



SAINT CLEMENT PARISH

Pentecost Novena

May 2021

WELCOME & INTRO

Leader: What is a Novena?

The word “novena” comes from the Latin word for the number nine. In very simple terms, a novena is a set of prayers that take place over a period of nine days. Novenas often occur in the nine days before a special day in the Church, such as a saint’s feast day (e.g. like a “Novena to St. Joseph”), with the prayers each day being a kind of “preparation” for the feast. It is a common practice to ask God, through the intercession of the novena’s prayers, for a specific intention. In this Novena of Pentecost, we will be imploring the Holy Spirit to bring peace, love and justice to our broken world, city and hearts, especially for healing of all hearts from racial injustice.

Why are Novenas 9 Days?

The origin of the first “novena” goes back to the very beginning of the Church. The Novena to the Holy Spirit is the only novena specifically asked of us by Our Lord Jesus Himself. The Scriptures tell us that Jesus remained with the apostles for forty days after His Resurrection and then Ascended to His Father. In the Acts of the Apostles, we see that right before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His disciples to stay in Jerusalem, and wait in prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit. This period of waiting – between Christ’s Ascension and the Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost – is nine days. *The original novena.*

The coming of the Holy Spirit was the fulfillment of Christ’s promise (to remain with us always, cf. Mt 28:20) and the fruit of the disciples’ prayer. Every time we pray the novena to the Holy Spirit, we also pray for the gift of the Spirit’s healing, power and love. After the Apostles received the gifts of the Holy Spirit, their grief was turned into joy (John 16:20) and they were able to boldly proclaim the mighty works of God to people of every language (Acts 2:4). The Spirit enables us to recognize and live out the truth that God is our Father and we are all His children, made in His image.

As we pray this Novena to the Holy Spirit in these days before Pentecost, we boldly ask Him, who is the One who heals, unifies and restores us to a lasting peace through the death and resurrection of Christ, to bring healing to our nation, our city, and to our hearts. Amen.



First Day: The Gift of Fear of the Lord
Fear of the Lord is taught; Racism is taught.

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: “Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways.” Whenever Scripture speaks of the fear of the Lord, we notice that it never mentions it on its own, as if fear could by itself bring our faith to perfection. But of the true fear of the Lord we read: “Come, listen to me. I will teach you the fear of the Lord.” The fear of God, then, is something to be learned, because it is taught. Similarly so, racism is learned, it is taught. The origins of the fear of God are found by a way of teaching, and not in fright. We find it in obeying the commandments, in doing the good deeds of a blameless life, and in coming to know the truth, and not in moments of human terror. All our fear of God is inspired by and perfected by love. By the gift of the Holy Spirit, may we be overwhelmed by the greatness and goodness of God, and avoid all sign and attachment to created things, so that each of us may be a living sign of the gospel for all people to see.

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: Heavenly Father, from the beginning of time you have prepared the way of salvation for the human race wounded by sin and death. Through your inspired word, you have taught that “fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” May we be aware of the thoughts and beliefs we hold about race. Help us to unlearn these beliefs to bring about racial justice and healing. By the gift of the Holy Spirit may we walk always along the path you have revealed, following your counsels, conforming ourselves to your commands, and trusting your promises as heralds of a New Pentecost. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Mary, Temple of the Holy Spirit,

Response: Pray for us.

HISTORICAL FACT: Racist Beginnings: Colonialism & Slavery

We have only to look at the white European ideology of colonialism that caused genocide and forced removal from lands of American Indigenous People, to see how Racism began in the U.S. The Atlantic Slave Trade quickly followed with laws like the Naturalization Act of 1790 that granted citizenship to free white persons, thus excluding people of other races from legal and political rights.

