

## Second Day, Opening Week

# The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### REFLECTION

What is the most important day of the year for you?  
Maybe you'd say your birthday is the most important...  
That would be a good answer, because your birthday was the day when you took your first breath of life.  
If your life story was written as a book, then your birthday would from the first sentence of your book.  
And this week marks a new chapter in the story of your life.

In this week at the beginning of the new school year, we celebrate the feast of the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the day when she took her first breath of life.  
So let us ask her to pray for us, that this new chapter in our own life story will be blessed one, full of the grace which flows from her Son, Jesus.

### PRAYER

Let us join together in saying the 'Hail Mary':-  
**Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.**  
    **Blessed art thou amongst women,**  
        **And blessed is the fruit of thy womb,**  
            **Jesus.**  
**Holy Mary, mother of God,**  
    **Pray for us sinners,**  
        **Now, and at the hour of our death.**  
            **Amen.**

# Third Day, Opening Week

## Praying to the The Holy Spirit

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### REFLECTION

The fact that you are breathing is the sign that you are alive. In our faith, we can think of God the Holy Spirit as giving us the *breath* of divine life.

We can talk about needing to be inspired by the Holy Spirit. To *inspire* means to 'breathe in'.

In our prayers to the Holy Spirit, we ask him to 'inspire us'; to 'breathe into us' so that we are filled with the graces that flow from God into our minds and bodies, so that we breathe out holiness into the world.

At the beginning of this school year, we pray to God the Holy Spirit, and ask him to fill us with all we need to make this a special year in the story of our lives.

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Let us all join together and ask the Holy Spirit to inspire us to do great things in the year ahead,  
As we say....*

**Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,  
and enkindle within them the fire of your love.**

*Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And you will renew the face of the earth.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.*

**As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be, world without end,  
Amen.**

# Rest of the Opening Week

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

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and to the Holy Spirit.*

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Amen.**