

PENTECOST VIGIL 2016

G U I D E B O O K L E T



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PREPARE

What happens before the Vigil.

2

ENCOUNTER

What happens at the Vigil.

3

RESPOND

What happens after the Vigil.

PREPARE

Let us pray: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created, and you will renew the face of the earth.

1.) WATCH

Visit <http://thevigilproject.com/#pentecost-2016> and watch the video called "Prepare"

In the video, Fr. Dave says, "There is nothing complicated about this: it's praying, it's waiting, and it's receiving the promise of the Father, receiving the Holy Spirit." As we set out on this journey of preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, it is important to remember that we do so in the light of the Resurrection. The victory over sin and death has already been won by Christ in his dying and his rising. What else needs to be done? What else could we do to add to or take away from what God has already accomplished in his Son? As Fr. Dave says, there are only three things...

1. Praying
2. Waiting
3. Receiving the Holy Spirit

Perhaps the very struggle in doing these things is that they are so simple, so uncomplicated. Be encouraged to follow through with this preparation that is simple, knowing that the Lord is already at work in your faithfulness to praying, waiting, and receiving. In fact, "In prayer, the faithful God's initiative of love always comes first; our own first step is always a response" (CCC 2567). With this in mind, we recognize that He has indeed already accomplished the great work of calling us to prayer through the initiative of His love...the Spirit is already moving, let us open our hearts to receive more of this grace.

2.) PRAY

Using the Scripture passages below, pray and reflect on the way that Jesus instructs the Apostles and assures them of the "promise of the Father" and of their "baptism in the holy Spirit" and the way the Apostles respond to Jesus' instruction by returning to Jerusalem and waiting "in one accord in prayer."

"He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for 'the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'" - Acts 1:3-5

"But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:8

“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.” - Acts 1:12-14

As you wait and pray during this time of preparation, ask the Lord if there is a particular part of your life that he wants you to open to him, for a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Is there a particular cross, weakness, or fear where you have been trying to “handle things” on your own? During this time of preparation, ask the Holy Spirit to soften your heart, preparing for him to come in power, helping you to surrender to Him every part of your heart in a new way.

Conclude your prayer today by asking the Lord, “How do you want me to pray through this time of preparation? How do you want me to keep vigil at Pentecost?” As you move forward through you preparation, continue asking these questions in prayer, and continue to listen for what the Lord desires for you.

3.) RESPOND

As you close your time of prayer, ask the Holy Spirit if there are any specific ways in which he is inviting you to respond to him in your preparation. Consider some of the following possibilities:

Silence- As the Lord prepares your heart during this time leading up to Pentecost, we do well to attune to our ears to the sound of His voice. Making space for for the Lord to speak--intentional silence--allows our minds to relax and our hearts to become more receptive not only in “this moment”, but in an overall way as we wait for the outpouring at Pentecost.

Fasting - Allow yourself to be emptied so that the Spirit can fill you in a new and powerful way. Ask the Lord what this looks like specifically for you - food, drink, tv, social media, something else. There is great grace that can only be poured out in our lives by the combination of our prayer with fasting.

Study Scripture - Read John 20:19-23, and reflect on the simple way in which Jesus breathes on the Apostles and tells them to “Receive the holy Spirit.” Ask Jesus to show you the uncomplicated way in which he desires to give you the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Examination and Reconciliation - utilizing the gifts that are already available to you through the ministry of your own Church parish, spend some time in prayer reflecting on the sins in your life that Jesus wants to “breathe” on with the power of the Holy Spirit. Make a good confession and receive the grace of healing and forgiveness that will open your heart and your mind to experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit more fully at Pentecost.

ENCOUNTER

Let us pray: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created, and you will renew the face of the earth.