DISCUSSION

*What racist thoughts or behaviors have we learned? How can we learn to be anti-racist?
Do I know the Fear of the Lord? If not, how might I learn?*

FAITH IN ACTION

- SERVICE: Set a monthly or quarterly goal to volunteer at an organization like Mission of our Lady of the Angels in West Humboldt Park.
- LEARN: Read more from the workbook from DismantlingRacism.org <https://www.dismantlingracism.org/history.html> or watch <https://www.pbs.org/articles/2020/06/racism-in-america/>
- PRAY: In the week ahead, reflect on a racist thought or belief you have held and spend time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your head & your heart to unlearn this belief.

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time together today to allow the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the racism in the world, in our neighborhood, and in our hearts. Teach us to receive the gift of fear of the Lord. Let us be open to receive your love and know your truth.

Please hear the prayers of those gathered with us today...{open time to share prayer/intentions}

Lord, help us to look again at what has been done to your people, to their lives and to their dignity. Help us to recognize the systems and structures that deny the dignity of the human person. Help us to acknowledge our own part, either by acting or not acting. Free us from our own ego, so that slowly, and then more strongly by the gift of the Holy Spirit, we will move toward justice into your light.

Response: Amen.



Second Day: The Gift of Piety

Piety is honor and reverence to God and our earthly parents; how racism affects mothers & fathers that are Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color.

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Piety is the honor and reverence given to someone who is in any way responsible for our existence and well-being. The gift of piety moves our hearts, first of all, to filial honor and reverence for God, because he is our creator and redeemer. The devotional life of the Church is an expression of our honor and reverence for God and for all that belongs to heaven. Piety also extends to our earthly parents and all others whom God has placed over us in some way, for our spiritual and material good. When are called to be aware of the healthcare disparities of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in the United States. These disparities affect their family life. May the Holy Spirit renew the gift of piety within our hearts and homes, our parishes and communities, so that by our example of honor and reverence, we may be a model to others of a life lived in and for God.

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: Gracious Lord, you have fashioned everything out of nothing, giving life and breath to all that exists. You order everything according to your loving providence, and establish the relationships by which our lives are nurtured and ordered. May we be aware of the racial injustices in healthcare that affect BIPOC relationships. Confirm in us the gift of piety, so that by our honor and reverence for you and for those you have given to us, we may bear witness to the working of the Holy Spirit, and become instruments of a new Pentecost in our time. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Mary, Model of Piety,

Response: Pray for us.

HISTORICAL FACT: Disparities in Childbearing

Black mothers die from childbearing/childbirth at a rate more than 3 times that of white women (37.1/100,000 vs 11.7/100,000). Another way to understand this is that while Black women make up approximately 13% of the female population, they account for almost 40% of maternal deaths. The physiological and psychological stress of systemic racism across their lifetimes potentially makes them more at risk for physiological challenges of pregnancy.

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/13/upshot/maternal-deaths-policy-neglect.html>
- https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2020/202001_MMR.htm

DISCUSSION

How have I benefited from having two parents (either in the same home or two different homes) that raised me? How have I shown them my love?

How might my life have been different if I had only 1 parent growing up?

If I identify as white, how have I benefited from having white parents?

FAITH IN ACTION

- SERVICE: Volunteer or donate to support low-income moms in the Austin/Oak Park area at: [New Moms](#)
- GIVE: Catholic Relief Services – [Mother's Day Gift](#)
- PRAY: Last weekend we celebrated Mother's Day. In your daily prayer, include an intention for Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color who are unable to receive affordable and equitable healthcare.

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Gracious Lord, we thank you for this time together today to allow the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the racism in the world, in our neighborhood, and in our hearts. Teach us to receive the gift of piety. Let us be mindful of how we were brought into this earth and how that experience may be different from our neighbors.

Please hear the prayers of those gathered with us today...{open time to share prayer/intentions}

Lord, help us to look again at what has been done to your people, to their lives and to their dignity. Help us to recognize the systems and structures that deny the dignity of the human person. Help us to acknowledge our own part, either by acting or not acting. Free us from our own ego, so that slowly, and then more strongly by the gift of the Holy Spirit, we will move toward justice into your light.

Response: Amen.



Third Day: The Gift of Fortitude

Fortitude is perseverance; continual fight for the right to vote in the U.S.

