



IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
NOVENA

COVER IMAGE:

The Immaculate Conception

Diego Velázquez

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NOVENA TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sunday 1st December 2024 -- Monday 9th December 2024

Have you ever wondered what makes Mary, the mother of Jesus, so special in our faith? The Immaculate Conception - one of the most beautiful mysteries we celebrate - reveals that from the very first moment of her existence, Mary was preserved from original sin. This wasn't just a divine privilege; it was God's masterful plan of love unfolding. Think of it this way: just as you would prepare your home meticulously for the arrival of someone incredibly important, God prepared Mary's soul with perfect grace to be the mother of Jesus. But this extraordinary gift wasn't just about Mary - it was about God's love for all of us. By keeping Mary free from sin, God was creating the perfect vessel to bring Christ into our world, establishing a pure channel of grace that continues to flow into our lives today. This is why we turn to Mary with such confidence in this nine-day novena - she understands our human struggles while possessing the unprecedented closeness to God that allows her to powerfully intercede for us.

Although the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is normally celebrated on December 8th, this year it is moved to allow for the celebration on the 2nd Sunday of Advent. We're invited to spend nine grace-filled days in conversation with Mary. Mary, who knows what it means to face life's challenges - from receiving unexpected news that changed her life forever, to finding her way in a world that didn't always understand her, to watching her Son suffer. Yet through it all, her unwavering trust in God lights the way forward for us.

You don't need elaborate preparations to pray this novena. Whether you're a busy parent praying between daily tasks, a student seeking guidance, or someone looking for hope in difficult times, Mary meets you where you are. Join with others in your parish, gather your family at home, or find that peaceful space before the Blessed Sacrament in your local church. The beautiful thing about Mary is that she understands both our formal prayers and our heartfelt whispers. As we prepare to celebrate her Immaculate Conception, let's bring our hopes, fears, and dreams to her maternal heart and allow Mary to draw us closer to her Son.

DAY ONE - SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER



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

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

Loving Father, in preparing for your Son Jesus to enter our world, you blessed Mary with the gift of being free from sin from the very beginning of her life. Through the saving death of Jesus, which you had planned from all time, you kept Mary pure and holy. We ask that through her prayers for us, you would purify our hearts and draw us closer to you.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 21:25-28, 34-36



Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

REFLECTION



As we enter the season of Advent, we are reminded of the great promise of Christ's return, a day when we will see the Son of Man coming in glory. Jesus tells us to "stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand." Yet, in the midst of life's challenges the clamour of the world and the storms of our hearts—this can feel overwhelming. How can we stand confidently before the Lord in the midst of such turmoil?

In these moments, we can turn to Our Lady, the Blessed Mother, whose steadfast faith in the face of trials is a model for us all. She walked a path of trust, from the Annunciation to the Cross, standing firm in her confidence in God's plan. Entrusting our needs to her, we can draw strength from her intercession. She helps us grow in holiness, guiding us to face our challenges with grace and peace.

As we await the coming of the Lord, we are called to "stay awake, praying at all times." In doing so, we can rely on Our Lady's powerful intercession to help keep our hearts free from the distractions and anxieties that might distance us from God. With her guidance, we can grow in strength and holiness, so that when Christ returns, we may stand with confidence before Him, our hearts prepared to receive His love and liberation.

INTERCESSION



O most Holy Virgin, who was pleasing to the Lord and became His mother, immaculate in body and spirit, in faith and in love, look kindly on me as I implore your powerful intercession.

O most Holy Mother, who by your blessed Immaculate Conception, from the first moment of your conception did crush the head of the enemy, receive our prayers as we implore you to present at the throne of God the favor we now request...

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will. Amen.

DAY TWO - MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER



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

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

Loving Father, in preparing for your Son Jesus to enter our world, you blessed Mary with the gift of being free from sin from the very beginning of her life. Through the saving death of Jesus, which you had planned from all time, you kept Mary pure and holy. We ask that through her prayers for us, you would purify our hearts and draw us closer to you.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 2:2-5



In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

REFLECTION



As we journey together in this Advent season, our world is in great turmoil. When we hear the words of Isaiah it is hard to imagine a time when swords will be beaten into ploughshares.

It is very hard to picture peace in the Holy Lands at the moment.