1.) WATCH

Visit <http://thevigilproject.com/#pentecost-2016> and watch the video called "Encounter"

In the video, Fr. Dave says, "We're getting closer to the actual vigil of Pentecost, and I'm not exactly sure what that's going to look like for you...but as I've said, the most important thing for you to be able to do is to stop, wait, pray, and ask for the Holy Spirit." As you've made a journey of spiritual preparation over the last weeks and days, it's now important for you to consider what the Lord is asking of you specifically for your time of vigil on the Eve of Pentecost:

1. Where will you go to settle in, to stop, and wait during your vigil?
2. How will you make the space sacred and set an atmosphere conducive for prayer?
3. Who will be with you for this time of watching and praying with the Lord?

These are important questions to consider to ensure that you are set up for a time of deep prayer and encounter with the love of God in the Holy Spirit. But, remember: it's not complicated. The most important thing is that you stop, wait, pray, and ask for the Holy Spirit, just like the Apostles did in the Upper Room. He is moving, and he will continue to move, even when it doesn't feel like it. Let us reflect on the words of Pope Francis on the importance of our surrendering to him and trusting him as we keep vigil...

"The Holy Spirit works as he wills, when he wills and where he wills; we entrust ourselves without pretending to see striking results. We know only that our commitment is necessary. Let us learn to rest in the tenderness of the arms of the Father amid our creative and generous commitment. Let us keep marching forward; let us give him everything, allowing him to make our efforts bear fruit in his good time." (Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel 279)

2.) PRAY (intended to be used during your Pentecost vigil)

As the scriptures tell us, God wants to give us the "promise of the Father", the Holy Spirit. Let us begin to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit as we turn to the scriptures to pray and reflect on the first Pentecost and on the words of the Old Testament prophets about the Holy Spirit.

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” - Acts 2:1-4

“Then afterward, I will pour out my spirit upon all mankind. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; even upon the servants and the handmaids, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.” - Joel 3:1-2

“After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” - Luke 3:21-22

“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God to comfort all who mourn.” - Isaiah 61:1-2

For your vigil prayer, consider praying through these steps:

- Open with the Sign of the Cross and light a candle symbolizing the presence of the Holy Spirit
- Stop, breathe, let your heart and mind be silent, and remember that you are in the presence of God
- Begin to pray “Come Holy Spirit.” Begin to ask the Holy Spirit to come upon you, to move in your heart, mind, and body.
- There is power in verbalizing our prayer; continue to pray “Come Holy Spirit” out loud, and continue to open your heart and mind to his movement, and to entrust yourself entirely to the will of God, trusting that he is moving and he is present.
- Ask for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon you, in your life. Be free to ask for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in specific areas of your life where there are strongholds of sin or brokenness, where there is a need for healing, where there is doubt or fear and a need for understanding and peace, or any other specific places that you feel called to ask for the Spirit to come.
- Stay in this prayer, wait, and remain open to gifts of the Holy Spirit. Spend as much time as you need, as the Spirit invites you to wait.
- If you are gathered with a community, pray with each other for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, pray for an outpouring upon your community. Do this by simply placing a hand on another’s shoulder and continuing to pray “Come Holy Spirit.”
- Spend some time in praise and worship, singing or speaking out loud of the greatness and glory of God. Give thanks for his love, his mercy, his outpouring upon you and your community.

- Conclude your prayer by asking the Holy Spirit if there are any specific ways He is calling you to respond. Ask what He desires for your life of faith beyond this event of prayer. Spend some time in silence allowing the Lord to speak to your heart. Journal about these things so you can return to them at a later time for further prayerful reflection.

3.) **RESPOND** (intended to be used during your Pentecost vigil)

As you close your time of prayer, continue giving thanks for all the good works the Lord has done during this time of prayer and throughout your life. Ask the Lord if there is anything he wishes for you to share with the rest of your community.

Testimony - Take time as a community to share with one another the gifts of the Holy Spirit that were poured out and any experiences in prayer that the Lord invites you to share aloud. Often, the testimony of another confirms or strengthens the experience of another, or even brings deep healing. As participants share their testimonies, continue to give thanks to God for all his works.

