



OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

CHURCH OF THE HOLY GHOST

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL DRYNESS IN CATHOLICISM



Spiritual dryness, also known as aridity, is a phase in a believer's spiritual journey where one feels distant from God, unable to pray with fervor, or finds little joy in spiritual practices. This phenomenon is not uncommon among Catholics and has been experienced by many saints throughout history. Spiritual dryness serves as a crucial aspect of spiritual growth, offering an opportunity to deepen one's faith, trust, and love for God, even in the absence of consolations.

Biblical Foundations

The Bible offers several examples of spiritual dryness, which provide comfort and guidance for those experiencing it. One of the most profound examples is found in the Psalms. King David, a man after God's own heart, often cried out to God in moments of spiritual desolation:

- Psalm 22:1-2: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest."

This cry of abandonment reflects the deep spiritual dryness that David experienced. Yet, despite his feelings of being forsaken, David's psalm ends with a declaration of trust in God, demonstrating that spiritual dryness is not a sign of God's absence but rather an invitation to trust Him more profoundly.

Another biblical figure who experienced spiritual dryness is Job. Known for his unwavering faith amidst immense suffering, Job's experience reveals that spiritual dryness can be a test of faith:

- Job 30:20: "I cry out to you, God, but you do not answer; I stand up, but you merely look at me."

Job's lament is a powerful expression of the silence of God in the midst of suffering. However, Job's perseverance and ultimate restoration remind us that spiritual dryness is not the end but a passage toward deeper communion with God.

Even Jesus Christ, in His humanity, experienced spiritual dryness in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the Cross:

- Matthew 26:38-39: "Then he said to them, 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.' Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'"

- Matthew 27:46: "About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' (which means 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?')."

These verses show that even Christ felt the weight of spiritual desolation, yet He surrendered to the Father's will, setting an example for us to follow during our periods of dryness.

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Teachings from the Catechism

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) addresses the concept of spiritual dryness within the broader context of the life of prayer and the spiritual journey. It acknowledges that such experiences are common and necessary for spiritual maturity.

- CCC 2731: "Another difficulty, especially for those who sincerely want to pray, is dryness. Dryness belongs to contemplative prayer when the heart is separated from God, with no taste for thoughts, memories, and feelings, even spiritual ones. This is the moment of sheer faith clinging faithfully to Jesus in his agony and in his tomb. 'Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.' If dryness is due to the lack of roots, because the word has fallen on rocky soil, the battle requires conversion."

This passage from the Catechism emphasizes that spiritual dryness is a test of faith, a call to cling to Jesus even when one feels no emotional connection or spiritual consolation. It is a moment to exercise pure faith, trusting that God is at work, even in the silence.

The Catechism also highlights that spiritual dryness can be a purification process:

- CCC 2015: "The way of perfection passes by way of the Cross. There is no holiness without renunciation and spiritual battle. Spiritual progress entails the asceticism and mortification that gradually lead to living in the peace and joy of the Beatitudes."

Here, the Catechism teaches that spiritual dryness can lead to greater holiness, as it requires renunciation of personal desires and a deeper surrender to God's will. It is through these trials that one is drawn closer to the heart of God, experiencing the true peace and joy that come from living according to the Beatitudes.

Saints Who Experienced Spiritual Dryness

Several saints have experienced profound periods of spiritual dryness, offering us examples of how to persevere through such trials with faith and trust in God.

1. St. John of the Cross

St. John of the Cross, a 16th-century Spanish mystic and Doctor of the Church, is well-known for his writings on spiritual dryness, particularly in his works "The Dark Night of the Soul" and "Ascent of Mount Carmel." He describes spiritual dryness as a purifying process where the soul is stripped of all attachments to spiritual consolations, leaving it in a state of pure longing for God. This "dark night" is not a sign of God's abandonment but a necessary step toward a deeper union with Him.

2. St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

One of the most famous modern examples of spiritual dryness is St. Teresa of Calcutta, who experienced nearly 50 years of deep spiritual desolation. Despite feeling abandoned by God, she continued her work among the

poorest of the poor, relying solely on faith. Her letters, published posthumously in "Come Be My Light," reveal her intense suffering and her unwavering commitment to serving Christ, even in the midst of profound spiritual dryness.

