

Holy Spirit (Greek *pneuma* = "spirit, self, wind, breath")

Compare Genesis 2:7 to John 20:21-23 (cf. John 3:8)

Article 3 of the Apostles Creed

- He (Jesus) was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the Virgin Mary.
- Nicene Creed – ...by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. (Incarnation – Hypostatic Union)

Article 8 of the Apostles Creed

- I believe in the Holy Spirit...
- Nicene Creed – We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son (*filioque*). With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.
 - *Filioque* is a theological formula of great dogmatic and historical importance. On the one hand, it expresses the Procession of the Holy Spirit from both Father and Son as one Principle; on the other, it was the occasion of the Greek schism.See <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/06073a.htm>

Name, Titles, and Symbols

- **Name of the Holy Spirit**
 - "Holy Spirit" is the proper name.
 - "Spirit" – Hebrew *ruah*, means breath, air, wind.
- **Titles of the Holy Spirit**
 - "Paraclete" = "he who is called to one's side"
ad-vocatus = advocate
Commonly translated by "consoler" (Jesus is the first consoler)
 - "The Spirit of truth" (Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life - Jn 14:6)
 - The Spirit of the promise (Gal 3:14; Eph 1:13)
 - The Spirit of adoption (Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6)
 - The Spirit of Christ (Rom 8:9)
 - The Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor 3:17)
 - The Spirit of God (Rom 8:9, 14; 15:19; 1 Cor 6:11; 7:40)
 - The Spirit of glory (1 Pet 4:14)

Symbols of the Holy Spirit

- **Water** – Holy Spirit action in Baptism
As “by one Spirit we were all baptized,” so we are also “made to drink of one Spirit.” (1 Cor 12:13)
- **Anointing** – Anointing with oil is the sacramental sign of Confirmation. Christ (in Hebrew “*messiah*”) means the “anointed” by God’s Spirit. The humanity the Son assumed was entirely anointed by the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit established him as “Christ.”
 - The Virgin Mary conceived Christ by the Holy Spirit.
 - The Spirit filled Christ and the power of the Spirit went out from him in his acts of healing and of saving.
 - It was the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead.
 - Jesus pours out the Holy Spirit to mankind in abundance.
- **Fire** – Symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit’s actions.
 - The prayer of the prophet Elijah, who “arose like fire” and whose “word burned like a torch,” brought down fire from heaven on the sacrifice on Mount Carmel. (Sir 48:1; 1 Kings 18:38-39)
 - John the Baptist, who goes “before [the Lord] in the spirit and power of Elijah,” proclaims Christ as the one who “will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” (Lk 1:17; 3:16)
 - Jesus will say of the Spirit: “I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!” (Lk 12:49)
 - The Holy Spirit, in the form of tongues “as of fire,” rests on the disciples on the morning of Pentecost and fills them with himself. (Acts 2:3-4)
- **Cloud and light** – These two images occur together in the manifestations of the Holy Spirit.
 - With Moses on Mount Sinai. (Ex 24:15-18)
 - At the tent of meeting. (Ex 33:9-10)
 - During the wandering in the desert. (Ex 40:36-38; 1 Cor 10:1-2)
 - With Solomon at the dedication of the Temple. (1 Kings 8:10-12)
 - The Holy Spirit “overshadows” the Virgin Mary so that she might conceive and give birth to Jesus. (Lk 1:35)
 - At the Transfiguration the Spirit in the “cloud came and overshadowed” Jesus, Moses and Elijah, Peter, James, and John, and “a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!’ ” (Lk 9:34-35)

- The cloud took Jesus out of the sight of the disciples on the day of his ascension and will reveal him as Son of man in glory on the day of his final coming. (Acts 1:9; Lk 21:27)
- **The seal** – Symbol close to that of anointing. “The Father has set his seal” on Christ and also seals us in him. (Jn 6:27; 2 Cor 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30)
 - This seal indicates the indelible effect of the anointing with the Holy Spirit in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.
- **The hand** – Jesus heals the sick and blesses little children by laying hands on them. (Mk 6:5; 8:23; 10:16)
 - The apostles lay hands on the people in the name of Christ. (Mk 16:18; Acts 5:12; 14:3)
 - It is by the Apostles’ imposition of hands that the Holy Spirit is given. (Acts 8:17-19; 13:3; 19:6)
 - The Letter to the Hebrews lists the imposition of hands among the “fundamental elements” of its teaching. (Heb 6:2)
 - Epicleses (Epiklesis) – “Let your Spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy, so that they may become for us the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.” (Eucharistic Prayer II)
- **The finger** – “It is by the finger of God that [Jesus] cast out demons.” (Lk 11:20)
 - If God’s law was written on tablets of stone “by the finger of God,” then the “letter from Christ” entrusted to the care of the apostles, is written “with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.” (Ex 31:18; 2 Cor 3:3)
- **The dove** – Symbol associated with baptism.
 - Noah released a dove at the end of the flood (OT type of baptism). The dove returned with a fresh olive-tree branch as a sign that the earth was again habitable. (Gen 8:8-12)
 - The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove comes down on Christ when he comes up out of the water of his baptism. (Mt 3:16)
 - The Spirit comes down and remains in the purified hearts of the baptized.

In Brief from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)

(CCC 742) "Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" (Gal 4:6).

(CCC 743) From the beginning to the end of time, whenever God sends his Son, he always sends his Spirit: their mission is conjoined and inseparable.

(CCC 744) In the fullness of time the Holy Spirit completes in Mary all the preparations for Christ's coming among the People of God. By the action of the Holy Spirit in her, the Father gives the world Emmanuel "God-with-us" (Mt 1:23).

(CCC 745) The Son of God was consecrated as Christ (Messiah) by the anointing of the Holy Spirit at his Incarnation (cf. Ps 2:6-7).

(CCC 746) By his Death and his Resurrection, Jesus is constituted in glory as Lord and Christ (cf. Acts 2:36). From his fullness, he poured out the Holy Spirit on the apostles and the Church.

(CCC 747) The Holy Spirit, whom Christ the head pours out on his members, builds, animates, and sanctifies the Church. She is the sacrament of the Holy Trinity's communion with men.