

Suggested March Ritual Mass
Confirmation
The Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Video Resources

Who is the Holy Spirit in the Bible?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNNZO9i1Gjc> (4:10 mins)

Pentecost for Kids: The Holy Spirit Comes -
(Sharefaithkids.com)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwJJJoSGw84> (5:17mins)

Pentecost Explained in 3 minutes (with puppets)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TZofFPowTM> (3:23mins)

Background

This month is an opportunity to focus on the Holy Spirit, the person of the Holy Spirit, the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit as revealed in the Bible. The following suggestions may prove a useful resource when discussing the Holy Spirit with pupils during a classroom visit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. This means the Holy Spirit is God, co-equal with God the Father and God the Son and is of the same essence. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are *distinct* from one another in terms of their personal relationship. But they are co-equally God, meaning they are all the *being* of God. In other words, they do not exist independently one from the other. So, you cannot remove one of the three persons of God and still have God as revealed in the Bible.

Here are a number of references that point to the Holy Spirit's divine characteristics:

1. He's called God (Acts 5:3-4).
2. He's called the Spirit of God (Gen. 1:2; Judg. 3:10).
3. He's considered God (Acts 28:25-27; 2 Cor. 6:16; Heb. 3:7-9).
4. He's treated as equal to God the Father and Son (Matt. 3:16; 28:19; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 2:18; 4:4-6; 1 Pet. 1:2).
5. He's eternal (Heb. 9:14).
6. He's self-existent (Rom. 8:2).
7. He's omnipresent (Psa. 139:7-8).
8. He's omniscient (1 Cor. 2:10-11; John 14:26; 16:13).
9. He's sovereign (Zech. 12:10).
10. He was involved with creation (Gen. 1:1-2).
11. He enabled the writing of the Bible (2 Pet. 1:21).
12. He helps us to recognize the glory of God (2 Cor. 4:4).
13. He enables us to call upon Jesus as Lord (1 Cor. 12:13).

God—as revealed in the Bible—is one and eternally exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In other words, one person within the Trinity is not 'more' God than the other.

As the third member of the Trinity, the holy spirit is a person and is also personal. We see this in a few different ways.

First, in the Old and New Testament books the Holy Spirit is referred to as "he," and throughout the New Testament, he's referred to as a person (John 6:63; 14:26; Rom. 8:11, 16, 26; 1 John 5:6). What we'll see in the references below, the Holy Spirit can be grieved, resisted, and even insulted.

Second, before ascending to heaven, Jesus said he was going to send the Holy Spirit to be a counsellor like him (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit is also capable of teaching (Luke 12:12).

In these two ways, we can see that the Holy Spirit is WAY more than a force—he's the third member of the Trinity.

Below are references to some of the human characteristics of the Holy Spirit:

1. He's referred to as a Person (John 6:63; 14:26; Rom. 8:11, 16, 26; 1 John 5:6).
2. He speaks (2 Sam. 23:2; Acts 1:16; 8:29; 10:19; 11:12; 13:2; 21:11; 28:25-26; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:7-8; Rev. 2:7; 14:13; 22:17).
3. He witnesses (John 15:26).
4. He searches (1 Cor. 2:11).
5. He can be grieved (Isa. 63:10; Eph. 4:30).
6. He loves (Rom. 15:30).
7. He has a mind (Rom. 8:27).
8. He has intelligence (1 Cor. 2:10-11).
9. He can be tested (Acts 5:9).
10. He can be resisted (Acts 7:5).
11. He has a will (1 Cor. 2:11; 12:7-11).

How does the Holy Spirit influence our lives today?

1. He makes known the presence of Jesus

His primary work in our life and the world today is to reveal/communicate the presence of Jesus Christ. (John 15:26; 16:14; Acts 5:32; 1 Cor. 12:3; 1 John 4:2. The Holy Spirit redirects us from loving ourselves to loving God and others.

2. He makes us more like Jesus

The Holy Spirit is holy and leads us to become more like Jesus. As we walk with the Spirit (Gal. 5:16) and stay in step with the Spirit (Gal. 5:25), he will strip away our temptation to sin and make us more like Jesus (Gal. 5:16, 18).