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Fortitude is steadfastness in doing what is right and good, in the face of obstacles and trials. The gift of fortitude overcomes unreasonable fears, on the one hand, and keeps us from being reckless, on the other. It is the special virtue of those who are pioneers in any endeavor. Fortitude makes it possible for us to undertake difficult tasks, to face risks and dangers, and to endure whatever comes without undue anxiety, discouragement, or complaint. Throughout the history of the U.S. there have been pioneers fighting for the right to vote for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. This fight still continues in 2021. Without fortitude we cannot hope to persevere in our Christian calling. Nor can we fulfill the mission that is ours by Baptism and Confirmation, to bear witness to the gospel for the salvation of the world. May the Holy Spirit renew our fortitude amid all the challenges of today's society and culture.

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: Almighty Father, be gracious and bless us with the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that we may persevere with fortitude in doing what we know to be

right and good. This includes ensuring the human and civil rights of all people in the U.S. Strengthen us in our weakness, so that when we are weary, discouraged or put to the test, we may overcome every obstacle, and be refreshed on the path to holiness and virtue. May no trial or difficulty keep us from bearing witness to the splendor of truth which radiates from the face of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, now and forever.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Mary, Tower of Fortitude,

Response: Pray for us.

HISTORICAL FACT: Contemporary Black Voter Suppression

Suppression of the Black vote is not just a historical fact, but remains a problem to the current day. Scientific American reported in 2019 on research on smartphone data from the 2016 election that voters in predominantly African American neighborhoods waited 29% longer to exercise their right to vote than voters in predominantly white neighborhoods, with a nearly three-quarters greater chance than voters in other neighborhoods of waiting more than a half an hour to exercise their right to vote. With many minority voters working in jobs that have less flexible work hours, “lengthy wait times can reduce their ability to vote. Long lines are estimated to have deterred between 500,000 to 700,000 people from casting their ballot in 2012.” Additionally, over the past several years many states have passed voter ID laws which have disproportionately affected members of the Black community. These laws were used historically - and continue to have the effect of - making it harder for Black Americans to exercise their right to vote.

- <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/smartphone-data-show-voters-in-Black-neighborhoods-wait-longer1/>
- <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/new-voter-suppression>

DISCUSSION

How might we persevere in our Christian calling and ensure voter’s rights for BIPOC?

How has your fortitude for racial justice and healing wavered in the past year?

FAITH IN ACTION

- SERVICE: Volunteer as a [Poll Worker](#) in our community.

- LEARN: Take notice of the multitude of voting rights bills that are now at the state and federal level - <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/state-voting-bills-tracker-2021> Learn the rules for registering to vote in Illinois: <https://vote.gov/register/il/>
- PRAY: In the week ahead, ask the Holy Spirit to open your head & your heart for the fortitude to continue to fight for racial justice and healing in our community and nation.

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Almighty Father, we thank you for this time together today to allow the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the racism in the world, in our neighborhood, and in our hearts. Teach us to receive the gift of fortitude. Let us endure in justice and equality without undue anxiety, discouragement, or complaint.

Please hear the prayers of those gathered with us today...{open time to share prayer/intentions}

Lord, help us to look again at what has been done to your people, to their lives and to their dignity. Help us to recognize the systems and structures that deny the dignity of the human person. Help us to acknowledge our own part, either by acting or not acting. Free us from our own ego, so that slowly, and then more strongly by the gift of the Holy Spirit, we will move toward justice into your light.

Response: Amen.



Fourth Day: The Gift of Knowledge

Knowledge is responding with love to God's divine plan; the role the Catholic Church played in slavery

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: For the Bible, true knowledge can only be acquired by recognizing the loving call of God and by responding with love to his divine plan. St. John's gospel tells us: "This is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ." Knowledge is centered entirely on the supreme mystery of Christ and his cross, which unlock the meaning of every human life and all of history. As a gift of the Holy Spirit, knowledge gives us certainty that all things are ordered to God in Christ. This knowledge is revealed on every page of Scripture, deepened by the Church's living tradition, and celebrated in the liturgy. May we be aware of how our Catholic history and our actions today may perpetuate racism and racial injustice. By a new Pentecost in our time, may the Holy Spirit confirm our faith in sure knowledge of the truths of faith.

