own parishioners, Deacon Mitch Carson, will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, May 16, 2026 at St. John's Cathedral.

Deacon Mitch has been a faithful member of our parish community, and we rejoice as he answers God's call to serve the Church as a priest. His dedication, prayerfulness, and commitment have been a blessing to all who know him.

All are invited to join in celebrating this special occasion by attending his Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter's. A reception will follow immediately after Mass in the parish gym, where we can gather in fellowship and congratulate Father Mitch.

Please keep Deacon Mitch in your prayers as he prepares for this sacred milestone, and join us in thanking God for the gift of his vocation.



CORNERSTONE'S BABY BOTTLE BLESSINGS

Cornerstone Women's Health Services is holding its annual Baby Bottle Blessings drive from Mother's Day through Father's Day, May 10-June 21. Bottles are available in the vestibule. Please fill the baby bottle with your coins, dollars, checks (made out to Cornerstone Pregnancy Center) and return it by Father's Day. These donations help Cornerstone provide life affirming services. Thank you.

CURSILLO WEEKEND

With great joy we announce the return of the Cursillo Weekends. The ladies weekend held April 16th-19th was a great success and the ladies that attended are alive in spirit and ready to share the good news. **Now it is the Men's turn, so if you feel God calling you to a closer relationship, its time to check out www.lsecursillo.org or contact David Bogner, Men's Rector at 440-213-4690 to learn more. The men's weekend is scheduled for May 28 through June 1, 2026.**



STAFF DIRECTORY

CLERGY

Pastor:

Rev. Robert J. Franco

Parochial Vicar:

Rev. Isidore Munishi

Deacon Del Sherman

Deacon Ken DeLuca

(Retired St. Julie)

ST. JULIE BILLIART STAFF:

PSR Principal: Kelly Reed

Music Director: Mary Pokrywka

Business Manager: Amy Gaffney

Parish Coordinator: Beth Paoloni

SAINT PETER CATHOLIC SCHOOL STAFF:

Principal: Roger Brooks

ST. PETER STAFF:

Director of Religious Education: Sr. Sean Groh

Music Director: Alexander Kostritsa

Pastoral Minister: Cheryle Koberna

Business Manager: Regina Wojciechowski

Parish Secretary: Christine Stefanek

School Secretary: Aimee Reitz

SCHEDULES: SERVERS, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS, USHERS, GREETERS, & CLOW

Please access schedules via the app or obtain a copy of the monthly schedule through the parish office.

OFFERTORY

May 3, 2026

ST. JULIE

Offertory Total	\$8,033.00
Envelopes, Cash & Coin	\$6,528.00
ParishSoft	\$1,505.00
Capital Improvement	\$500.00
School	\$30.00
Mass Attendance	413

OFFERTORY GIVING

Contribute a gift via ParishSoft:



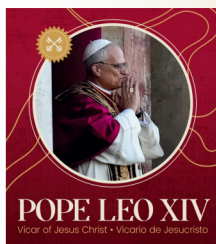
ST. PETER

Offertory Total	\$12,169.98
Envelopes, Cash & Coin	\$8,954.98
ACH- Weekly/Monthly	\$540.00
Parish Soft	\$2,675.00
Mass Attendance	686

BUILDING ON THE ROCK CAMPAIGN

Original Pledge Total	\$2,277,148.94
Outstanding Pledges	\$334,160.06
Pledges & Donations Received	\$3,142,118.32
Participants	475

ST. JULIE AND ST. PETER PARISH EVENTS

**Pope Leo's Intention**

The May intention of Pope Leo is that everyone might have food:

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Please join us for the St. Julie & St. Peter Men's Fellowship breakfast on Saturday, May 16th at 8:20 am. Breakfast will be served in St. Peter's gym. Open to men of any parish in the Diocese, come and enjoy a hearty, hot breakfast followed by a short video and discussion. We will end promptly at 9:45 am. So we have an idea of how much food to prepare, please RSVP by May 11th to our invite or by sending an email to sjspbreakfast@gmail.com if this is your first time.

