



Chapter 1

Holy Spirit, Come to Us!

Background Focus

We tend to think of the Holy Spirit as elusive. We can know something of God the Father through our own experience of “father”; we can know something of God the Son through our reading of Scripture. The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is a little bit harder to pin down. How do we come to know the Holy Spirit? Often it is through a nudge, an intuition, a word or phrase from Scripture that we can’t forget. Then we realize that the Holy Spirit has visited us.

Certainly the Holy Spirit’s presence was felt in a big way at Pentecost. As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and gave them both comfort and courage as they were beginning something new—a Church that would live and spread the Good News of God’s love. The Holy Spirit that hovered over the chaos of creation was now hovering over them. They were God’s new creation. Their lives would never be the same. As the Holy Spirit comes to our children in the Sacrament of Confirmation, their lives will never be the same either. What a wonderful, powerful message to share!

(This prayer is from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, by the Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy [Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), 1989], page 157. Copyright © 1989 by the USCCB. All rights reserved.)

Family Strategies

“Before you fly off the handle, count to ten.” This is an age-old remedy for dealing with a stressful moment. It provides a space in which to calm down and to respond appropriately to a difficult situation. It is a strategy that can work for anyone of any age, and a strategy that parents can easily model for children. For us as baptized Christians, these ten seconds can be a sacred space in which the Holy Spirit can work. The habit of counting to ten could even be adapted by repeating the words “Come, Holy Spirit!” ten times!

Family Activities

- Congratulate your child on beginning to prepare for Confirmation. Take time after the Mass this weekend to look for symbols of the Holy Spirit (fire, dove) in the stained-glass windows or other art in your parish church.
- Read together the Featured Story on page 1714 of *The Catholic Children’s Bible* (Acts of the Apostles 2:1–6). Remind your child that the Holy Spirit will come to them personally at Confirmation. You may also want to pray the Holy Spirit prayer (see page 1) regularly, either at meals or at bedtime.
- Watch the YouTube video “The Holy Spirit Comes (Day of Pentecost)” (2:58). Ask: When do we need courage? When do we need healing? Then ask the Holy Spirit for these gifts.

Pray It!



Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

All: And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

All: And you will renew the face of the earth.