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: Father, we ask you to send the Holy Spirit upon our minds and hearts so that the gift of knowledge which we received in Baptism and Confirmation may be purified and deepened in us. We pray for the forgiveness of our sins and healing of the hurt our beloved Church has brought to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. By the power of the Holy Spirit may the darkness of our sins give way to the bright radiance of knowing you, the only true God, and the one whom you have sent, Jesus Christ, so that we may be instruments of renewal for our parish, and of salvation for our world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Mary, filled with Knowledge,

Response: Pray for us.

HISTORICAL FACT: Historical Views of the Catholic Church on Slavery

354-430 : St. Augustine taught that the institution of slavery derives from God and is beneficial to slaves and masters. It should be noted that St. Augustine was himself Black (from Hippo, in Northern Africa).

548: Pope Paul III confirms the right of clergy and laity to own slaves.

650: Pope Martin I condemned people who taught slaves about freedom or encouraged them to escape.

1225-1274: St. Thomas Aquinas defends slavery as instituted by God in punishment for sin, and justified as being part of the 'right of the nations' and natural law. Children of a slave mother are rightly slaves even though they have not committed personal sin.

1226: The legitimacy of slavery is incorporated in the *Corpus Iuris Canonici*, promulgated by Pope Gregory IX which remained the official law of the Church until 1913. Canon lawyers worked out four "just titles" for holding slaves: slaves captured in war; persons condemned to slavery for a crime; persons selling themselves into slavery, including a father selling his child; and children of a mother who is a slave.

1866: Pope Pius IX declares, "Slavery itself, considered as such in its essential nature, is not at all contrary to the natural and divine law, and there can be several just titles of slavery, and these are referred to by approved theologians and commentators of the sacred canons... it is not contrary to the natural and divine law for a slave to be sold, bought, exchanged, or given."

The five major countries that dominated slavery and the slave trade in the New World were either Catholic, or still retained strong Catholic influences including: Spain, Portugal, France, England, and the Netherlands.

- <https://www.globalBlackhistory.com/2015/11/the-role-of-the-roman-catholic-church-in-slavery.html>

DISCUSSION

Knowing the role the Catholic Church played in slavery, how might we ask for forgiveness and be an advocate today for every human life?

FAITH IN ACTION

- SERVICE: Set a monthly or quarterly goal to volunteer with the [Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation](#).
- GIVE: Give of your time or treasure to an organization like [UCAN](#).
- PRAY: [Racial Examination of Conscience](#)

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Father, we thank you for this time together today to allow the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the racism in the world, in our neighborhood, and in our hearts. Teach us to receive the gift of knowledge. Let us be open to ask for forgiveness and love one another.

Please hear the prayers of those gathered with us today...{open time to share prayer/intentions}

Lord, help us to look again at what has been done to your people, to their lives and to their dignity. Help us to recognize the systems and structures that deny the dignity of the human person. Help us to acknowledge our own part, either by acting or not acting. Free us from our own ego, so that slowly, and then more strongly, we will move toward justice into your light.

Response: Amen.



Fifth Day: The Gift of Understanding

Understanding is salvation; Forgiveness for injustices is a hard road

Prayer

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Understanding, as a gift of the Holy Spirit, perfects our faith by enabling us to penetrate the inner meaning of revealed truths in a way that transcends human reason. Our natural way of knowing is elevated by intuition and insight into the things of God. By faith we know them, but by the gift of understanding we learn to appreciate and relish them. This appreciation radiates outward to others because our Catholic faith is no longer just a matter of information from a book, but a way of living rooted in intimacy with the mysteries of Christ. We intuitively live out his command to love one another, even in the face of racial injustice. Our gift of Understanding does not condone or accept the injustice, but allows us to know God's grace in forgiveness. May the Holy Spirit attune our hearts to a deeper spiritual understanding of these mysteries, so that as agents of a new Pentecost in our time, we may draw others to Christ and

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: Father, send the Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds and hearts, giving us knowledge and understanding of the mysteries of salvation. May he teach and instruct us, so that we may never waver in our faith, but by the gift of

understanding may be ready to give an answer to all who ask the reason for the hope that is within us. The hope that can transform lives and provide healing power. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Mary, Seat of Understanding,

Response: Pray for us.

