

Come Holy Spirit

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At the beginning of every Mass at Holy Redeemer Church we call on the Holy Spirit to be present with us in an intentional invitation “Come Holy Spirit” three times.

Have you ever wondered why as a community we do that? What is the purpose of inviting the Holy Spirit in the beginning of our Mass celebration?

Who or what exactly is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is part of everything that God is and does. Starting at the very beginning of creation we read in scripture,

“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:1-2).

The Hebrew word for wind is ruah, which also means “breath” or “spirit”. So, the

verse could be understood as “the spirit of God swept over the face of the waters.” So, we know that the Holy Spirit was active in the creation of the universe.

The Spirit is rarely specifically named in the Old Testament. You will find, however, a few references to the “spirit of God” in the Old Testament. The Jewish people closely associated the Spirit of God with prophecy (see 2 Chronicles 15:1 or Ezekiel 11:24) believing that God spoke through the prophets who spoke in His name. The Catholic Church believes that these passages are early references to the Holy Spirit at work.

In the New Testament, we find that the Gospels still contain few references to the Holy Spirit-except for the Gospel of Luke, which is sometimes called the Gospel of the Holy Spirit. In Luke the Holy Spirit fills John the Baptist at his birth (see Luke 1:15) It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus is conceived in Mary (see Luke 1:35). The Holy Spirit fills Elizabeth

(see Luke 1:41) The Spirit descends on Jesus at his Baptism (see Luke 3:32), and fills him after his time in the desert (see Luke 4:1) These passages teach us that:

wherever God sends His Son he also sends His Spirit. Jesus and the Holy Spirit share the same mission.

That Mission is to proclaim the “Good News”. That Good News is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is only through Jesus that the original plan of God is repaired and renewed where we can be in communion with God for eternity.

The God revealed to us by Jesus is a community of persons a “communion of love”. “God is Love” and love is His first gift, containing all others. St. Augustine spoke about the Trinity in terms of the relationships between three persons.

The Father is the lover who gives everything He is, who pours all of Himself out in love to the Son. The Son is beloved, who receives the love from the Father and in turn gives all Himself in love back to the Father. This constant, eternal, and infinite exchange of love between the Father and the Son is so intense and so real that it “is” a third distinct person, the Holy Spirit.

When we invite the Holy Spirit before each Mass, we are asking the love of God to activate our hearts in Love. God wants us to share His Love just as the Father and Son does in the Trinity. We are meant to share His blessed life.

Our existence is not some cosmic accident. It means our lives are meant to have meaning and purpose. When we begin to

live our lives according to Jesus’ example, we find the fulfillment that are heart is designed for and seeks.

When we feel challenged, when we are tempted, when we feel out sorts or overwhelmed, we can call on the Holy Spirit the Advocate to stand side by side with us to defend and protect our hearts for the days, weeks, months, and years ahead. We can be filled with Joy KNOWING this TRUTH. The truth set before us by the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

How is God asking us to share his love with others?

Let’s call on the Holy Spirit to guide us for that answer.

Come Holy Spirit, Come Holy Spirit, Come Holy Spirit. And may God bless us all.