Parish Calendar – St. Peter & St. Julie

It's that time of the year when all ministries and organizations must think about meeting dates and times for the 2026-2027 calendar year. If your ministry or organization plans on using parish facilities for your meetings from July 2026 through June 2027, then:

St. Peter Facilities: Please complete the Facility Scheduling Form, which is available on our website (stpeternr.org/calendar-scheduling-facilities) and at the doors in the Church. Please submit it to Cheryle at koberna@stpeternr.org or it can be dropped off at the parish office.

St. Julie Facilities: Please send an email to Beth Paoloni (stjbc@stjuliebilliart.org) and include the dates and times of your meetings.

Requests for events must be submitted even if you have long-standing regularly scheduled meetings. It would be much appreciated if **all requests are submitted by May 20, 2026.**

Confirmation Registration is Open!

Confirmation registration is open for Fall 2026. If your child will be entering 8th grade next school year and would like to be Confirmed, please visit St. Peter's website to register. Registration closes on July 31st.

**Blessing Box**

A mini food pantry, also known as a "Blessing Box," is a small structure where people can donate and collect basic necessities such as non-perishable food items, toiletries, and other essential items. It's a simple and accessible way for the community to support each other by providing for those in need. If you would like to donate, the Blessing Box is located next to the St. Peter parish office near the walking trail.

St. Julie's is considering adding a Blessing Box. If you are interested in participating, please contact Beth Paoloni at the Parish Office.

Women in Friendship

We will meet on Tues., May 12th at 1:00-3:00pm at St. Peter's Parish Center for a retreat with Sr. Sean Groh who has provided an annual spiritual inspiration for our members and visitors. We look forward to having our souls rejuvenated again this year. A delicious lunch will be provided at 12:30pm for our members. Ladies who are not members are welcome for lunch and asked to pay \$10. RSVPs are necessary by Sat., May 9th. Questions and RSVPs should go to Barbara at 440-201-2645.



St. Julie Billiart
Wedding Banns III
Jonathan Rook
&
Jessica Wall

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

May 15-May 23, 2026

The original Novena (Nine Days of Prayer) took place during the time after our Lord's Ascension and before the coming of the Spirit. The Blessed Virgin Mother, the Apostles and others gathered in prayer, awaiting the coming of the Spirit. (Acts 1:13-14). Let us join with the Church throughout the world and pray for the coming of the Spirit in our times.

The following prayers are prayed at the conclusion of each day of the Novena:

Our Father (prayed once)
Hail Mary (prayed once)
Glory be... (prayed 7 times)

Act of Consecration to the Holy Ghost

On my knees / before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses / I offer myself, soul and body / to You, O Eternal Spirit of God. / I adore the brightness of Your purity / the unerring keenness of Your justice / and the might of Your love. You are the Strength / and Light of my soul. / In You I live and move and am. / I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace, and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. / Mercifully guard my every thought / and grant that I may always watch for Your light / and listen to Your voice / and follow Your gracious inspirations. / I cling to You / and give myself to You / and ask You / by Your compassion / to watch over me in my weakness. / Holding the pierced feet of Jesus / and looking at His five Wounds / and trusting in His Precious Blood / and adoring His opened side and stricken Heart / I implore You / Adorable Spirit / Helper of my infirmity, / so to keep me in Your grace / that I may never sin against You. / Give me grace / O Holy Ghost, / Spirit of the Father and of the Son / to say to You always and everywhere / "Speak, Lord / for Your servant is listening."