HISTORICAL FACT: Current Statistics of Police Violence

According to the Mapping Police Violence database, police killed 1,114 people in the U.S. in 2020. Black people represent 28% of those killed by police in 2020 despite constituting only 13% of the population. Black people are "3 times more likely to be killed by police than white people" and "1.3 times more likely to be unarmed" than white people. In Chicago, police were involved in 435 shootings between 2010 and 2016, wounding 170 people and killing 92. "Almost 80 percent of the 262 people shot by Chicago police were African-American. Latinos accounted for 35 of the shooting victims, nearly 14 percent of the total. Only 14 of those shot were white, less than 6 percent of the total."

- <https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/>
- https://www.law.uchicago.edu/files/2018-11/chicago_contagiousness_of_violence.pdf

DISCUSSION

How do you reconcile your understanding of salvation with the violence in America, particularly to BIPOC? How might one understand that forgiveness heals, even when justice is not served?

FAITH IN ACTION

- SERVICE: Provide resources or be a jail minister with the [Kolbe House Jail Ministry](#).
- GIVE: Support consistent and increased funding for Cure Violence, Illinois' initiative to interrupt violence: <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/state-laws/investing-in-local-intervention-strategies-in-illinois/>
- PRAY: Next Tuesday is the one year anniversary of the murder of George Floyd. Take a moment in your daily prayer to pray for his soul, the loved ones he left behind who are still grieving, and those responsible for his death.

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Father, we thank you for this time together today to allow the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the racism in the world, in our neighborhood, and in our hearts. Teach us to receive the gift of understanding. Let us embrace forgiveness for our sins and show others the healing it brings.

Please hear the prayers of those gathered with us today...{open time to share prayer/intentions}

Lord, help us to look again at what has been done to your people, to their lives and to their dignity. Help us to recognize the systems and structures that deny the dignity of the human person. Help us to acknowledge our own part, either by acting or not acting. Free us from our own ego, so that slowly, and then more strongly, we will move toward justice into your light.

Response: Amen.



Sixth Day: The Gift of Counsel

Counsel helps us choose the wisest course of action; how Jim Crow became a legal system and social norm.

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: The gift of Counsel applies the principles furnished by knowledge and understanding to the many concrete situations of everyday life. Counsel elevates the virtue of prudence, so that we will choose the wisest course of action in a given situation, especially when we are perplexed as to the right choice to be made. Counsel endows us with a desire to act always in a way that promotes our sanctification and salvation, in accordance with God's holy will. Let us understand how Jim Crow became a legal system and social norm. Let us use counsel to understand how that system still continues today. We pray that the Holy Spirit will richly endow us with the ability to judge rightly the situations that challenge our faith, so that we may not waver along the path of holiness.

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: Father, send the Spirit of Counsel upon us, for the accomplishment of your holy will in the Church and in the world. Incline our hearts to your will, our minds to right judgment, and our actions to what is good, so that living by the Holy Spirit, we may truly be "the salt of the earth and the

light of the world." Let us shine a light to the injustices and racism in this country, in our community, and in our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Mary, Mother of Good Counsel,

Response: Pray for us.

