



## Opening Prayer

### Litany of the Holy Spirit

“Promise of God the Father, *have mercy on us.*

Ray of heavenly light, *have mercy on us.*

Author of all good, *have mercy on us.*

Source of heavenly water, *have mercy on us.*

Consuming Fire, *have mercy on us.*

Ardent Charity, *have mercy on us.*

Spirit of love and truth, *have mercy on us.*

Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
*have mercy on us.*

Spirit of counsel and fortitude, *have mercy on us.*

Spirit of knowledge and piety, *have mercy on us.*

Spirit of the fear of the Lord, *have mercy on us.*

Spirit of grace and prayer, *have mercy on us.*

Spirit of peace and meekness, *have mercy on us.*

Spirit of modesty and innocence, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Spirit, the Comforter, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Spirit, who governs the Church,  
*have mercy on us.*

Gift of God the Most High, *have mercy on us.*

Spirit who fills the universe, *have mercy on us.*

Spirit of the adoption of the children of God,  
*have mercy on us. Amen.”*



# Hero of the Week


**Born:**

circa 1412

**Died:**

May 30, 1431

**Memorial:**

May 30

**Patron Saint of:**

- France
- soldiers
- martyrs
- women in the military

## St. Joan of Arc

The military standard caught the breeze and snapped open, displaying its colors and inspiring the countless soldiers.

The standard bearer, a teenaged girl dressed as a knight, led the charge against the English.

Joan of Arc was a peasant—illiterate, uneducated, and unworldly—who had managed to defeat the English with a victory at Orleans. The unlikely circumstances that placed her in the midst of professional soldiers can only be attributed to the Holy Spirit.

Joan came from a humble background, the daughter of a poor farmer. Her parents were devout, so she was raised in an environment of pious understanding. Even so, when, as a young teenager, she started having visions of saints, she was hesitant to share these experiences too openly because she feared her father's response.

The visions continued for years. By the time she was sixteen years old, the saints began *appearing* to Joan, urging her to drive out the English from France and to help Charles ascend to the throne of France.

Although Joan believed these messages were from God, she did not know how she might convince those with political power to listen to her, and it was outright dangerous to make such claims before Church officials—heresy was considered a capital crime.

Investigations resulted, especially as she triumphed on the battlegrounds.

Brandishing a twelve-foot banner emblazoned with “Party of the Kingdom of Heaven,” the virgin warrior turned the course of the Hundred Years War by fearlessly leading the French troops, not according to the counsel of seasoned generals, but by following the voice of God.

Joan took an arrow in the neck and another in the leg (something that would have taken down a grown man), and yet this young woman survived, increasing in esteem among the soldiers and fueling the claims of supernatural intervention.

After a series of victories, she was betrayed and handed over to the British—an event she had prophesied about in detail. For more than a year, she was held on trumped-up charges of heresy, despite the lack of any credible evidence against her. Nevertheless, Joan was burned at the stake, a horrific death.

Admired for her tenacity and unwavering trust in God, Joan was exonerated twenty-five years after her death. She was canonized in 1920. In the words of Pope Pius X, “Joan has shone like a new star destined to be the glory not only of France but of the universal Church as well.”

*St. Joan of Arc, pray for us. Your trust in the Holy Spirit inspires us to do the same.*