

## NOVENAS

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¶ A novena is a nine-day period of prayer in preparation for some particular feast, or to pray for some special object. It may be made by an individual or by a group, either in public or in private. The first novena was kept at the express command of the Risen Christ, by the Apostles, Mary, and the disciples in the Upper Room from the day of our Lord's Ascension to Pentecost. (Acts 1:12 to 14). The earliest ecclesiastical novena recorded is the one in preparation for Christmas.

### Novena in Preparation for Christmas

¶ Begin with this prayer each day:

**O** LORD Jesus Christ, who for our sake didst vouchsafe to descend from thy throne of glory to this world of pain and sorrow; who wast conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, and was made Man; Make, we beseech thee, our hearts a fit habitation for thyself. Beautify and fill them with all spiritual graces, and possess them wholly by thy power. Give us grace to prepare for thy coming with deep humility, to receive thee with burning love, and to hold thee fast with a firm faith; that we may never leave thee nor forsake thee. Who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

¶ Here say one of the antiphons below, according to the day. Then say:

OUR FATHER.

HAIL, MARY.

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

### THE DAILY ANTIPHONS

*December 16*

○ SHEPHERD that rulest Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a sheep: Come to guide and comfort us.

*December 17*

○ WISDOM, which camest out of the mouth of the Most High, and reachest from one end to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

*December 18*

○ ADONAI, and Leader of the house of Israel, who appearedst in the bush to

Moses in a flame of fire, and gavest him the law in Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

*December 19*

○ ROOT of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at whom kings shall shut their mouths, unto whom the Gentiles shall seek: Come and deliver us, and tarry not.

*December 20*

○ KEY of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; that openest and no man shutteth, and shuttest and no man openeth: Come, and bring the prisoners out of the prison-house, them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

*December 21*

○ DAY-SPRING, Brightness of the Light everlasting, and Sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

*December 22*

○ KING of Nations, and their Desire; the Cornerstone, who makest both one: Come and save mankind, whom thou formdest of clay.

*December 23*

○ EMMANUEL, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations and their Salvation: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

*December 24*

○ THOU whose dominion is great, and whose kingdom shall have no end; the mighty God, the Governor, the Prince of Peace: Come show thy face, and we shall be saved.

### Novena to The Holy Ghost

*(especially for use from the Ascension of our Lord to the Vigil of Pentecost)*

¶ Begin with this prayer each day:

○ HOLY Spirit, my Lord and my God, I adore thee and humbly acknowledge here in thy sacred presence that I am nothing, and can do nothing, without thy operation within me. Come, great Paraclete, thou Father of the poor, thou Comforter of the blest, fulfill the promise of our Saviour, who would not leave us orphans, and enter my mind and heart as thou didst descend on the day of Pentecost upon the holy Mother of Jesus and upon his first disciples. Grant that I may have a part in those gifts which thou didst so prodigally bestow upon them.

Take from my heart all that is not pleas-

ing to thee and make of it a worthy dwelling-place for Jesus.

Illumine my mind, that I may see and understand the things that are for my eternal welfare.

Inflame my heart with pure love of the Father, that, cleansed from attachment to all unworthy objects, my whole life may be hidden with Jesus in God.

Strengthen my will, that it may be conformable to the will of my Creator and guided by thy holy inspirations.

Aid me to practice the heavenly virtues of humility, poverty and obedience which are taught me in the earthly life of Jesus.

Descend upon me, O mighty Spirit, that, inspired and encouraged by thee, I may faithfully fulfill the duties of my state in life, carry my daily cross with patience and courage, and accomplish the Father's will for me more perfectly. Make me, day by day, more holy and give to me that heavenly peace which the world cannot give.

O Holy Spirit, thou Giver of every good and perfect gift, grant to me the intentions of this novena of prayer. May the Father's will be done in me and through me. And mayest thou, O mighty Spirit of the living God, be praised and glorified for ever and ever. Amen.

*Veni Creator Spiritus*

COME, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,  
 And lighten with celestial fire,  
 Thou the anointing Spirit art,  
 Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above,  
 Is comfort, life, and fire of love,  
 Enable with perpetual light  
 The dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face  
 With the abundance of thy grace.  
 Keep far our foes, give peace at home;  
 Where thou art Guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
 And thee, of both, to be but One;  
 That, through the ages all along,  
 This may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,  
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

OUR FATHER.

HAIL, MARY.

¶ Then either the following prayer, or else one of the proper prayers below:

Let us pray.

O GOD, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right



judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*First Day*

COME, O Holy Ghost, the Lord and Life-giver; take up thy dwelling within my soul, and make of it thy sacred temple. Make me live by grace as an adopted son of God. Pervade all the energies of my soul, and create in me a fountain of living water springing up into life everlasting.

*Second Day*

COME, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to my soul the mysteries of heavenly things, their exceeding greatness, and power, and beauty. Teach me to love them above and beyond all the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Show me the way by which I may be able to attain to them, and possess them, and hold them hereafter, my own forever.

*Third Day*

COME, O Spirit of Understanding, and enlighten my mind, that I may know and believe all the mysteries of salvation, and may merit at last to see the eternal light in thy light; and in the light of glory to have the clear vision of thee and the Father and the Son.

*Fourth Day*

COME, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide me in all my ways, that I may always do thy holy will. Incline my heart to that which is good, turn it away from all that is evil, and direct me by the path of thy commandments to the goal of eternal life.

*Fifth Day*

COME, O Spirit of Fortitude, and give courage to my soul. Make my heart strong in all trials and in all distress, pouring forth abundantly into it the gifts of strength, that I may be able to resist the attacks of the devil.

*Sixth Day*

COME, O Spirit of Knowledge, and make me understand and despise the emptiness and nothingness of the world. Give me grace to use the world only for thy glory and the salvation of thy creatures. May I always be very faithful in putting thy rewards before every earthly gift.

*Seventh Day*

COME, O Spirit of Piety, possess my heart; incline it to a true faith in thee, to a holy love of thee, my God, that with my whole soul I may seek thee, and find thee my best, my truest joy.



*Eighth Day*

COME, O Spirit of holy Fear, penetrate my inmost heart, that I may set thee, my Lord and God, before my face forever; and shun all things that can offend thee so that I may be made worthy to appear before the pure eyes of thy divine Majesty in the heaven of heavens, where thou livest and reignest in the unity of the Ever-blessed Trinity, world without end.

*Ninth Day*

COME, O Holy Comforter, and grant me a relish for heavenly things. Produce in my soul the fruits of virtue, so that, being filled with all sweetness and joy in the pursuit of good, I may attain unto eternal blessedness.

**Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary**

¶ To be said daily.

COME, O my soul, humble thyself at the feet of Mary thy Mother, and depart not till she hath blessed thee. O blessed of God and enriched with all grace, in thy clemency bless my afflicted soul, and by thy mighty intercession, obtain for me, from thy beloved Son, the object of this novena of prayer.

**H**AIL! holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

OUR FATHER.

HAIL, MARY.

Let us pray.

**O** GOD who by the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary hast bestowed upon mankind the reward of eternal salvation: grant, we beseech thee, that we may know the help of her intercession, through whom we have been accounted worthy to receive the Author of our Life, Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen.

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¶ See also Nine Days Prayer for one deceased p. 197.