HISTORICAL FACT: Jim Crow as Both Legal System and Social Norm

Although Jim Crow was a legal system, it was upheld by social norms and customs based in white supremacy. Such social norms were widespread throughout the country including in Chicago, one of the most significant destinations for African Americans during the Great Migration of the 20th century. Although the city did not have formal Jim Crow laws, restrictive covenants in response to the Great Migration and in place until the 1940s allowed property owners in the city to have agreements prohibiting the sale of property to specific groups, often African Americans. These covenants limited access to housing and freedom of movement for Black residents of Chicago. Even after such covenants were declared illegal by the Supreme Court in 1948, white landowners continued to pursue discriminatory housing measures. For example, shortly after 1948 Supreme Court decision, the Woodlawn Property Owners group wrote: "If the colored people are convinced that life in Woodlawn would be unbearable, they would not want to come in. There must be ways and means to keep whites from selling, causing colored not to want to come in because life here would be unbearable. We are going to save Woodlawn for ourselves and our children!"

- <https://dcc.newberry.org/?p=14436>
- <https://www.studythepast.com/weekly/illcrow.html>

DISCUSSION

Is there a new Jim Crow in America now? How have my votes and my money upheld Jim Crow laws?

FAITH IN ACTION

- SERVICE: Volunteer or donate to bring equality to neighborhoods through One Northside - onenorthside.org/
- LEARN: Read "The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander and "The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America" by Richard Rothstein.

- PRAY: Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and reflect on how your actions or inactions have helped to contribute to systemic racism.

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Father, we thank you for this time together today to allow the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the racism in the world, in our neighborhood, and in our hearts. Teach us to receive the gift of counsel. Guide us to choose the wisest course of action in our lives, keeping in mind the experiences of our neighbors.

Please hear the prayers of those gathered with us today...{open time to share prayer/intentions}

Lord, help us to look again at what has been done to your people, to their lives and to their dignity. Help us to recognize the systems and structures that deny the dignity of the human person. Help us to acknowledge our own part, either by acting or not acting. Free us from our own ego, so that slowly, and then more strongly, we will move toward justice into your light.

Response: Amen.



Seventh Day: The Gift of Wisdom

Wisdom is communion with God; how can our Catholic church be more equitable and inclusive

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: The gift of Wisdom is nothing less than loving, contemplative union with God which makes it possible for us to see all things from a divine perspective. When it is understood in its full breadth, wisdom can rightly be called “communion,” since it is a share in divine life, a union made perfect in the truth of love. Embodying all the other gifts, as charity embraces all the other virtues, Wisdom is the most perfect of the gifts. It strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity, and promotes the practice of virtue in the highest degree. As we strive for communion with God, let us be mindful of creating equity and inclusion in our church. May the Holy Spirit raise up our hearts and minds to rest in God alone, so that we may be living signs of a new Pentecost in our time.

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: Father, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations. May he permeate our thoughts, words and actions, so that we may bear witness to the gift of salvation, and lead all people to

Christ the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Mary, Seat of Wisdom,

Response: Pray for us.

HISTORICAL FACT: Catholic Statistics

The total population of the Archdiocese's geographic area (Cook and Lake Counties) in 2019 was 5,900,000 represented demographically as follows: White 43%; Black 21%; Hispanic 26%; Asian 8% and Multi-racial 2%. Catholics make up 37% of the total population (2,179,000). Diocesan priests serving this population have the following profile: White 79.8%; Black 3.9%; Hispanic 11.8% and Asian/Other 4.4%. Elementary and secondary Catholic school enrollment has seen a dramatic decrease from 189,701 students in 1980 to 69,075 students in 2019, with the number of elementary schools decreasing from 380 to 173 and the number of secondary schools decreasing from 64 to 32.

- Archdiocese of Chicago: Data Composite for the year ending 2019.

DISCUSSION

How do we welcome Black, Indigenous, and People of Color to the Catholic faith?

FAITH IN ACTION

- SERVICE: Volunteer at inner city Catholic schools and their students with the Big Shoulders Fund bigshouldersfund.org.
- LEARN: Read more about the Archdiocese of Chicago's Immigration Ministry -pvm.archchicago.org/human-dignity-solidarity/get-involved/resources-for-migrants-and-refugees
- PRAY: Over the next week, reflect on how you play a role in making our church a welcome, equitable, and inclusive community.