3. St. Thérèse of Lisieux

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, also known as the Little Flower, experienced spiritual dryness in the final years of her life. Known for her "Little Way" of spiritual childhood, she endured severe physical pain and spiritual desolation, doubting even the existence of heaven. Yet, she offered her suffering as a prayer, trusting in God's love despite her lack of consolations. In her autobiography, "Story of a Soul," she writes, "I am willing to remain in this state of spiritual dryness for as long as it pleases the good God."

4. St. Teresa of Ávila

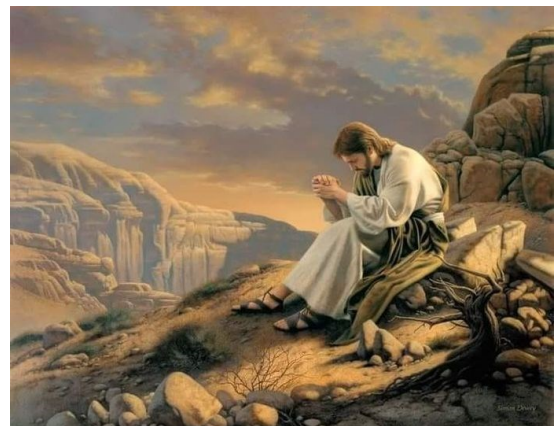
St. Teresa of Ávila, another Doctor of the Church and a contemporary of St. John of the Cross, also experienced periods of spiritual dryness. In her autobiography, "The Life of Teresa of Jesus," she recounts how she struggled with prayer and felt distant from God for many years. However, she remained faithful to her spiritual practices, trusting that God was working in her soul, even when she could not feel His presence.

Embracing Spiritual Dryness

Spiritual dryness, though challenging, should not be viewed as a punishment or abandonment by God. Instead, it is an invitation to grow in faith, hope, and love. The saints remind us that spiritual dryness is a purifying fire that strips away attachments to spiritual consolations, leaving the soul in a state of pure longing for God.

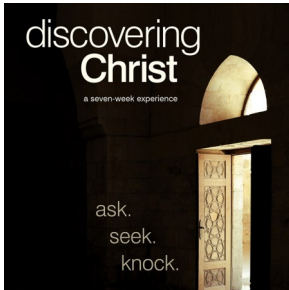
During these times, it is essential to remain faithful to prayer, even when it feels dry or meaningless. Continuing to participate in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, is crucial, as it provides the grace needed to persevere. Seeking guidance from a spiritual director can also be beneficial in discerning the purpose of one's dryness and how best to respond.

In conclusion, spiritual dryness is a profound aspect of the Catholic spiritual journey. It is a test of faith, a call to deeper trust, and a purification that prepares the soul for a more intimate union with God. By looking to the examples in Scripture, the teachings of the Catechism, and the lives of the saints, Catholics can navigate these periods with hope, knowing that God is drawing them closer, even in the silence.



DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

Our Fall Series of courses has begun. If you missed the sign-up and still want to attend, please give me a call: 630-860-3691 or email: stutaj@holyghostparish.org for more information or to sign up. I hope you will join us!



Discovering Christ continues each Sunday (except Oct. 12) in the gym from 9am-10-15am. No sign up is needed. Please join us as we explore our relationship with Christ.

Our Diocese of Joliet has a new directive from Bishop Hicks: **From Go to Make: Making Disciples in the Apostolic Age**. Holy Ghost's Discipleship Committee will participate in a meeting with the Bishop and help implement his vision for our parish. Watch for more information from the Diocese as we discern how we are each being called to be disciples and witnesses to our faith. Please keep Bishop Hicks, Fr. Sam and the Discipleship committee in your prayers.

In advance, I thank Tom Vercruysse, Dennis Bero, Paul Steger, Mary Lally, Nancy Siemers, Kelly Scardina, Warren Wawczak, and Ann Burch for their dedication to this ministry.

Grief Group: on Monday, October 6 at 1pm the grief group will meet to discern how often they will meet and what topics or issues they would like to cover. This has been a very supportive group that respectfully listens to one another as each person deals with grief differently. There is never just one way for the grieving process.

