



# Reflecting the Fire of the Holy Spirit

A Summer Mini Retreat for Families & Large Groups  
Designed for Families & Large Groups  
45 - 50 minutes

## Make Way for the Holy Spirit

**Leader:** As summer's warmth envelops the days in golden light, it offers a beautiful invitation for families and communities to pause, reflect, and rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit together. Let this time deepen faith, strengthen relationships, and awaken joyful fellowship as we gather in God's presence.

**All:** Holy Spirit, as the sun pours forth its warmth and brilliance upon the earth, we come before You as families, friends, and community seeking renewal and illumination. Let Your holy fire burn away all that is weary and cold within us; ignite our hearts with faith, hope, and love. Move through each moment of this retreat, filling our minds with wisdom and clarity, our homes and gatherings with peace, and our souls with courage and joy. May Your presence shine like the summer sun, transforming us and drawing us into deeper union with God and with one another.

Send forth your flame, O Holy Spirit, that we may be kindled anew with each thought, prayer, and breath as an offering of love. Let our spirits burn with the desire to serve, to listen, and to reflect your goodness in all we do.

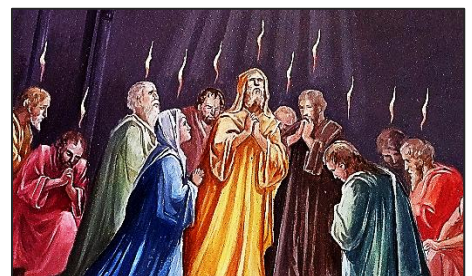
We welcome this time of reflection and spiritual growth, trusting that your fire will guide us from the quiet center of our hearts to the vibrant edges of our lives. Amen.

## Awaken to the Presence of the Holy Spirit

**Reader 1:** Before we begin this spiritual journey, let's prepare our hearts and our shared space. *Invite everyone to gather around a table, prayer corner, or open space where all can participate comfortably and complete the following:*

- ◆ Gather items that inspire prayer and participation: a Catholic Bible, a candle, a cross, a rosary, images of saints, simple craft supplies, and any sacramental objects that help your group focus on the sacred.
- ◆ Invite children, teens, and adults to sit together in mixed groups or by family so everyone can listen, share, and pray.
- ◆ Quiet the room, take a deep breath together, and ask everyone to allow two minutes of silence to prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to guide your retreat: "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love."

**Reader 2:** We begin with meditation on the Holy Spirit, whose presence is both gentle and transformative, like the soft breeze that stirs the trees or the silent spark that kindles fire. Consider the biblical imagery of Pentecost, where tongues of flame rest upon the disciples, filling them with courage and wisdom.



- ◆ Reflect together on the fruits and gifts of the Spirit, found in Galatians 5:22-23 and Isaiah 11:2-3.
- ◆ Invite everyone to discuss: Which gifts of the Spirit do we most want to grow this season?
- ◆ Invite each person to share one fruit of the Holy Spirit they already see blossoming in their life, home, or community.
- ◆ Spend a moment in silence, then pray together, “Veni Sancte Spiritus,” meaning “Come, Holy Spirit.”

## **Living as a Vessel of the Spirit**

**Reader 3:** Fire can symbolize passion, transformation, and divine clarity. The Holy Spirit kindles within us a fervent love for God and for others, purifies what is unworthy, and lights the path of our journey. Today, reflect on the moments when you have been touched by the Spirit’s fire—moments of sudden inspiration, profound conviction, or serene peace.

Utilizing your smart phone, laptop/computer and/or a book, delve into the lives of saints ignited by the Holy Spirit—like St. Catherine of Siena, St. Philip Neri, and St. Teresa of Ávila. Feel their fire, their boundless zeal for God and others, and reflect on how their passion changed the world.