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Father, we thank you for this time together today to allow the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the racism in the world, in our neighborhood, and in our hearts. Teach us to receive the gift of wisdom. Let us be open to be in communion with you.

Please hear the prayers of those gathered with us today...{open time to share prayer/intentions}

Lord, help us to look again at what has been done to your people, to their lives and to their dignity. Help us to recognize the systems and structures that deny the dignity of the human person. Help us to acknowledge our own part, either by acting or not acting. Free us from our own ego, so that slowly, and then more strongly, we will move toward justice into your light.

Response: Amen.



Eighth Day: The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit fill us with joy in living our faith; how racism affects the day to day moments of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: The fruits of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as a pledge of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity. These virtues mark the lives of those who live by the Spirit. May we understand how racism tarnishes these fruits and hurts our neighbors in Christ. The fruits of the Holy Spirit produce spiritual delight, and fill us with joy in living our faith, so that many others may be drawn to Christ and his Church, as the fruit of a new Pentecost in our time. Lead us to living out these fruits of the Holy Spirit in our words and actions for racial justice and healing.

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: Holy Spirit, eternal Love of the Father and the Son, kindly bestow on us the fruit of charity, that we may be united to you by divine love; the fruit of joy, that we may be filled with holy consolation; the fruit of peace, that we may enjoy tranquility of soul; and the fruit of goodness, that we may

endure humbly everything that may be opposed to our own desires. Divine Spirit, be pleased to infuse in us the fruit of generosity, that we may willingly relieve our neighbor's necessities; the fruit of kindness, that we may be benevolent toward all; the fruit of patience, that we may not be discouraged by delay but may persevere in prayer; and the fruit of gentleness, that we may subdue every rising of ill temper, stifle every murmur, and overcome the sinful tendencies of our nature in all our dealings with our neighbor. Creator Spirit, graciously impart to us the fruit of faithfulness, that we may rely with assured confidence on the Word of God; the fruit of modesty, that we may order our demeanor properly; and the fruits of self-control and chastity, that we may keep our bodies in such holiness as befits your temple, so that having by your assistance preserved our hearts pure on earth, we may merit in Jesus Christ, according to the words of the Gospel, to see God eternally in the glory of his kingdom.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Mary, Model of Life in the Spirit,

Response: Pray for us.

HISTORICAL FACT: The Civil Rights Movement & Police Brutality

In addition to its nonviolent resistance to laws enforcing racial segregation in southern states, the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s challenged police brutality and racially discriminatory laws and segregation in the north. During his address at the March on Washington in 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality."

Aggressive law enforcement responses to peaceful protests by Black Americans against racially discriminatory laws and segregation included the use of fire hoses and dogs, and disturbing images of such uses of force helped to bring about the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or sex.

- <https://policing.umhistorylabs.lsa.umich.edu/s/detroitunderfire/page/1958-63>
- <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/06/07/Black-lives-matters-police-departments-have-long-history-racism/3128167001/>
- <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/long-painful-history-police-brutality-in-the-us-180964098/>

DISCUSSION

How do I love my neighbor? How do my words, silence, actions or inaction hurt my neighbor?

FAITH IN ACTION

- SERVICE: Commit to volunteer weekly or monthly with Community Renewal Society communityrenewalsociety.org/take-action
- LEARN: Police Accountability reform is being debated in Chicago City's Council. Learn about a grassroots reform effort and let your Alderperson know where you stand: [Empowering Communities for Public Safety \(ECPS\)](#).
- PRAY: In your daily prayer, reflect on the humanity of all of God's children and the fear many BIPOC feel living their day to day lives.

PRAYER:

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time together today to allow the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the racism in the world, in our neighborhood, and in our hearts. Teach us to receive the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Let us live in radical charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity. Let us not be silent or silenced when we see injustice in this world and in our community.

Please hear the prayers of those gathered with us today...{open time to share prayer/intentions}

Lord, help us to look again at what has been done to your people, to their lives and to their dignity. Help us to recognize the systems and structures that deny the dignity of the human person. Help us to acknowledge our own part, either by acting or not acting. Free us from our own ego, so that slowly, and then more strongly, we will move toward justice into your light.