And yet it was in the Holy Land where Mary grew up listening to these words from the prophet Isaiah. When Mary proclaimed her Magnificat, Isaiah's vision of justice and peace was close to her heart, embodying her own hope for the lowly to be lifted, the hungry to be filled, and God's mercy to be known. As our Queen of Peace, Mary calls us to live by this vision, encouraging us to walk in her Son's way of justice, mercy, and unity.

This Advent, as we prepare our hearts for the Prince of Peace, let us answer the call to be people of peace, walking in the light of the Lord. Just as Isaiah called for weapons to be turned into tools for the harvest, let us pray earnestly for an end to war, dedicating ourselves to alleviate hunger and to confront injustice wherever we find it. Let us remember that peace begins in our own hearts and homes, in the small choices we make each day to choose understanding over anger, forgiveness over resentment. Through Mary's intercession, may we find the courage to be instruments of peace in our families, workplaces, and communities, knowing that even the smallest acts of kindness can ripple outward to touch our troubled world.

INTERCESSION



O Mary, ever blessed Virgin, Mother of God, Queen of angels and of saints, as we contemplate your holy Immaculate Conception, we thank you for your maternal protection and for the many blessings that we have received through your wondrous mercy and most powerful intercession. In all our needs we have recourse to you with unbounded confidence.

O Mother of Mercy, we beseech you now to hear our prayer and to obtain for us of your Divine Son the favour that we so earnestly request in this novena...

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven.

Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will. Amen.

DAY THREE- TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER



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

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

Loving Father, in preparing for your Son Jesus to enter our world, you blessed Mary with the gift of being free from sin from the very beginning of her life. Through the saving death of Jesus, which you had planned from all time, you kept Mary pure and holy. We ask that through her prayers for us, you would purify our hearts and draw us closer to you.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 10:21-24



Filled with joy by the Holy Spirit, Jesus said: 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.' Then turning to his disciples he spoke to them in private, 'Happy the eyes that see what you see, for I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.'

REFLECTION



In Luke's Gospel, we witness a moment of profound joy as Jesus exults in the Holy Spirit, thanking the Father for revealing divine mysteries not to the wise and learned, but to the childlike. Free from original sin, Mary possessed that childlike quality Jesus speaks of—a heart unmarred by pride or worldly sophistication. Her fiat, "Let it be done unto me according to your word,"

exemplifies her complete trust, total openness, and perfect submission to God's will. When Jesus proclaims, "no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him," we are reminded of Mary's unique role in salvation history. She, above all others, was granted the privilege of knowing the Son in the most intimate way possible—carrying Him in her womb, nurturing Him as a child, and standing by Him until His final breath on Calvary.

Like the disciples whom Jesus declared blessed for what they saw and heard, we too are called to witness Christ's presence in our lives. Mary teaches us how to receive this blessing: through humility, purity of heart, and an unwavering, child-like faith. In these days of prayer may we cultivate that childlike spirit that makes us receptive to God's mysteries.

INTERCESSION



O Blessed Virgin Mary, glory of the Christian people, joy of the universal Church and Mother of Our Lord, speak for us to the Heart of Jesus, who is your Son and our brother. O Mary, who by your holy Immaculate Conception did enter the world free from stain, in your mercy obtain for us from Jesus the special favour which we now so earnestly seek...

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will. Amen.

DAY FOUR-WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER



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

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

Loving Father, in preparing for your Son Jesus to enter our world, you blessed Mary with the gift of being free from sin from the very beginning of her life. Through the saving death of Jesus, which you had planned from all time, you kept Mary pure and holy. We ask that through her prayers for us, you would purify our hearts and draw us closer to you.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 15:29-37



After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way."

The disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?" Jesus asked them, "How many loaves have you?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.

REFLECTION



In Matthew's Gospel, we see Jesus healing the lame, blind, mute, and many others, moved by deep compassion for the crowds who had been with him for three days. Like her Son, Mary's Immaculate Heart burns with compassion for God's people. When Jesus says, "I feel sorry for all these people;" we see a reflection of Mary's own maternal heart. She who bore the Bread of Life understands our hunger. At Cana, she noticed the wedding's need before anyone else and interceded with her Son. Even now, she anticipates our needs and brings them before her Son with a mother's caring attention.