Be aware that not everyone will have an equally positive experience, and some may even be emotionally disturbed in one way or another. Don't panic and don't let the Enemy steal the gift of joy and the reality of the outpouring of grace. God's ways are not our ways, and we must continue to trust in Him while patiently acknowledging and receiving the struggles of those who are disappointed by the experience. Look for ways to show that you are listening, that you understand, and that you love them with the Love of the Father. Avoid any temptation to draw back from them, as this is indeed a moment of great need for them. Recognize that the Holy Spirit has positioned you to be present to them in their need, and continue to extend to them with patience and kindness the Love of God.

Schedule - Set a time within the coming week to gather once again to continue unpacking what the Holy Spirit did during the vigil, and what he has continued to do since the vigil. This will give participants enough time to reflect more deeply on their personal experience and for the Lord to take them a step further on the journey.

Celebrate - Continue giving thanks for all that the Lord has done by celebrating after the vigil is finished. Gather as a community in freedom and in joy at a home, parish hall, restaurant, or other location conducive to celebrating with food, drinks, and conversation. Let the abundance of the Holy Spirit be poured out on this feast day of the Church, "Pentecost".

RESPOND

Let us pray: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created, and you will renew the face of the earth.

1.) WATCH

Visit <http://thevigilproject.com/#pentecost-2016> and watch the video called "Encounter"

In the video Fr. Dave says, "We don't encounter the Holy Spirit just for a great experience; it's about having this encounter with the Holy Spirit so that our lives are transformed." When the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles at the first Pentecost, their lives were indeed transformed, and the fire that was put into their hearts for the proclamation of the Gospel on that day continued to burn until their lives on earth came to an end. We are called by the same Spirit to a similar transformation, by which we become more holy, more virtuous, and more attuned to the will of the Father. We are called to make a dynamic response that continues throughout our lifetime. The Lord calls us to walk with him; we respond by doing so without turning back and without counting the costs. As we follow him, we're also called to extend this invitation to others – our family members, our coworkers, friends, and strangers.

As we seek to live out a worthy response to this call, let us remember to invoke the name of our Blessed Mother who intercedes for us and journeys with us, always teaching us by her own example how we are to be open to the movement and life of the Holy Spirit within us. To this end, let us reflect on the words of Pope Francis...

"With the Holy Spirit, Mary is always present in the midst of the people. She joined the disciples in praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit and thus made possible the missionary outburst which took place at Pentecost." (Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel, 284)

Mary is the icon of receptivity and response to the will of God poured out in his Holy Spirit; let us learn from her and follow her as she leads us to the throne of her Son, Jesus.

2.) PRAY

Using the Scripture passages below, pray and reflect on the ways the Apostles responded to the coming of the Holy Spirit at the first Pentecost, both immediately and in the days and weeks that followed. Be mindful of Mary's presence with them and the impact her purity and prayer had on their activities of evangelization. Pray with Jesus' call to "Follow me" and ask the Lord how he is calling you to do that faithfully.

“They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.” – Acts 2:42-43

“The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all.” – Acts 4:32-33

“The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter responded, ‘Can anyone withhold the water for baptism from these people, who have received the holy Spirit even as we have?’ He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.” – Acts 10:45-48

“As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’ He heard this and said, ‘Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.’” – Matt 9:9-13

After meditating on the Scriptures above, consider praying the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. Bring your petitions to Mary and ask for her to intercede for you to her son, Jesus. Ask Mary to accompany you and guide you as you strive to respond to the call to follow Jesus and live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

3.) RESPOND

We know that the Holy Spirit desires for us to not just have a one-time encounter with him, but rather he desires to transform our lives by the outpouring of his gifts, for our Faith to be alive and animated by the “Breath of God”. As you move forward from the event of Pentecost, consider how the Lord might be inviting you to follow him in an ongoing way:

Study – Stay rooted in the Scriptures through daily reading. Follow along with the universal Church by studying the Scriptures for the Mass each day, or by praying the Liturgy of the Hours. Pick up a book of spiritual reading to learn more about topics of the Faith, such as the Eucharist, the Theology of the Body, the Blessed Mother, or even “Breath of God” by Fr. Dave Pivonka. Revisit the videos in The Wild Goose series and The Vigil Project series.

