

Novena to the Mother of God for the Nation

Introduction

Catholics turn instinctively for help to the Mother of God in times of need. During the difficult years of persecution at the hands of the Roman Empire, Christians prayed the Sub Tuum Praesidium. This simple prayer was written, it seems, in the East, likely in Egypt, before the year 250 A.D. It gives voice to the Christian's confidence in the Blessed Virgin. The [Opening] prayer bears testimony to the Church's faith that Jesus Christ is God and Mary is the Mother of God and the mother of Christ's disciples (John 19:25:27). Her maternal relationship to Christ and to all the members of His Body is the foundation of Christians' confidence in her ability to help her children on earth who face any danger.

During these nine days of prayer,
we encourage you to do five things:

1. Attend **Mass** and receive Holy Communion each day.
2. Receive the Sacrament of Penance.
3. Read the scripture and pray the rosary each day.
4. Make a donation or do something practical to help the poor.
5. Encourage as many people as possible to make the novena.

DAY 1: THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

Song of Songs 4:7

God, Almighty Father, at the moment of our conception you loved each of us into life.

You loved Mary wondrously in her Immaculate Conception, preserving her from inheriting the sin of Adam through the foreseen merits of the Savior.

You prepared Mary in her conception to be the Mother and partner of your Son and our loving mother.

Through her prayers protect the United States of America from the assaults of Satan. Give all people an ever deeper reverence for your presence and creative action in human conception. Help all to recognize the evil of abortion and contraception, and all sins which offend our Creator God.

In Mary's maternal embrace, may every American foster reverence for human life in our nation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

DAY 2: MARY'S DESIRE FOR VIRGINITY

Luke 1:34

Almighty and Ever-Living God, Mary gave herself to you unreservedly through the gift of her virginity. As she loved Jesus with an undivided heart, she continues to love and serve all of her children on earth.

Through her example, instill in all the members of your Church a deeper appreciation of the value of virginity. Help all to understand that virginity is the perfect gift that spouses give to each other on their wedding day.

Inspire many young men and women to embrace a life of consecrated celibacy or virginity in the priesthood and consecrated life. Teach us all the meaning of your Son's words: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (Mt. 5:8).

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.



NOVENA OPENING PRAYER:

to be said at the beginning of each day's devotion

We fly to your patronage,

O holy Mother of God;

Despise not our prayers in our necessities,

But ever deliver us from all dangers,

O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Amen.

DAY 3: MARY'S GREAT ACT OF LOVE

Luke 1:38

God, Almighty Father, when Mary surrendered herself to your Word, she conceived Christ first in her mind through faith, in her heart through hope and love, and finally in her body through the marvelous operation of your Holy Spirit.

By her eagerness to be the mother of your Son, she opened the floodgates of your merciful love for all men and women.

May she help all people to live by faith, hope, love, and obedience to your will. May she remind us always that you want to bring salvation to our brothers and sisters through our faith and good works.

Help us to accept fully our responsibility to combat the culture of death and foster the culture of life in our American society.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

DAY 4: THE VISITATION

Luke 1:39-47

Almighty and Ever-Living God, the Virgin Mary is the new Ark of the Covenant. During the nine months of her pregnancy, she carried your Son-made-man in her virginal womb.

From his Royal Throne, Christ began to bring his people salvation. After his birth, which did not diminish His mother's virginal integrity but sanctified it, he continued to dwell in Mary through grace and charity with an unparalleled intensity.

Father, we beg you to send Mary to visit the United States, calling all to faith in Christ's Gospel of Life and conversion from sin. May she help all to understand that her conception of Christ in Nazareth, and her wondrous childbirth in Bethlehem, point to the inviolable sanctity of every conception and birth.

May she help those women who have had abortions to find God's forgiveness and healing. Father, turn the hearts of all advocates of contraception and abortion to Christ, the Lord of Life.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

DAY 5: THE DIVINE MOTHERHOOD

Matthew 2: 9-11

God, our Almighty Father, by becoming a man your Son revealed the goodness and holiness of human conception, pregnancy, and birth.

With tender maternal love, the Virgin Mary conceived your eternal Son, carried him beneath her heart, and brought him to birth. No intervention of yours in human history illustrates more clearly the greatness and dignity of woman than the Incarnation.