Refreshments will be shared as we pray and discuss the future programming for this group. Please join us in Room 9. Directions to Room 9 of the school: drive into the parking lot by the sign, drive around to the back to just past the gym doors and park outside door #12. Door #12 is the entrance to Room 9. Come to the door and knock. Call Susan for questions or more information. 630-860-3691.



HOLY GHOST KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
are selling Tootsie Rolls for
Halloween Candy after Masses
to help those with
Intellectually Disabilities
While they last
October 4-5, 11-12, and 18-19
Bag of 50 for \$10.00

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS



Rainy day fund for repairs
C.O.R.E (Catholic Outreach)
Maintenance & Care of Worship
Plants
World Mission Sunday



Second collections can be made online at we share on our website holyghostparish.org or by scanning the QR code.

FAITH FORMATION

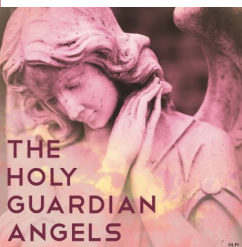
Our Holy Ghost Faith Formation classes started on September 7th and includes weekly attendance at Mass. There is nothing on earth equal to the Mass. St.

Bonaventure says, "The wonders of the Mass are as many as there are stars in the heavens and grains of sand on the seashores of the world." St. Gregory said, "The Heavens open and multitudes of Angels come to assist at the Holy Sacrifice." From the revelations of St. Bridget, "One day when I was assisting at the Holy Sacrifice, I saw an immense number of Holy Angels descend and gather around the altar, contemplating the priest. They sang heavenly canticles that ravished my heart; Heaven itself seemed to be contemplating the great Sacrifice. And yet we poor, blind and miserable creatures assist at the Mass with so little love, relish and respect! Oh, if God would open our eyes, what wonders should we not see! The graces, blessings and favors granted to those that participate at Mass are beyond all comprehension."



October is a special month as we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, and it is also designated as Respect Life month. Throughout the month the Church encourages everyone to pray the rosary, and we all need to pray for an end to abortion and euthanasia in the world. Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima has asked us to pray for our country. Please join us for a **Rosary Rally in honor of our Lady of Fatima on Saturday October 11, 2025 at 9 A.M. Holy Ghost Church South Doors.**

October 1 is the Feast day of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church. The Basilica of Lisieux is the second most popular place of pilgrimage in France, after Lourdes. In our diocese we have the National Shrine & Museum of St. Therese in Darien, IL. It is open daily and is a special place to visit. The Shrine offers Mass at 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.



October 2 is the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels. We have all been blessed with a guardian angel to watch over us. We learn from the Catechism of the Catholic Church in 334 "The whole life of the Church benefits from the mysterious and powerful help of angels." 336 "From infancy to death human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession. Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life. Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God."

On October 4 we celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi. In 1223 he arranged for the first live nativity scene as part of the annual Christmas celebration in Greccio. St. Francis is known for his love of animals and he is the patron saint of animals. It is a popular practice to bring animals to church for a blessing. **On October 5 at Holy Ghost at 1:00 p.m. you can bring your pets for a blessing.**



May we all rejoice in the Lord, Nancy Siemers, Director of Faith Formation

"There is no prayer or good work so great, so pleasing to God, so useful to us as the Mass."
St. Lawrence Justinian



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A ROSARY RALLY
IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA**

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 11, 2025
9AM
HOLY GHOST CHURCH
SOUTH DOORS**

**OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY OF FATIMA HAS ASKED US TO
PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY.**



Every gift card you purchase from the SCRIP program benefits Holy Ghost with no additional cost to you. Skip the mall, save your gas and your mileage by buying SCRIP!

We carry hundreds of stores, and we also have VISA gift cards with **NO ACTIVATION FEE!** There are order forms in the vestibules of the church or stop by the parish office.

For more information call the parish office at 630-860-2975 or email: hgsecretary@holyghostparish.org



You can buy online at <https://www.raiseright.com/enroll/> and use enrollment Code: 59555D1L5432

Spooky Cupcakes

Come for an hour of Food-Filled-Fun.
Here at HOLY GHOST in the
Koinonia Room
Sweet Treats that are so good it's Scary!
YOU will decorate the tastiest looking creepy cupcakes.