The miracle of the loaves and fishes reminds us that God's provision exceeds our expectations – seven baskets of leftovers from seven loaves and a few fish. Like the disciples who distributed the bread, Mary helps distribute God's graces to all who hunger for her Son. May we learn from Mary's example to notice the needs of others and trust in God's abundant provision. Let us bring our own seemingly insufficient "loaves and fishes" – our small acts of faith and love – to Jesus through Mary's intercession, trusting that He will multiply them beyond our imagining.

INTERCESSION



O Mary, Mother of God, endowed in your glorious Immaculate Conception with the fullness of grace; unique among women in that you are both mother and virgin; Mother of Christ and Virgin of Christ, we ask you to look down with a tender heart from your throne and listen to our prayers as we earnestly ask that you obtain for us the favour for which we now plead...

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will. Amen.

DAY FIVE -THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER



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

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

Loving Father, in preparing for your Son Jesus to enter our world, you blessed Mary with the gift of being free from sin from the very beginning of her life. Through the saving death of Jesus, which you had planned from all time, you kept Mary pure and holy. We ask that through her prayers for us, you would purify our hearts and draw us closer to you.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 117(118):1,8-9,19-21,25-27



Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men;
it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

Open to me the gates of holiness: I will enter and give thanks.
This is the Lord's own gate where the just may enter.
I will thank you for you have answered and you are my saviour.

O Lord, grant us salvation; O Lord, grant success.
Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the Lord God is our light.

REFLECTION



“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.”
This profound declaration of God's endless love and goodness calls us to cultivate hearts of genuine gratitude. In preparing Mary from the first moment of her conception to be the Mother of God, we see perhaps the greatest expression of this endless love - a love that reached across time itself to prepare a way for our salvation.

Mary's response to this extraordinary gift was one of pure gratitude and joy, expressed beautifully in her Magnificat:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior." She understood, with perfect clarity, that every gift comes from God's goodness, and every blessing flows from His endless love. Her Immaculate Conception was not a cause for pride, but for profound thanksgiving.

When we contemplate God's boundless love - a love that conceived this perfect plan of salvation, a love that preserved Mary from all sin, a love that continues to pour forth into our own lives - how can we not join in this song of gratitude? Like Mary, we are called to recognize that everything we have and everything we are flows from this endless divine love.

“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.”

INTERCESSION



O Lord, who, by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, did prepare a fitting dwelling for your Son, we beseech you that as by the foreseen death of your Son, you did preserve her from all stain of sin, grant that through her intercession, we may be favored with the granting of the grace that we seek for at this time...

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will. Amen.

DAY SIX - FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER



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

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

Loving Father, in preparing for your Son Jesus to enter our world, you blessed Mary with the gift of being free from sin from the very beginning of her life. Through the saving death of Jesus, which you had planned from all time, you kept Mary pure and holy. We ask that through her prayers for us, you would purify our hearts and draw us closer to you.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 9:27-31



As Jesus went on his way two blind men followed him shouting, 'Take pity on us, Son of David.' And when Jesus reached the house the blind men came up with him and he said to them, 'Do you believe I can do this?' They said, 'Sir, we do.' Then he touched their eyes saying, 'Your faith deserves it, so let this be done for you.' And their sight returned. Then Jesus sternly warned them, 'Take care that no one learns about this.' But when they had gone, they talked about him all over the countryside.

REFLECTION



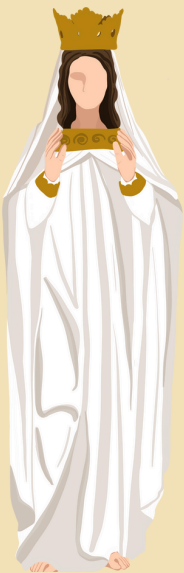
In the Gospel, two blind men recognize Jesus as the "Son of David" even before they receive their physical sight. Their spiritual vision, their faith, precedes their healing. How often are we in the opposite position - blessed with physical sight but suffering from spiritual blindness? These days of prayer with Mary, who was preserved from all spiritual darkness through her Immaculate Conception, invite us to examine our own blind spots.

What are the blind spots in our own lives? Perhaps we fail to see Christ in those around us. Maybe we're blind to our own faults while quickly noticing others'. We might be blind to God's daily gifts, or to the ways our actions affect those around us.