Invite everyone to reflect, discuss, and share:

- ◆ How might the example of the saints awaken and guide the Spirit’s fire within our family or community?
- ◆ What gifts, talents, or passions has God already placed in the people gathered here?
- ◆ How can we use those gifts together to serve others?
- ◆ Are there places within our hearts, relationships, or routines that need the gentle purifying touch of God’s love?
- ◆ Light a candle, or if needed simply pause and look toward the prayer space, offering this moment as a symbol of your desire for renewal.
- ◆ Pray together for the fire of the Holy Spirit to burn away fear, division, indifference, or apathy, making way for love’s creative energy.

**Reader 4:** It’s time to focus on carrying the light and warmth of the Spirit into the world. To be a vessel of the Holy Spirit is to reflect Christ’s love in both word and deed. Consider the Acts of the Apostles and the bold proclamation of faith that followed Pentecost.

Reflect, share, and enjoy this group activity together (about 10 minutes):

- ◆ Ask: How are we called to witness to God’s love today in our homes, friendships, parish, and community?
- ◆ Choose one simple work of mercy your family or group can do this week, such as writing encouraging notes, collecting donations, visiting someone who is lonely, or preparing a small act of service.
- ◆ Fun activity (10 minutes): “Gifts of the Spirit Relay.” Divide into small teams. Give each team slips of paper with words such as wisdom, joy, peace, kindness, courage, and love. Ask each team to match the gift or fruit with a real-life action they can do this week, then have one representative share their best example aloud. Keep it light, encouraging, and age-friendly so everyone can participate.
- ◆ Read Romans 8:14-17 aloud, then invite each group to name one action the Holy Spirit may be calling them to take.
- ◆ Conclude this section by asking each family or group to commit to one spiritual goal and one act of service for the coming week.

**Reader 5:** Gather at your tables or in family circles for shared prayer and reflection. Invite children, teens, and adults to participate by taking turns reading, responding, or offering intentions.

- ◆ Begin with the “Come, Holy Spirit” prayer (see below), sing hymns, and share stories of how the Spirit has moved in your lives.  
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.  
  
Let us pray. O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
- ◆ Conclude with a prayer, asking God’s fire to fill your community with unity and purpose.

## Carrying the Fire Forward

**Reader 6:** As this mini retreat draws to a close, spend time in thanksgiving and embrace the call to carry the Holy Spirit’s fire into your homes and communities. Invite each family or group to name one practice they will continue this summer—such as a weekly prayer time, a shared meal with gratitude, an act of service, or a Scripture reflection—so that this gathering bears fruit beyond today.

Incorporate this daily prayer:

Holy Spirit, flame of light and love, ignite in me a transforming love, a sustaining courage, and a guiding wisdom. May your presence shine through every thought, word, and action I offer. Amen.

**All:** O Holy Spirit, Divine Flame and Gentle Guide, as we step from this time of reflection into the unfolding days, we ask you: kindle anew within our hearts the fire of your love. Let your presence be the light that illuminates our path, your courage, the spark that ignites our witness, and your wisdom, the breeze that shapes our choices.

May the warmth we have received here linger in every encounter, drawing us into deeper unity and purpose. Set our hearts ablaze with compassion for those we meet, that our words and deeds may reveal your mercy and truth. As vibrant embers of your Pentecost fire, let us carry forth the Spirit’s gifts, joy, patience, kindness, and faithfulness, into our homes, our parishes, and the world beyond.

Holy Spirit, you who dwell within and move among us, transform our fears into hope, our uncertainties into trust, and our longing into praise. May we never cease to seek your guidance, nor fail to share your light with those in darkness. Keep us ever open to the surprises of your grace, attentive to your promptings, and generous in our love.

We thank you, Spirit of Life, for this retreat and for the abiding warmth of your presence. As we go forth, let every day be a living prayer, a testament to the fire that cannot be quenched. Amen.

**Leader:** This summer mini retreat has been a gentle invitation for families and larger communities to step into the fullness of God’s presence, illuminated by the fire of the Holy Spirit. In prayer, conversation, and shared activity, may each person leave renewed in faith, strengthened in love, and ready to carry Christ’s light into everyday life.

May your heart, like a candle in the summer dusk, reflect the fire of the Holy Spirit—radiant, enduring, and ever open to the grace that transforms.