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost

O Lord Jesus Christ / Who, before ascending into heaven / did promise to send the Holy Ghost / to finish Your work / in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples / deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me / that He may perfect in my soul / the work of Your grace and Your love. / Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom / that I may despise the perishable things of this world / and aspire only after the things / that are eternal, / the Spirit of Understanding, to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth, / the Spirit of Counsel / that I may choose / the surest way of pleasing God / and gaining heaven, / the Spirit of Fortitude / that I may bear my cross with You / and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation, / the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself / and grow perfect in the science of the Saints, / the Spirit of Piety / that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, / the Spirit of Fear of the Lord / that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God, and may dread in any way to displease Him. / Mark me, dear Lord, / with the sign of Your true disciples / and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. / Amen.



Day One

Holy Spirit! Lord of light!
From Your clear celestial height,
Your pure beaming radiance give!

The Holy Spirit

Only one thing is important ~ eternal salvation. Only one thing, therefore, is to be feared ~ sin. Sin is the result of ignorance, weakness, and indifference. The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of Light, of Strength, and of Love. With His sevenfold gifts, He enlightens the mind, strengthens the will, and inflames the heart with love of God. To ensure our salvation, we ought to invoke the Divine Spirit daily, for "The Spirit helps our infirmity. We know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit Himself intercedes for us."

Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, Who has vouchsafed to regenerate us by water and the Holy Ghost, and has given us forgiveness of all sins, vouchsafe to send forth from heaven upon us Your sevenfold Spirit; the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Fortitude, the Spirit of Knowledge and Piety, and fill us with the Spirit of Holy Fear. Amen.

Day Two

Come, Father of the poor!
Come, treasure which endure!
Come, Light of all that live!

The Gift of Holy Fear

The gift of Fear fills us with a sovereign respect for God and makes us dread nothing so much as to offend Him by sin. It is a fear that arises, not from the thought of hell but from sentiments of reverence and filial submission to our heavenly Father. It is the fear that is the beginning of wisdom, detaching us from worldly pleasures that could in any way separate us from God. "They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and in His sight will sanctify their souls."

Prayer

Come, O blessed Spirit of Holy Fear, penetrate my inmost heart, that I may set You, my Lord and God, before my face forever; help me to shun all things that can offend You, and make me worthy to appear before the pure eyes of Your Divine Majesty in heaven where You live and reign in the unity of the Blessed Trinity, God, world without end. Amen.

Day Three

You, of all consolers, best,
Visiting the troubled breast,
Does refreshing peace bestow.

The Gift of Piety

The gift of Piety begets in our hearts a filial affection for God as our most loving Father. It inspires us to love and respect for His sake, persons and things consecrated to Him, as well as those who are vested with His authority: His Blessed Mother and the Saints, The Church and its visible Head, our parents and superiors, our country and its rulers. He who is filled with the gift of Piety finds the practice of his religion not a burdensome duty but a delightful service. Where there is love, there is no labor.

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Piety, possess my heart. Enkindle therein such a love for God that I may find satisfaction only in His service and, for His sake, lovingly submit to all legitimate authority. Amen.

Day Four

*You in toil art comfort sweet;
Pleasant coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.*

The Gift of Fortitude

By the gift of Fortitude, the soul is strengthened against natural fear and supported to the end in the performance of duty. Fortitude imparts to the will an impulse and energy which moves it to undertake without hesitancy the most arduous tasks, to face dangers, to trample under foot human respect, and to endure without complaint the slow martyrdom of even lifelong tribulation. "He that persevere unto the end, he shall be saved."

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Fortitude, uphold my soul in time of trouble and adversity, sustain my efforts after holiness, strengthen my weakness, give me courage against all the assaults of my enemies, that I may never be overcome and separated from You, my God and greatest good. Amen.

Day Five

*Light immortal! Light Divine!
Visit Thou these hearts of Thine,
And our inmost being fill!*

The Gift of Knowledge

The gift of Knowledge enables the soul to evaluate created things at their true worth ~ in their relation to God. Knowledge unmasks the pretense of creatures, reveals their emptiness, and points out their only true purpose as instruments in the service of God. It shows us the loving care of God even in adversity and directs us to glorify Him in every circumstance of life. Guided by its light, we put first things first and prize the friendship of God beyond all else. "Knowledge is a fountain of life to him that possesses it."