The blind men's persistent cry, "Take pity on us," echoes our own need for divine mercy. When Jesus asks, "Do you believe I can do this?" He invites not just their faith, but ours.

Then Jesus touches their lives and restores them. The healed men "talked about him all over the countryside," unable to contain their joy. Mary too could not contain her joy in God her Savior, proclaiming His greatness in her Magnificat. May we, through Mary's intercession, have the courage to acknowledge our spiritual blind spots, the faith to seek healing, and the joy to share our restored vision with others.

INTERCESSION



Glorious and immortal Queen of Heaven, we profess our firm belief in your Immaculate Conception preordained for you in the merits of your Divine Son. We rejoice with you in your Immaculate Conception. To the one ever-reigning God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in Person, one in nature, we offer thanks for your blessed Immaculate Conception. O Mother of the Word made Flesh, listen to our petition as we ask this special grace during this novena...

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven.

Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will. Amen.

DAY SEVEN - SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER



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

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

Loving Father, in preparing for your Son Jesus to enter our world, you blessed Mary with the gift of being free from sin from the very beginning of her life. Through the saving death of Jesus, which you had planned from all time, you kept Mary pure and holy. We ask that through her prayers for us, you would purify our hearts and draw us closer to you.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 146(147):1-6



Happy are all who hope in the Lord.

Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving; to him our praise is due.
The Lord builds up Jerusalem and brings back Israel's exiles.

He heals the broken-hearted, he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name.

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
the Lord raises the lowly; he humbles the wicked to the dust.

REFLECTION



“He heals the broken-hearted, he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name.”

These words speak to the tender mercy of our God, who not only knows our hurts but actively works to heal them. In Mary's Immaculate Conception, we see the ultimate expression of God's healing power - preserving her from the wound of original sin from the very first moment of her existence. Yet this singular grace did not separate her from humanity; rather, it prepared her to become the Mother of Hope for all who suffer.

The psalm tells us that God "fixes the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name." This same God who knows every star knows each of us intimately, calling us by name as He called Mary. She who was "raised up" to become the Mother of God knows of God's personal love for each of His children. Like the stars in the night sky, we too are known and named by our Creator.

As we continue this novena, may we, through Mary's intercession, find the courage to bring our broken hearts to God for healing. May we trust, as Mary did, that the Lord who numbers the stars holds each of our lives in His loving care.

“Happy are all who hope in the Lord.”

INTERCESSION



O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God, and my mother, from the sublime heights of your dignity turn your merciful eyes upon me while I, full of confidence in your bounty and keeping in mind your Immaculate conception and fully conscious of your power, beg of you to come to our aid and ask your Divine Son to grant the favor we earnestly seek in this novena... if it be beneficial for our immortal souls and the souls for whom we pray.

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will. Amen.

DAY EIGHT - SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER



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

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

Loving Father, in preparing for your Son Jesus to enter our world, you blessed Mary with the gift of being free from sin from the very beginning of her life. Through the saving death of Jesus, which you had planned from all time, you kept Mary pure and holy. We ask that through her prayers for us, you would purify our hearts and draw us closer to you.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 3:1-6



In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

REFLECTION



Mother of God.

Today's Gospel begins with a precise historical moment - naming rulers and religious authorities - when "the word of God came to John." This reminds us that God acts in real time, in human history. Just as John was prepared to be the herald of Christ, Mary was prepared from the first moment of her conception to be the

"Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight." These words from Isaiah, spoken through John, echo across the centuries to us today. Mary's Immaculate Conception was God's way of preparing the most perfect path for His Son's entry into our world. In Advent we take time to prepare for the coming of Christ. What valleys in our lives need to be filled with God's grace? What mountains of pride or self-sufficiency need to be humbled? What winding paths of indecision or rough roads of sin need to be smoothed?

Through Mary's intercession, may we have the courage to examine what in our lives needs to be straightened or smoothed. May we, like her, become paths through which others might "see the salvation of God."

INTERCESSION



O Most gracious Virgin Mary, beloved Mother of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, intercede with him for us that we be granted the favor which we petition for so earnestly in this novena... O Mother of the Word Incarnate, we feel animated with confidence that your prayers in our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. O Glorious Mother of God, in memory of your joyous Immaculate Conception, hear our prayers and obtain for us our petitions.

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will. Amen.

