

Novena for Vocations



A novena is a special form of prayer, where on nine successive days, a prayer is said for some special occasion or intention. The practice of saying novenas is scripturally based, modeled after the nine days of consecutive prayer that the apostles, Blessed Mother, and other followers of Jesus prayed together in the upper room between Jesus' ascension into heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Prayed in communion with the saints, novenas often petition the intercession of specially selected saints (our exemplary role models in faithful living). Let us pray together, with the angels and saints, for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us also pray for all the vocations: for holy marriages in the Church, for deacons, and those that dedicate their lives to Christ in the single life.

May the Lord of the harvest send many to work in His vineyard!

Day 1: Sunday

St. Rubin and St. Edward

With special focus on the virtues of purity and chastity



Saint Rubin of Syria and Saint Edward the Confessor, I implore your intercession today for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. St. Rubin, you stood atop a pillar preaching, fasting, and praying with complete abandonment of self. St. Edward, first English king to attain sainthood, you ruled with renowned piety and generosity, despite the dark times of treachery and greed in which you lived, and remained chaste throughout your life. May your examples of piety, chastity, and selfless devotion to Christ, our youth and to an ever deepening devotion to Christ and the Church. A priest espouses himself wholly in body and soul to Christ, as a bridegroom does unto his bride, like God's relationship with Israel. Let us ask God our Heavenly Father that He send more workers into His vineyard. Oh Saints of God, pray along with me today that all priests and religious remain ever pure of heart, and that God renew a steadfast spirit within them daily, as they are called to serve humbly, devoutly, and lovingly and as ministers of the Word, of the altar, and of charity. Amen.



Recitation of the Rosary: The Glorious Mysteries

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.

Day 2: Monday

St. John the Baptist and St. Stephen

With special focus on the virtue of humility



St. John the Baptist, you inaugurated the Gospel as you leapt in your mother's womb. Prophet surpassing all other prophets, in complete humility you heralded our Holy Redeemer. Baptizing by water and preaching repentance, you prepared the way of our Lord to a world waiting in darkness. St. Stephen, consecrated by Peter as one of the first deacons of the Church, you became an example of total Christian devotion and forgiveness when you laid down your life in love for Christ, forgiving your persecutors with your last breaths. Saints John the Baptist and Stephen, holy saints and martyrs of highest virtue, I ask for your most ardent intercession today for all seminarian who will soon serve the Church by proclaiming the Word of God, preaching repentance and forgiveness, and baptizing in the name of Jesus Christ. Pray that these men will humbly take up their calling to which God bids them. May they always fully live out their baptismal promises and follow your holy examples as a strong voice proclaiming Christ's love and mercy to our hurting and broken world. Intercede before Our Lord for our seminarians and ask that they be stirred with a bold faith and always serve God and others without fear, in holiness and

righteousness all the days of their life. Pray that the Holy Spirit descend upon them and remain with them so that they may live out the words: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3: 30) Amen.



Recitation of the Rosary: The Joyful Mysteries

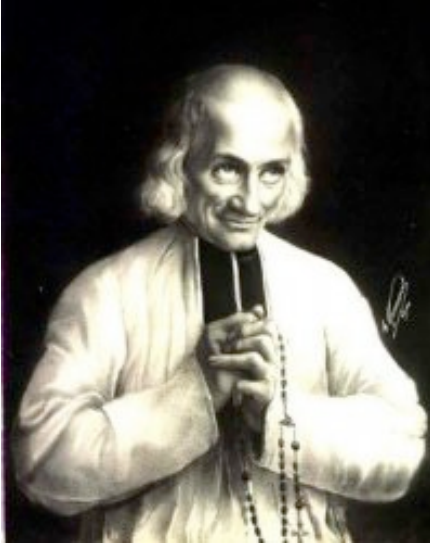
Memorare

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.

Day 3: Tuesday

St. John Vianney and St. Charles Borromeo

With special focus on the priestly heart



Holy St. John Vianney, patron saint of priests, on your journey to the priesthood, you encountered many obstacles, but you realized that to suffer was to suffer with Christ, so you lovingly embraced your cross. Your motto for life became “loving while suffering and suffering in order to love.”