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Knowledge, and grant that I may perceive the will of the Father; show me the nothingness of earthly things, that I may realize their vanity and use them only for Your glory and my own salvation, looking ever beyond them to You and Your eternal rewards. Amen.

Day Six

*If You take Your grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay,
All his good is turned to ill.*

The Gift of Understanding

Understanding, as a gift of the Holy Ghost, helps us to grasp the meaning of the truths of our holy religion. By faith we know them, but by Understanding we learn to appreciate and relish them. It enables us to penetrate the inner meaning of revealed truths, and through them to be quickened to newness of life. Our faith ceases to be sterile and inactive but inspires a mode of life that bears eloquent testimony to the faith that is in us; we begin to "walk worthy of God, in all things pleasing, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Understanding, and enlighten our minds, that we may know and believe all the mysteries of salvation; and may merit at last to see the eternal light in Thy Light; and in the light of glory, to have a clear vision of Thee and the Father and the Son. Amen.

Day Seven

*Heal our wounds ~ our strength renew;
On our dryness pour Your dew!
Wash the stains of guilt away!*

The Gift of Counsel

The gift of Counsel endows the soul with supernatural prudence, enabling it to judge promptly and rightly what must be done, especially in difficult circumstances. Counsel applies the principles furnished by Knowledge and Understanding to the innumerable concrete cases that confront us in the course of our daily duty as parents, teachers, public servants, and Christian citizens. Counsel is supernatural common sense, a priceless treasure in the quest of salvation. "Above all these things, pray to the Most High, that He may direct your way in truth."

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide me in all my ways, that I may always do Your holy will. Incline my heart to that which is good; turn it away from all that is evil, and direct me by the straight path of Your commandments to that goal of eternal life for which I long. Amen.

Day Eight

*Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray!*

The Gift of Wisdom

Embodying all the other gifts, as charity embraces all the other virtues, Wisdom is the most perfect of the gifts. Of Wisdom it is written, "all good things come to me with her, and innumerable riches, through her hands." It is the gift of Wisdom that strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity, and promotes the practice of virtue in the highest degree. Wisdom enlightens the mind to discern and relish things divine, in the appreciation of which earthly joys lose their savor, whilst the Cross of Christ yields a divine sweetness according to the words of the Saviour: "Take up thy cross and follow me, for my yoke is sweet and my burden light."

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to my soul the mysteries of heavenly things, their exceeding greatness, power, and beauty. Teach me to love them above and beyond all the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Help me to attain them and possess them forever. Amen.

Day Nine

*You, on those who evermore
who confess, and ever adore,
In Your sevenfold gifts, descend:
Give them comfort when they die;
Give them life with You on high;
Give them joys which never end. Amen.*

The Fruits of the Holy Ghost

The gifts of the Holy Ghost perfect the supernatural virtues by enabling us to practice them with greater docility to divine inspiration. As we grow in the knowledge and love of God under the direction of the Holy Ghost, our service becomes more sincere and generous, the practice of virtue, more perfect. Such acts of virtue leave the heart filled with joy and consolation and are known as Fruits of the Holy Ghost. These Fruits in turn render the practice of virtue more attractive, and become a powerful incentive for still greater effort in the service of God, to serve Whom is to reign.

Prayer

Come, O Divine Spirit, fill my heart with Your heavenly fruits: charity, joy, peace, patience, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, mildness, modesty, self-control and chastity, that I may never weary in the service of God, but by continued faithful submission to Your inspiration, may merit to be united eternally with You in the love of the Father and the Son. Amen.

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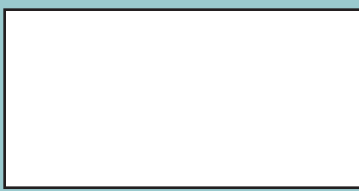
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