3. He helps us understand the Bible

The Holy Spirit inspired the writing of the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21) and helps us to understand God's Word (John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:9-11; Heb. 3:7; 10:15).

4. He calls us to work

The Holy Spirit not only calls us to faith in Jesus Christ, but he calls us to a specific vocation or task.

Here are just a few examples:

- The Holy Spirit asked for Barnabas and Saul to be set apart "for the work to which [he] called them" (Acts 13:2).
- The Holy Spirit led Philip to help an Ethiopian eunuch understand the Old Testament (Acts 8:26-40).
- The Holy Spirit even forbade Paul from entering specific regions to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 16:6-7).

As we trust God (Prov. 3:5-6), read the Bible (Rom. 12:1-2), and seek godly counsel (Prov. 11:14), the Holy Spirit will guide us into the work he has called us to.

5. He empowers us for service

This means he enables us to do what we've been called to do. From the pages of the Old Testament we observe the Holy Spirit's empowering presence in the lives of Joshua (Num. 27:18), Saul (1 Sam. 11:6), David (1 Sam. 16:13), to accomplish what they were called to do.

In the New Testament, we see that he empowered Jesus' earthly ministry (Luke 4:14), the early disciples (Acts 1:8), and the preaching of the gospel (Acts 4:8, 31; 6:10; 1 Thess. 1:5).

The Holy Spirit is capable of empowering our natural abilities and improving upon them for a special task or purpose.

6. He helps us pray

The Holy Spirit is active in our prayer life (Rom. 8:26-27). The Holy Spirit will help us when we do not know how to pray for God's will in a particular situation.

7. He guides us

The Holy Spirit also guides us (Gal. 5:16, 25; cf. Acts 8:29; 13:2; 15:7-9; 16:6; Rom. 8:14). He led Jesus into the wilderness (Matt. 4:1), provided direct guidance to Philip (Acts 8:29), and even later physically transported him (Acts 8:39-40).

Though the Holy Spirit is at work guiding us on a deep, personal level, the Scriptures do suggest that we are responsible to cooperate in his guidance by “walking according to the Spirit” (Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:16).

8. He gives us spiritual gifts

The Holy Spirit also works through us by giving us spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:11). He gives us gifts for the common good of the church (1 Cor. 12:7). This means that we receive spiritual gifts for building up the church. He also gives us gifts so we may serve others (1 Pet. 4:10).

God also gives some spiritual gifts, such as tongues and prophecy, as a sign for unbelievers (1 Cor. 14:22).

There are multiple spiritual gifts listed in the Bible (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12; 1 Pet. 4:10-11). We don't get to choose what gifts we receive. They're given to us by the Holy Spirit for his glory and our good.

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are listed in Isaiah 11:2-3:

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—

the Spirit of **wisdom** and of **understanding**,

the Spirit of **counsel** and of **fortitude**,

the Spirit of the **knowledge** and **reverence**—

and he will delight in the fear of the Lord (**wonder and awe**).

The fruits of the Holy Spirit Galatians 5:22-23:

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control.

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Suggested March Ritual

Having completed the preparatory discussions on the Holy Spirit with the students, the priest can suggest one of the two options below, to be returned to the church during the parish's designated Confirmation Ritual Mass.

- (i) The worksheet below invites the candidates to reflect on the working of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures. Candidates can complete the worksheet and return it at the designated Confirmation Ritual Mass in the parish.

OR

- (ii) Students can prepare the attached image of the Holy Spirit and return it at the designated Confirmation Ritual Mass in the parish.

The Power of the Holy Spirit

Student's Name:

In the scriptures, the Holy Spirit takes many forms. Can you identify some of the forms the Holy Spirit may take. The readings below may help!!



Find the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.

(Read the texts below and answer the questions.)

Reading 1: (Gen. 1:1-2)

Creation of the World

'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and the Spirit of God hovered over the water.'

