



The Holy Spirit: The Power of Love




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St. Mary's RCIA, Barrie




The Holy Spirit is a member of the Holy Trinity:

Trinity means three, so when we discuss the Holy Trinity we mean the Father (God), Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit. Throughout the Bible, we are taught that God is one thing. ... He is the only God, He uses other parts of Himself to accomplish His goals.




The Holy Spirit is the same substance (nature) as the Father and the Son

The Church teaches that the Holy Spirit is the 'breath' of the Father, of whom Jesus is totally filled. The Holy Spirit is 'active' in the world, and is the Gift of the Father and the Son to all of Jesus' followers. CCC691




The Nicene Creed tells us that the Holy Spirit is: “The Lord, the Giver of life” The same creed also says that Jesus is Lord. It also says that God the Father created all things.



The Old Testament Hebrew word for wind and for spirit is the same word, Ruah. The Creation Story in Genesis tells us that God breathed life into the first humans.

It is the very breath of God that gives us life, that keeps us alive.



Before Jesus left, He promised to send the Holy Spirit to the Apostles to help them. He told them not to be afraid when He was gone. “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14: 26)



The Apostles went to the upper room of a house to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Tradition says that they prayed for 9 days (this was the first Novena). Mary was with them too. They were afraid to go out and preach as Jesus had asked them to do.





After Pentecost the Apostles went to other countries to tell all nations about God and His love for us. The Holy Spirit they had received gave them the strength and courage for this task.

Symbols of the Holy Spirit



"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a mighty rushing wind.."

The Apostles heard the wind in the room at Pentecost. God was breathing new life into the Apostles with His Holy Spirit and breathing life into the Church. God's Holy Spirit is somewhat like the wind. We can't see him, but we know that he is there because we can see the effects of his power in our lives.

Symbols of the Holy Spirit

"..there appeared unto them
tongues like as of fire.."

In the Old Testament there
are many images of God
as fire. Fire brings light
and warmth, and the
words spoken by the
Apostles at Pentecost and
after would bring light to
those who would hear
them.





The Dove

At Jesus' baptism, when Jesus saw “the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.” (Mark 1:10)