Community - The outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the call to follow Jesus are not meant to be lived in isolation. Our faith is supposed to be shared in the communal life, as we see in Acts chapter 2. Consider engaging in your Church community in a deeper way, receiving the gifts that are offered through the community of believers and giving back your own time, talent and treasure. If you don't already participate in a Bible study or other faith-based group, join one that already exists, or start one with those in your area. Spend some time with fellow believers sharing meals or coffee and simply discussing your faith and your journey with the Lord.

Works of Mercy - Let the Holy Spirit lead you beyond your comfort zone and into new ways of serving the poor and the needy in your area. This could be as simple as volunteering at your local food bank, or visiting the elderly at a nursing home in your area. This could be caring for and meeting the needs of those in your own family in a new and merciful way.

Evangelize - One of the greatest works of the Holy Spirit is cooperating with Him in the work of evangelization. The proclamation of the Gospel, with all of its Truth, Goodness, and Beauty, is the need of many people in our lives. Allow the Holy Spirit to animate you, to give you courage, and to make you a joyful witness to the resurrection of Jesus, just as he did for the Apostles after the first Pentecost. Let the love of God be poured out through your interactions with those God puts in your life and your invitation to them to follow him.

HOSTING YOUR OWN VIGIL

As we journey closer to our celebration of Pentecost over the coming weeks, we want to invite you to prayerfully consider how the Lord is inviting you to keep watch and pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Some will keep vigil alone with God in their own bedrooms or with their families at home, others will pray with their Bible studies or prayer groups, still others will gather with their church parishes, missionary teams, or religious communities. Whatever the setting is, the invitation and the invocation are the same: "Come Holy Spirit".

If the Lord has put you in the position of planning a vigil event for your family, group, or parish, we want to offer a few tips:

1. **Location** - Pick a location appropriate for your particular community and conducive for prayer. If your study group regularly meets at a coffee shop, you'll want to change the location to someone's home or reserve a room at your church parish. Consider approaching your pastor about supporting a vigil at your parish and hold it in the sanctuary in the presence of the Eucharist reposed in the tabernacle.

2. **Leaders** - Depending on the needs and size of the group you're gathering for the vigil, you will need to enlist the help and service of other leaders to make the details run smoothly and to ensure that the proper program is carried out to its fullest potential. Here are some individuals to consider approaching:

- Your pastor - If you're hosting your event in your Church parish, talk to your pastor about supporting the vigil by coming to celebrate Mass, offer Reconciliation, expose the Blessed Sacrament for a time of Adoration, offer a reading of Scripture and a short homily, or pray with parishioners. Of course, there is a combination of these opportunities that will make sense for your vigil; there is no need to do them all if that is not possible.
- Musicians - Consider inviting a musician or group of musicians in your community to lead a time of prayer with songs of worship. Singing is an excellent way to invoke the Holy Spirit and to verbalize our prayer in a powerful way. Musicians could open the time of prayer to the Holy Spirit, lead music for the Mass, sing appropriate songs of worship during a time of Adoration, or discern freely with the movements of the Spirit throughout the vigil to determine when and what to sing.
- Prayer Teams - Seek out some members of your community with trustworthy spiritual instincts to offer prayer with and for the specific needs of participants. This could be the deacon at your parish, a religious sister in your area, or even a holy and humble layperson. Consider asking any married couples in your community that could make a good team for praying with participants. There is much power and healing in the opportunity for individuals to pray with other members of their community.