**Only \$15.00 per
person**

All supplies will be provided as well as a container to take your sweet treats home.

**Sunday, October 19th
11:30-12:30pm**

Please register by October 15th

Call or text frannie @ 708-218-6511

**or email fran@holyghostparish.org or
stop by the parish office.**



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

Join the Knights of Columbus

- ◆ We have more than 2,100,000 men in more than 16,900 councils headquartered in Catholic parishes around the world.
- ◆ Knights put their faith into action every day to make life better in their parishes and communities.
- ◆ We offer men the opportunity to grow in their faith while helping others and supporting the Church, and to become better Catholics, husbands and fathers.
- ◆ The Knights of Columbus annually contributes nearly \$190 million to worthy charitable causes around the world, and our members donate nearly 47 million hours of their time.
- ◆ Our founder – Blessed Michael McGivney – has been beatified by the Church. People around the world seek his intercession through prayer.
- ◆ All practicing Catholic men 18 years or older are invited to join.
- ◆ Call Grand Knight Warren Wawczak for more info. 630-487-7925

HOLY GHOST CALENDAR

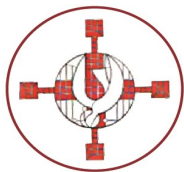
CLP

Core Board Meeting –Oct 2 at 6:45pm
 Rosary in Church –Oct 2 at 7:00pm
 First Friday Mass –Oct 3 at 8:30am
 Baptisms –Oct 4 at 1:00pm
 Faith Formation –Oct 5 at 9:00am
 Pet Blessing –Oct 5 at 1:00pm
 The Rescue Project (Virtual) –Oct 5 at 7:00pm
 When You Pray –Oct 6 at 10:00am
 Caring Connection –Oct 6 at 1:00pm
 Biblical Walk Through Mass –Oct 6 at 7:00pm
 Jesus, The Way, The Truth & The Life –Oct 7 at 12pm
 Deanery Meeting –Oct 7 at 4:00pm
 Parent Baptism Meeting –Oct 7 at 7:00pm
 The Rescue Project –Oct 8 at 7:00pm
 Rosary in Church –Oct 9 at 7:00pm
 Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Sale –Oct 11 & 12
 Rosary Rally –Oct 11 at 9:00am
 KofC Rosary in Church –Oct 12 at 11:30am
 Columbus Day –Office Closed– Oct 13
 When You Pray –Oct 13 at 10:00am
 Biblical Walk Through Mass –Oct 13 at 7:00pm
 Jesus TWTTTL –Oct 14 at 12:00pm
 Knights of Columbus Meeting –Oct 15 at 7:00pm
 The Rescue Project –Oct 15 at 7:00pm
 Rosary in Church –Oct 16 at 7:00pm

KofC Tootsie Roll Sale –Oct 18 & 19
 Baptisms –Oct 18 at 1:00pm
 Ritual 1 for Faith Formation –Oct 18 & 19 at all masses
 Faith Formation Parents –Oct 19 at 9:00am
 Faith Formation Class –Oct 19 at 9:00am
 Cupcake Class –Oct 19 at 11:30am
 The Rescue Project (Virtual) –Oct 19 at 7:00pm
 When You Pray –Oct 20 at 10:00am
 Caring Connections –Oct 20 at 1:00pm
 Discipleship Meeting –Oct 20 at 5:00pm
 Biblical Walk Through Mass –Oct 20 at 7:00pm
 Jesus TWTTTL –Oct 21 at 12:00pm
 The Rescue Project –Oct 22 at 7:00pm
 Rosary in Church –Oct 23 at 7:00pm
 KofC Tootsie Roll Sale –Oct 26 & 27
 Donut Sunday –Oct 26 after masses
 Faith Formation Parents –Oct 26 at 9:00am
 Faith Formation Class –Oct 26 at 9:00am
 The Rescue Project (Virtual) –Oct 26 at 7:00pm
 When You Pray –Oct 27 at 10:00am
 Biblical Walk Through Mass –Oct 27 at 7:00pm
 Jesus TWTTTL –Oct 28 at 12:00pm
 CCW Board Meeting –Oct 28 at 7:00pm
 The Rescue Project –Oct 29 at 7:00pm
 Rosary in Church –Oct 30 at 7:00pm

*dates and times are subject to change. Please check the parish website for updated information or call the office.