May Mary help all to believe that the man she bore, Jesus Christ, is truly your eternal Son-made-man.

May she help all to appreciate the wonder of conception, pregnancy, and birth. Draw all women in our society to her motherly embrace. Help them understand that their children are created by you at the moment of their conception and belong to you in this life and in the next.

Father, protect all women from attacks against their maternal fecundity. Guard them from those who war against them and their dignity through the promotion of contraception, sterilization, and abortion.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.

DAY 6: THE WEDDING FEAST OF CANA

John 2:1-5

Mother Mary, at Cana you showed that you are the mother of many children. You understood the shame felt by the poor and turned to your Son for help. Filled with the Spirit of God, you also wanted Jesus' Apostles to share your faith in him. You understood that the absence of faith is the worst poverty any person can experience. You also knew that only God can give the gift of faith. Bringing these needs to Jesus in prayer, rich wine flowed through the small village of Cana and the strong wine of faith flooded the hearts of the Apostles.

Mary, we all have needs, great and small. We are poor in material resources and in spiritual goods. We beg you to bring all of our needs to Jesus. You never ask for anything that will harm your children. Jesus never refuses any request you bring to him.

Pray especially for our families that are torn apart by marital infidelity, domestic violence, flaws in parental love, and the pain caused by contraception, sterilization, and abortion.

Help all to understand that the Sacrament of Matrimony was instituted by your Son so that man and wife, in loving one another, may encounter his grace and bring forth children for the kingdom.

Pray for your sons and daughters who bear the heavy burden of same-sex attraction. Help them discover the freedom chastity imparts and its beauty. Mary, pray that our families may live in harmony and love as you lived with Jesus and Joseph in your home in Nazareth.

Mary, we need you to be our mother, the mother of all families.

Amen.

*Mary, Mother of our Nation,
Pray for us!*

DAY 7: MARY AT CALVARY

John 19:25-27

(Prayer of Consecration to St. Maximilian Kolbe)

O Immaculate Mary, Queen of Heaven and earth, refuge of sinners and our most loving Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy to you. I, (*name*), a repentant sinner, cast myself at your feet humbly imploring you to take me with all that I am and have, wholly to yourself as your possession and property. Please make of me, of all my powers of soul and body, of my whole life, death and eternity, whatever most pleases you.

If it pleases you, use all that I am and have without reserve, wholly to accomplish what was said of you: "She will crush the serpent's head," and, "You alone have destroyed all heresies in the whole world." Let me be a fit instrument in your immaculate and merciful hands for introducing and increasing your glory to the maximum in all the many strayed and indifferent souls, and thus help extend as far as possible the blessed kingdom of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. For wherever you enter you obtain the grace of conversion and growth in holiness, since it is through your hands that all graces come to us from the most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

V. Allow me to praise you, O Sacred Virgin.

R. Give me strength against your enemies.

Amen

DAY 8: MARY AND THE EASTER MYSTERY

1 Cor. 15:3-7

Confer, O Lord, on us, who serve beneath the standard of Mary, that fullness of faith in you, and trust in her, to which it is given to conquer the world.

Grant us a lively faith, animated by charity, which will enable us to perform all our actions from the motive of pure love of you, and ever to see you and serve you in our neighbor; a faith, firm and immovable as a rock, through which we shall rest tranquil and steadfast amid the crosses, toils and disappointments of life; a courageous faith which will inspire us to undertake and carry out without hesitation great things for your glory and for the salvation of souls; a faith which will be our Pillar of Fire – to lead us forth united – to kindle everywhere the fires of divine love – to enlighten those who are in darkness and in the shadow of death – to inflame those who are lukewarm – to bring back life to those who are dead in sin; and which will guide our own feet in the way of peace; so that when the battle of life is over, all of Mary's children without the loss of any one, may be gathered together in the kingdom of Your love and glory.

Amen.

(Adapted from Tessera of the Legion of Mary)

DAY 9: THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY INTO HEAVEN

Rev. 11:19-12:1

Mary, Mother of God and our dear Mother, be with us at the hour of our death. Help us understand that, by dying for us, your Son transformed death into an act of worship of the Father – a sacred moment of passage from this life to the next; a moment determined by God alone.

Fortified by the sacraments of the Church, help us to die as you did – in an act of love and self-offering for the salvation of others.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.