

Getting Ready for Chapter 16

Take Home



The Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray

In this chapter the children will read some of Jesus' teachings about prayer that are in the Bible. They will learn that the Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray for the things we need. Each child will write a prayer of petition to the Holy Spirit, and will participate in a Holy Spirit prayer celebration.

ACTIVITY

A Prayer Box Decorate a small, empty box with symbols of the Holy Spirit, such as doves and flames of fire. Leave blank pieces of paper next to the box. Invite your family to write petitions on the papers and to place them in the prayer box. Together, read the petitions and pray for each other's requests.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

During Mass, listen to the readings and prayers for times when the Holy Spirit is mentioned. On your way home, discuss some of these times.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of The Week



Saint Clare
(1193–1253)

Clare, a friend and follower of Francis of Assisi, came from a wealthy Italian family. She joined Francis in living a life of poverty and simplicity. Francis helped Clare found a religious community of women known as the Poor Clares. The sisters live a very disciplined lifestyle in their efforts to help the poor.

Feast Day: August 11.



A Prayer for the Week

Come Holy Spirit, fill our family with your love. Help us place our trust in Jesus and show our love for others as Saint Clare did. Amen.

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Scripture Background

In the Time of Jesus

Petitions Prayers of petition are requests made to God. Jesus speaks of praying for one's needs and for the healing of the sick. He speaks of praying for ourselves and for others. Within the prayer of petition, however, is the understanding that while these prayers are offered to God in faith and expectation through Christ and the Holy Spirit, God's responses are based on his will and what is best for the kingdom.

Some of Jesus' teachings about prayer of petition can be found in Matthew 6:5–15; 7:7–11.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Liturgy

The Holy Spirit's Role in Liturgy Prayers to the Holy Spirit reveal the Spirit's role in the liturgical life of the Church. During the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass, we petition God to send the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier to change the bread and wine and to change us, so that we too, become holy and united in the Body of Christ.

The principal prayers of the sacraments reveal more about the Holy Spirit's role. In Baptism, we pray to the Holy Spirit for new life. In Confirmation, we ask the Spirit to be our Helper and Guide. In Reconciliation, we ask the Holy Spirit, as Comforter, to forgive our sins. Through the Holy Spirit, we are given the grace to lead a Christian life.