For all seeking Baptism, Communion and/or Confirmation or for anyone that wants to learn more about the Catholic faith, classes will begin in the fall. Please sign up now. For more information, contact Nancy Siemers at 630-766-4509 or at: nsiemers@holyghostparish.org. Complete this form and return it to the Faith Formation Office or drop it in the collection basket.



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Please circle the sacraments needed: Baptism Communion Confirmation

WITH JOYFUL HEARTS,
WE WELCOME OUR
NEWLY BAPTIZED.

MATTEO ANTHONY GRANDORI
ARTUR ADAM GRZELAK
SEBASTIAN DELGADO

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

NEWLY MARRIED

Raquel & Reynaldo Rosas
9/13/2025

IN LOVING
MEMORY

DEARLY DEPARTED

IRENA GUSIEV
3/14/1950 - 8/30/2025

DELORES ANNETTE BRONARS
7/25/1930-8/26/2025

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and may the perpetual light shine upon
them. May the souls of all the faithful
departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.



Mass Intention Information
\$10 stipend per Mass Intention.

Mass Intention requests, in compliance
with the Decree on Mass Stipends, began on
January 1, 2016: There will be one intention
for a Mass. Mass will be offered for all
parishioners in the parish on Christmas Eve,
Christmas Day, Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil,
Easter Sunday, and Holy Days of Obligation.
No other intentions will be taken
for the Masses on these days.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

4 pm Saturday
8 am Sunday
10:30 am Sunday

DAILY MASS

8:30 am Mon-Thurs

FIRST FRIDAY

8:30 am



PLEASE JOIN
THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS
TO PRAY THE ROSARY
AFTER THE 10:30 AM
MASS ON SUNDAY, OCT 12, 2025



PLEASE JOIN US
TO PRAY THE ROSARY
MONDAY THROUGH
THURSDAY
AT 9 AM AND ON
THURSDAY
EVENINGS AT 7PM.

Lord, we ask you to bless all those who
serve; grant your heavenly protection to
these brave men and women. Please give
them and their loved ones strength and
peace. Amen.

AIR FORCE:

LT COL Anthony Calabrese
LT COL Patty Calabrese
MAJ Mary Dones
CAPT Joseph Piscopo
CAPT Jeremy Shimanek
1st LT Joshua Jalowiec
SSGT Robert W. Dones
SSGT Timothy Latvis
SRA Randall Petrbok
A1C Ryan Leider
A1C Nicholas Pfeifer

ARMY:

LTC Robert Bowen
LTC Grace Gallagher
CAPT Elizabeth Gonzales
SFC Zack Cieslak
SPC Marco Garcia
SPC David Patcher
CW4 Anderson Mann
CW2 Carlos Contreras
PVT Steven Badgley
PVT Ian Schauchuk

MARINE CORPS:

CAPT Edward W. Miller
SGT Nicholas Reid
SGT Jack Rowley
LCPL Michele Giuseppe Bottalico
LCPL Vincent Anthony Eltman
PVT Cameron Andresen
PVT Gabriel Leon
PVT Billy Termine

NAVY:

LCDR Nicholas Lucania
Ryan James Ruizol

**LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK
OF OUR PARISH**

Micah Casey
Aldegunda Diego
Thomas Franzen
Izcoatl Garcia Gonzales
Therese Kotecki
Cindi Shea
Feliciano Vero
Gloria Villanueva
Salvatore Vivo
Joseph Yello
Cyndi Zwadlo

**And for those listed in our parish
book of prayers.**

Military and Prayer List

Please email:
hgbulletin@holyghostparish.org
or call the parish office at 630-860-2975
to add or remove a name from the list.
Thank you!



**Blessing
OF THE
Animals**



Deacon Robbie will be blessing
pets at 1:00pm on
Sunday, Oct 5
in the South Lot of the church.

