Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."

Catholic Climate Covenant
Together for our Common Home

Homily Helps and Petitions for the Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle B, December 13, 2026

Homily Helps

† **Scripture Passages to Note:**

Isaiah 61: The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor

1 Thessalonians 5: Do not quench the Spirit.

John 1: John answered them, "I baptize with water"

† **Comments for the Day:**

Not simply a dove, not the wind, not a feeling, not groupthink, and not a reflection of our own mind: the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity- God. Therefore, when we hear the directive "Do not quench the Spirit" in 1 Thessalonians, what does it mean?

Our reading from Isaiah provides some indication. Isaiah points to the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing glad tidings to the poor, healing the brokenhearted, proclaiming liberty to the captives, releasing the prisoners, and announcing a year of favor from the Lord. The Holy Spirit sends each of us, in our own circumstances to do the same. As we prepare for God's mission-made-flesh in Jesus, the Church enjoins us: Do not quench the Spirit.

The Magnificat also reveals God's work in our midst. Mary says that God pours out mercy on every generation, fills the hungry with good things, lifts up the lowly, and sends the rich away empty. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, inspires Christians in every epoch and place to do the same. Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church enjoins us this Advent: Do not quench the Spirit.

In the Gospel today lays bare the different between John the Baptist and Jesus. John baptizes with water and Jesus with water and Holy Spirit (and fire). In Jesus, we experience new life and become sharers in God's mission. As we joyfully anticipate Jesus being born into our lives anew this Christmas, we also welcome the Holy Spirit intentionally. We greet the new life, the changes, that must be born in us, and we receive into our hearts a new fire. As we journey through the Advent, the Radiant Dawn bids us: Do not quench the Spirit.

Pope Francis wrote in his closing prayer in *Laudato Si'*:

"Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you!"

On this 3rd Sunday of Advent, may each of us welcome the Holy Spirit to breathe new life into us. How will we know that we have welcomed the Spirit rather than quenched it? Our lives will respond to the cries of the poor and the Earth.

† **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:**

The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge. (80)

From the closing prayer of *Laudato Si:*

"God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty."

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That, as the celebration of Jesus' birth fast approaches, may we strive to make peace a reality in our lives by forgiving and being agents of reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord …

Option 2: That we might continue to grow in our commitment to discover God in ourselves, in one another, and in creation, let us pray to the Lord …

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

Webpage: https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/learn/resources/?_sft_resource_category=homily-helps

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