DAY NINE - MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER

OPENING PRAYER



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

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

Loving Father, in preparing for your Son Jesus to enter our world, you blessed Mary with the gift of being free from sin from the very beginning of her life. Through the saving death of Jesus, which you had planned from all time, you kept Mary pure and holy. We ask that through her prayers for us, you would purify our hearts and draw us closer to you.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 1:26-38



The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be

afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

REFLECTION



On this Feast of the Immaculate Conception we are invited to reflect on the profound moment when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary the incredible news of her divine calling. In the small town of Nazareth, a young woman found herself at the center of a heavenly plan that would change the world forever.

Mary's initial reaction—deep disturbance—serves as a poignant reminder that receiving God's call can be both overwhelming and confusing. She questions how this incredible task could be possible, given her circumstances. In her vulnerability, we see our own struggles to understand God's will in our lives. The angel's reassuring words, "Do not be afraid," echo through time, inviting us to trust in God's plans even when they seem beyond our comprehension.

We are called to embrace a spirit of openness like Mary's. Her response, "I am the handmaid of the Lord; let what you have said be done to me," demonstrates profound faith and surrender. It is a radical acceptance of God's will, one that encourages us to let go of our fears and desires and to embrace the journey ahead. Just as the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, empowering her for her divine mission, we too can invite that same Spirit into our lives. We can find strength and courage to bear witness to the love of God and to bring hope to those around us.

May we, like Mary, say "yes" to the Lord, trusting that nothing is impossible with God.

INTERCESSION



O Mother of the King of the Universe, most perfect member of the human race, 'our tainted nature's solitary boast,' we turn to you as mother, advocate, and mediator. O Holy Mary, assist us in our present necessity. By your Immaculate Conception, O Mary conceived without sin, we humbly beseech you from the bottom of our heart to intercede for us with your Divine Son and ask that we be granted the favor for which we now plead...

(State your intention here...)

O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of my petition if it be the Divine Will. Amen.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired
by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.
To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and answer me.
Amen

Salve, Regina

Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae;
Vita, dulcedo et spes nostra salve.
Ad te clamamus, exsules filii Hevae.
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.

Eia ergo, advocata nostra,
illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos
converte.
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens, o pia, o dulcis Virgo Maria.

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Star of the deep and portal of the sky!
Mother of him who thee from nothing made,
Sinking we strive, and call to thee for aid:
Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee,
Thou Virgin, first and last, let us thy mercy see.

Salve, Regina

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Hail 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 toward us,
and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
Pray for us O holy Mother Of God,
That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.



The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among 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.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh:
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:
Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the
incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by
His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same
Christ Our Lord.
Amen.



THE MAGNIFICAT AND THE "O" ANTIPHONS OF ADVENT

The Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.



THE MAGNIFICAT AND THE “O” ANTIPHONS OF ADVENT

December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19

O Root of Jesse’s stem, sign of God’s love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

December 20

O Key of David, opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!



PRAYER TO OUR LADY IN ADVENT - ST JOHN PAUL II

May the Virgin Mary help us to open the doors of our hearts to Christ, Redeemer of man and of history;
may she teach us to be humble, because God looks upon the lowly;
may she enable us to grow in understanding the value of prayer, of inner silence, of listening to God's Word;
may she spur us to seek God's will deeply and sincerely, even when this upsets our plans;
may she encourage us while we wait for the Lord, sharing our time and energies with those in need.

ADVENT PRAYER TO BE LIKE MARY

Blessed Mother,
Mary, as we reflect on your yes to bring the Saviour into the world,
we ask that you be with us as we strive to
bring Jesus to all those we encounter.
In this season of joyful hope, we turn to you for guidance.
May we imitate your loving example, and
steadfastly bring peace and justice to our world.
When we are tempted to distance ourselves from another,
give us the grace to say yes to charity.
When we are frustrated,
let us listen with our hearts to our neighbors.
When we are disappointed,
help us seek new solutions as you did when the Inn was full.
Let us embrace our own need for poverty
and humility in order to work toward creative solutions for our world
as we await the coming of Christ.
Amen.



SCRIPTURE TEXTS:

The Jerusalem Bible © 1966 by Darton Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Ltd

The Psalms: A New Translation © 1963 The Grail (England) published by HarperCollins.

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