3. **Content** - Beyond the boundaries of common Christian sense, there are no rules that comprise the proper way to hold a prayer vigil for the Holy Spirit. Spend time discerning what the Lord is asking of you for this time and how He desires to pour out his Spirit. Here are some things to consider including in your vigil:

- Wild Goose Video Series - visit www.thewildgooseisloose.com and pick a video or part of a video that would work well within your vigil. Perhaps this could serve as a “keynote talk” of sorts to set the tone for the night. Here are some segments to consider: “God’s Love Poured Out”, “The Breath of God”, “Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Fire”, “Gifts of the Holy Spirit”.
- The Vigil Project Video Series - visit www.thevigilproject.com and pick a song/video that would work well within your vigil to set a tone of prayerfulness. If there are no musicians available to help lead songs of praise and worship for your event, consider playing the videos and allowing them to lead the group into a time of worship. If it’s more conducive to the environment of prayer to not show a video, feel free to download the music only by clicking on the link at the top of the website that says “preorder series #1”.
- This Guide Booklet - We’ve written the section of this booklet titled “Encounter” in a way to help guide you through your prayer. We intend for you to use this section (and any others that are helpful) during the course of your vigil. Utilize the Scriptures listed there as well as the steps for prayer to the Holy Spirit as an outline of the content for the night.
- Study the Scriptures - Acts 1 and 2, and John 20 - to understand more about the events surrounding the first Pentecost, and draw from these to plan a vigil that mirrors some of the movements of the Apostles in that time. Spend some time before your vigil marking these and other scriptures that the Lord might desire to speak during the vigil. Include scripture reading as a part of your vigil, both silently and aloud with the community gathered. Consider having a time during the vigil when participants are invited to share with the group any scriptures that are on their hearts.
- Receive Sacraments and Sacramentals - Talk to your pastor about celebrating Mass, offering Reconciliation, exposing the Blessed Sacrament for a time of Adoration, or even offering prayer ministry to participants. The Sacraments set us free to receive the movements and invitations of the Holy Spirit more freely and more fully. If you can, find a good examination of conscience and provide copies for those at your vigil, so all can prepare for this great sacrament accordingly.
- Pray in Many Ways - In addition to the steps of prayer outlined in this booklet, the Sacraments, the Scriptures, and songs of praise and worship, invite the Holy Spirit into your heart through one or more of the many ways of praying that God and his Church give to us. Pray a Rosary for the intercession of the Blessed Mother to lead us to her Son and to make us fruitful in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Pray a Divine Mercy chaplet. Pray silently,

listening for the voice of the Holy Spirit. Spend time journaling and reflecting on the contents of your own heart. Write down any words the Lord speaks to you so you can return to those at a later time for further reflection. Offer prayer for and receive prayer from other members of your community. Set up prayer teams, two-by-two, to listen to the intentions of participants and to pray for the outpouring of the Spirit in these specific areas of need.

4. Keep it Simple - We cannot stress this enough! It doesn't need to be complicated to have a powerful experience of the Holy Spirit. It doesn't need to feel extraordinary for the Holy Spirit to move in powerful and life-changing ways. Don't make this more complex than it needs to be; let the Holy Spirit do the heavy lifting. Remember the simplicity of Jesus' instructions Acts chapter 1, as he asked them to "wait for the promise of the Father." Remember also the obedience of the Apostles who did nothing but wait, watch, and pray until the Holy Spirit came upon them: "they returned to Jerusalem...All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer." (Acts 1:12,14) Let us together be obedient to the will of the Father as we wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

5. Connect - Email us if there are any ways in which we can assist you in the planning of your vigil: goodpeople@thevigilproject.com

Registering your vigil on the website at www.thevigilproject.com/#pentecost-2016 so we can be more connected in our prayer across the globe. We'd love to know whom we're praying with and more specifically how we can support you!

KEEP VIGIL IN NEW ORLEANS, LA

Join us for the vigil event being held in New Orleans on May 14, 2016 with the artists from The Vigil Project music video series. We'd love to meet you and pray with you in person! Free admission, RSVP required, register on the website at www.thevigilproject.com/#pentecost-2016

EMAIL US

Let us know where you will be keeping vigil and what you have planned.



REGISTER

Sign up to attend the free New Orleans vigil event.



WATCH

Take time to watch The Wild Goose and The Vigil Project series to prepare.

thevigilproject.com
thewildgooseisloose.com

