



END-OF-SCHOOL-YEAR PRAYER SERVICE

For Catholic School Teachers, Leaders, and Staff: Spring 2021

SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT

COMPILED BY THE ALLIANCE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

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Opening Song
COME, HOLY GHOST



Watch the Video
or visit [youtube.com/watch?v=ZgVTUA2gfog](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgVTUA2gfog)

OPENING PRAYER

(1 minute; volunteer reader)

Good and gracious God, we come together today with thankful hearts for the many blessings you have bestowed upon us during this academic year. You have touched our lives in so many ways and have helped us to grow through the grace of your Spirit.

Lord, as we ponder the blessings and challenges of this past year, grant us the serenity of your Spirit and openness of heart to the wonders you have done in us and will continue to do in faithfulness to us. We pray that our time together here may be blessed by your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



PART 1

Send Forth Your Spirit

SCRIPTURE READING

*(5 minutes; volunteer reader;
also available in the appendix)*

A reading from the Gospel of John:

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.’” *(John 20:19-23)*

THEME INTRODUCTION AND REFLECTION

(10 Minutes)

Prayer service leader will invite participants to listen to the theme introduction and reflection video via this link featuring Fr. Lou DelFra, CSC.



Watch the Video

[or visit vimeo.com/546142582](https://vimeo.com/546142582)



QUESTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

(also available in the appendix)

1. The disciples begin this passage in fear. When have you feared this year? What or who has caused you to fear?
2. Christ's first words to his disciples were, "Peace be with you." When have you been at peace this year? What or who has brought you peace?
3. Jesus shares the gifts of the Holy Spirit – wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord – with his disciples. When have you experienced these gifts throughout the past year? Which of these gifts have you possibly lost sight of throughout the past year? As you reflect on the work you are being called to do, which of these gifts do you need to call upon the Spirit for most readily?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

(10 minutes; participants discuss their thoughts in response to the questions listed above, which are also available in the appendix)

LARGE GROUP SHARING

(5 minutes; prayer service leader invites thoughts or responses for sharing within the context of the whole group)

PART 2

Send Forth Your Spirit

VIDEO AND PSALM MEDITATION

(10 minutes)

Prayer service leader will invite participants to first read through Psalm 104 and then listen and reflect while the psalm meditation video is playing.

We now invite you to first read through and then listen to the psalm that inspired our theme of Send Forth Your Spirit while meditating on the lyrics and accompanying images. Please listen and reflect while the psalm is playing. You will then respond to the questions provided, either in your thoughts or in writing.



Watch the Video
or visit vimeo.com/546157296

PSALM 104 LYRICS

(also available in the appendix)

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, how great you are.
How many are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your creatures.
Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

You take away their breath, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, and they are created, and you renew the face of the earth. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.



QUESTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

(also available in the appendix)

1. How have you seen others (i.e. your students, their parents, your colleagues, your friends or family, etc.) sending forth their spirits during the past academic year?
2. Even in the midst of this challenging year, how have you, as an educator, sent forth your spirit?
3. How are you being called to send forth your spirit and renew the face of your own communities in the year ahead?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

(10 minutes; participants discuss their thoughts in response to the questions listed above, which are also available in the appendix)

LARGE GROUP SHARING

(5 minutes; prayer service leader invites thoughts or responses for sharing within the context of the whole group)

CLOSING PRAYER

(1 minute; volunteer reader)

Prayer to the Holy Spirit by St. Augustine

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
That I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
To defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
That I always may be holy.

Closing Song

**PSALM 104: SEND
FORTH YOUR SPIRIT**



Watch the Video

or visit [youtube.com/watch?v=1E3k0iUFUGo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1E3k0iUFUGo)



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

FOR THE INNOVATION OF THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

By St. Bonaventure

Lord Jesus, As God's spirit came down and rested upon you, may the same Spirit rest upon us, bestowing his sevenfold gifts.

Grant us the gift of understanding, by which your precepts may enlighten our minds.

Grant us counsel, by which we may follow in your footsteps on the path of righteousness.

Grant us courage, by which we may ward off the Enemy's attacks.

Grant us knowledge, by which we can distinguish good from evil.

Grant us piety, by which we may acquire compassionate hearts.

Grant us fear, by which we may draw back from evil and submit to what is good.

Lastly, grant us wisdom, that we may taste fully the life-giving sweetness of your love.

You live and reign forever and ever. *Amen.*

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

By St. Alphonsus Liguori

You are fire; enkindle in me your love.

You are light; enlighten my mind with the knowledge of eternal things.

You are the Dove; give me innocence of life.

You are the gentle Breeze; disperse the storms of my passions.

You are the Tongue; teach me how to bless you always.

You are the Cloud; shelter me under the shadow of your protection.

And lastly, You are the Giver of all heavenly gifts; animate me,

I beseech you, with your grace; sanctify me with your charity; enlighten me

with your wisdom; adopt me by your goodness as your child, and save me in your infinite mercy; so that I may ever bless you, praise you, and love you; first during this life on earth, and then in heaven for all eternity. *Amen.*

SONGS AND PLAYLISTS

Come, Holy Spirit, on Us Shine

Creator Spirit, Lord of Grace

O Holy Spirit, Come to Bless

APPENDIX

Individual Reflection Handout

Part 1: Send Forth Your Spirit

SCRIPTURE READING

(1 minute; volunteer reader)

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”” (John 20:19-23)

QUESTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

on Scripture Reading

1. The disciples begin this passage in fear. When have you feared this year? What or who has caused you to fear?
2. Christ’s first words to his disciples were “Peace be with you.” When have you been at peace this year? What or who has brought you peace?
3. Jesus shares the gifts of the Holy Spirit – wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord – with his disciples. When have you seen the presence of each of these gifts this year? When have any, if all, of these gifts felt to be lacking this year?

Part 2: Send Forth Your Spirit

LYRICS

Psalm 104

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, how great you are. How many are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your creatures. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. You take away their breath, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, and they are created, and you renew the face of the earth. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

QUESTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

Video and Psalm Meditation

1. Even in the midst of this challenging year, how have you, as an educator, sent forth your spirit?
2. How have you seen others (i.e. your students, their parents, your colleagues, etc.) sending forth their spirits during the past academic year?
3. How are you being called to send forth your spirit and renew the face of the earth in the year ahead?



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NOTRE DAME

Joan Sadler invenit et excudit

PENTECOSTE