Response: Amen.



Ninth Day: Lord and Giver of Life, Paraclete; how we can listen and be an advocate for Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: In the Trinitarian plan of our salvation, the Father draws us to the Son, whom the Holy Spirit reveals and disposes us to a welcome. As “the Lord and Giver of Life,” the Holy Spirit brings about our rebirth in Baptism as the Father’s adopted children in Christ and as sharers in divine life. Jesus calls the indwelling Holy Spirit our “Paraclete,” which literally means “one who stands beside us” as a counselor, consoler, advocate and friend. Finally, the Holy Spirit leads the Church into “all the truth,” and is the source and dynamic force of the Church’s unity and mission. It is no wonder, then, that in every age the fruitfulness of the Church depends on the renewal of the mystery of Pentecost in the minds and hearts of believers. This is the renewal that we seek in our novena. Similarly how the Holy Spirit is our advocate and friend, we pray that we can be an advocate and friend to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. May the Holy Spirit rekindle the grace of Baptism and Confirmation in every Catholic in our community so that all may live the Christian life with fervor and zeal, with love and friendship.

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: Spirit of the Father, Spirit of Love, enlighten us, strengthen us, guide us, comfort us. Spirit of the Father and of the Son: You who pray and act in us, make us know the Father by contemplating his Son so that we may proclaim that they are love. Make our life a sign of love. Make us a living word, a sanctifying presence, a consecration of the world to the Father of every gift, to the Father of all love.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Mary, Star of Evangelization,

Response: Pray for us.

HISTORICAL FACT: Protest, Riots, Allyship

The past year has seen a renewed effort in exercising our First Amendment rights to peacefully protest the racial violence and injustice in our country. A few notable moments over the past year include protests around the death of Breonna Taylor, the death of George Floyd, Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone in Seattle, the shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, American Athlete strikes, over 100 consecutive days of protest in Portland, the trial of Derek Chauvin, the Atlanta mass shooting at three spas, and the death of Daunte Wright. As with other historical protests, some of these escalated to looting and police violence.

- <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/22/913094440/black-protest-leaders-to-white-allies-it-s-our-turn-to-lead-our-own-fight>
- <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/killings-by-police-declined-after-black-lives-matter-protests1/>
- <https://acleddata.com/2020/09/03/demonstrations-political-violence-in-america-new-data-for-summer-2020/>
- <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/2021/04/18/blm-protests-spur-anti-riot-bills-expand-list-crimes/7065312002/>

DISCUSSION

How do I make my life a sign of love? How do I listen to the Holy Spirit to be my counselor, consoler, advocate, and friend? How do I or can I act as an advocate for BIPOC?

FAITH IN ACTION

- SERVICE: Commit to volunteer weekly or monthly with My Block My Hood My City - formyblock.org/

- LEARN: Can we Catholics find common ground with Black Lives Matter? One Catholic journalist says YES!
- <https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/why-catholic-journalist-urging-church-engage-black-lives-matter>
- PRAY: In your daily prayer, reflect on how you advocate for God's children and pray for the Holy Spirit to embolden you to greater action.

PRAYER

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

Response: Enkindle in them the fire of your love.

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

Response: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time together over the past nine days to allow the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the racism in the world, in our neighborhood, and in our hearts. Teach us to receive our Paraclete and mirror the love and friendship God has for all of us, when we are with our neighbors.

Please hear the prayers of those gathered with us today...{open time to share prayer/intentions}

Lord, help us to look again at what has been done to your people, to their lives and to their dignity. Help us to recognize the systems and structures that deny the dignity of the human person. Help us to acknowledge our own part, either by acting or not acting. Free us from our own ego, so that slowly, and then more strongly, we will move toward justice into your light. Make our life a sign of love.

Response: Amen.

SOURCES:

Diocese of Toledo Novena

Saint Clement Justice Ministry 30 Days of Prayer Booklet, 2021

Saint Clement Parish Staff, 2021