

## Useful Resources

Scan the QR codes with your smart phone camera.



**Understanding the Holy Spirit – Bishop Robert Barron.**  
<https://youtu.be/wD71MBo5gBA>



**Understanding the Holy Spirit - Explaining the Faith.** Fr. Chris Alar, MIC <https://youtu.be/eexDHK9Xhtc>



**The Holy Spirit in the Life of Catholics – Dr. Jeff Cavins.**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1\\_I8vGBboV8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_I8vGBboV8)



**What Does the Holy Spirit Actually Do? (Superhero Analogy).** Fr. Mike Schmitz.  
<https://youtu.be/RTD8BNd-Nek>

## Gifts of the Holy Spirit

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus promises His disciples that he will ask God to send them another Advocate, the Spirit of Truth (John 14:15-21). In the first reading, we are told how Peter and John went down to Antioch and prayed over and laid hands upon those who had been baptized by Philip, and they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:5-8, 14-17).

As Catholics, we believe that the sacraments of Baptism and

Confirmation indelibly mark us as belonging to Christ. The pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon us in these Sacraments strengthens us and enables us to perceive more clearly God's will in our lives. This is accomplished through the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Those gifts are:

1. Wisdom
2. Understanding
3. Counsel
4. Knowledge
5. Fortitude
6. Piety
7. Fear of the Lord

[\(CCC 1831\)](#)

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are first mentioned in the Book of Isaiah, where it is written: "The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord." (Isaiah 11:2).

Pope Francis has spoken at length about each of the seven gifts, and here is how he has described them. Wisdom is "the grace of being able to see everything with the eyes of God. It is simply this: it is to see the world, to see situations, circumstances, problems, everything through God's eyes." Understanding is the "grace ... which awakens in a Christian the ability to go beyond the outward appearance of reality and to probe the depths of the thoughts of God and his plan of salvation." Counsel is "the gift through which the Holy Spirit enables our conscience to make a concrete choice in communion with



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<https://stcasimir.org/>



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<https://www.facebook.com/StLizBmore/>

God, according to the logic of Jesus and His Gospel.”

Knowledge is “a special gift, which leads us to grasp, through creation, the greatness and love of God and His profound relationship with every creature.” Fortitude is “the gift [through which] the Holy Spirit liberates the soil of our heart...frees it from sluggishness, from uncertainty and from all the fears that can hinder it, so that the Lord’s Word may be put into practice authentically and with joy.” Piety “... is synonymous with the genuine religious spirit, with [child-like] trust in God, with that capacity to pray to him with the love and simplicity that belongs to those who are humble of heart.” Fear of the Lord is the grace to remember “how small we are before God and of His love and that our good lies in humble, respectful and trusting self-abandonment into His hands.” Fear of the Lord is not rooted in the terror we usually associate with the word fear, but means a loving and profound reverence for, and obedience to, God who created and knows all things, rooted in the knowledge and understanding that it is in Him that “we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:28)

## The Spirit and Mary

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.” (Luke 1:35) Mary, from the moment of Jesus conception, was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. Our Lady models for us what our lives can look like when we say “yes” to God’s will and fully give ourselves over to the actions of the Spirit of God. Mary’s “yes” led her to the cross, the empty tomb, and ultimately the upper room on Pentecost where she was once again overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. If we have the courage, as



The Spirit and  
Our Lady  
Fr. Dave  
Pivonka

Mary did, to say “yes” to God’s Spirit and to surrender our will to His, we too will experience the power of the Most High overshadowing us.

## Saints of the Week

Scan the QR codes with your phone to read and listen about the lives of the Saints.



**May 14 – Saint Matthias.** Chosen to replace Judas Iscariot as one of the twelve Disciples of Jesus Christ.



**May 15 – Saint Isadore the Farmer** (1070–1130). Patron of farmers, rural communities and Madrid, Spain.



**May 16 – Saint Margaret of Cortona** (1247–1297). Started a hospital and congregation of Franciscan tertiary sisters.



**May 17 – Saint Paschal Babylon** (1540–1592). Spanish Franciscan Friar Minor who took care of the poor with great generosity.



**May 18 - Saint John I** (c. 470–526). Pope who died after being imprisoned by Roman Emperor for opposing the Aryan heresy.



**May 19 – Saint Theophilus of Corte** (1676–1740). Franciscan priest who founded retreat houses in Corsica and Tuscany.



**May 20 – Saint Bernardine of Siena** (1380–1444). Greatest preacher of his time, followed Saint Francis’s admonition to preach about “vice and virtue, punishment and glory.”