Q. What was the Holy Spirit doing at the beginning of time?

Reading 2: (Gen 2:7)

Creation of Man

'God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.'

Q. In what way did the Spirit change the dust?

Reading 3: (Joel. 2:28)

The day of the Lord

'After this I will pour out my spirit on all humanity; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your old men shall dream dreams and your young men shall see visions.'

Q. How does the Holy Spirit change people?

Find the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.

Reading 4: (Lk. 1:26-35)

The Annunciation

The angel Gabriel was sent to Mary to announce the coming of the Lord to her as a baby. 'And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God".'

Q. The Holy Spirit can change people. In what ways did it change Mary?

Reading 7: (Mt. 28:18-20)

Mission in the World

After the resurrection, just before He ascended into heaven, Jesus commissioned His Apostles to carry His message to all nations. He told them to baptise all nations 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'.

Q. How is the Holy Spirit to be passed on to others?

Q. Can you name any of the sacraments where the Holy Spirit is passed onto others?

Reading 5: (Mk. 1:10-11)

Jesus' Baptism

'As Jesus came out of the water of the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove; and a voice came from heaven "Thou art my beloved Son, with thee I am well pleased".'

Q. This event marked a turning point in Jesus' life. In what ways did his life change?

Reading 8: (Jn. 14:16-17)

Last Supper

At the Last Supper, the night before He died, Jesus told His followers not to be afraid. He was leaving them, but His Father would send them a counsellor to be with them forever.

Q. Who was this counsellor and what difference would it make to the followers?

Reading 6: (Mt. 4:1-11)

Jesus in the desert

'The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert, where He spent forty days in prayer and fasting. The devil came to him and said "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread". Even though Jesus was hungry he wouldn't be tempted. The devil then tried to test Him by asking Jesus to prove Himself and offering Him riches if He worshipped Satan. Jesus resisted the temptations and said, "You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve".'

Q. In what ways did the Spirit help Jesus resist the temptations?

Reading 9: (Jn. 19:30)

Jesus' last breath on the Cross

When Jesus had received the vinegar, He said, 'It is finished; and He bowed his head and gave up the Spirit'.

Q. What was the importance of the Spirit in Jesus' life?

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Materials

White and Orange Card
Glue/tape
Yellow/white pipe cleaners
Coloured markers
Paper Plate



Step one.

Draw the outline of a dove as below. Mark out the beak and eyes.



Step 2.

Cut the paper plate in two. Overlap slightly and fix in place. Place the template of the dove over the plates and fix together.



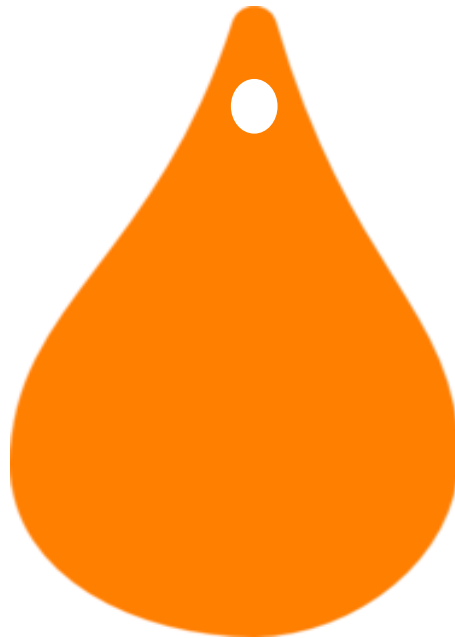
Step 3.

Cut out the banner below and fix to the dove.



Step 4.

Using the orange card and the template below, cut out seven flames and punch a hole in the top of each flame.



On each of flame write the name of one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (text below) and the accompanying text. Thread a pipe cleaner through the hole in each flame and fix to the dove as shown in the complete image above.

Wisdom	Can see how everything is part of God's love
Understanding	To see from another person's heart
Right Judgement	Be open to others insight
Courage	Courage to do what you know is right
Knowledge	To find important facts
Reverence	Honour God and God's people
Wonder & Awe	Feel amazement before God