You were totally devoted to the service of God’s people, especially evidenced by your tireless dedication to the confessional, in which you spent entire days. St. Charles Borromeo, patron saint of seminarians, your calling came at a turbulent, terrible time of disunity in the Church. When a strong voice was needed to purify the Church and strengthen the morality of the clergy, you answered God’s call boldly, risking your life to those who wanted to kill you for your stalwart stance and example. In such treacherous times, you resolutely heralded the Gospel of Christ, founded seminaries for the education of priests, set a standard catechism of our faith, and broke

accepted practice of your day by residing in your diocese. Among the people you were called to bishop, you reformed the Catholic education of children, and spoke prayers of comfort and absolution to plague stricken citizens of Milan. O holy Priest of Ars and Great Saint of Milan, you know the needs of your Church. Pray that many young people may, like you, become an example of humility, diligence, charity, and holiness.



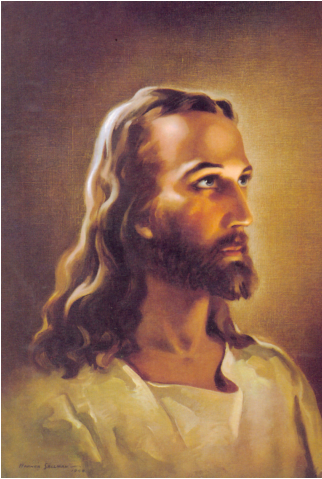
Recitation of the Rosary: The Sorrowful Mysteries

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.

Day 4: Wednesday
The Holy Eucharist

With special focus on union and intimacy with Christ



Lord Jesus, You are God! At each Holy Mass we celebrate that You have become food for our souls, a hidden companion at all times. Bread and wine hide You. How can God humble himself so much so as not to be even seen as human? You, Jesus, wait for us patiently to unite with You seeking, loving, desiring to impart Your graces upon us. Yes, Lord Jesus, You are a Victim and a Sacrifice for us. At communion especially we become part of You and You part of us. If we have the proper disposition, we become totally united with You. May all your faithful be united intimately to You at Communion. Lord, we also pray for more vocations to the priesthood. It is by y our priests that you feed your Church with the Holy



Eucharist. The anointed hands of your priests will consecrate the bread and wine to the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ. May your Church be kept holy and faithful, and may all of your priests be ever more drawn into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. Amen.

Recitation of the Rosary: The Glorious Mysteries

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.

Day 5: Thursday

St. Joseph and St. Michael the Archangel

With special focus on the virtue of obedience



Holy St. Joseph, Carpenter of Nazareth, Guardian of the Redeemer, Protector of Our Lady's Good Name, Patron Saint of the Universal Church and of Workingmen, you were a holy and righteous man. Angels visited you, the Christ Child watched and learned from you, and Mary depended upon you to provide for and protect the Holy Family. You were completely obedient to whatever God asked of you, without ever knowing where your obedient acts would take you or what the outcomes of your obedience would be. Your role in the plan of redemption allowed Jesus to lovingly refer to Himself as the Son of Man. Upon your death, Mary and Jesus must have been very close by, which is the way I also faithfully desire to leave this world at the hour of my own death.

St. Michael the Archangel, messenger of God, you carry out missions at God's command. Upon you mankind depends -- to save us from the powers of satan and all his evil works in this world. God has commanded

you and all the angels to guard us in all our ways. O foster father of Jesus and Angel-Prince of Heavenly Hosts, I implore your holy intercessions for all families. Guard them and pray they follow your highest examples of devoted obedience to the call of Our Father in Heaven to be holy. Implore God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit to pour down upon married couples the special graces needed to stalwartly protect and defend their families from the many influences in the world today that leads our youth away from the Truth. And finally, help families to: "put on the whole armor of God, that he may be able to withstand the wiles of the devil . . . girding his loins with truth . . . putting on the breastplate of righteousness . . . shodding his feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace, and above all, taking the shield of faith." (Eph. 6:11-16) Amen.



Recitation of the Rosary: The Luminous Mysteries

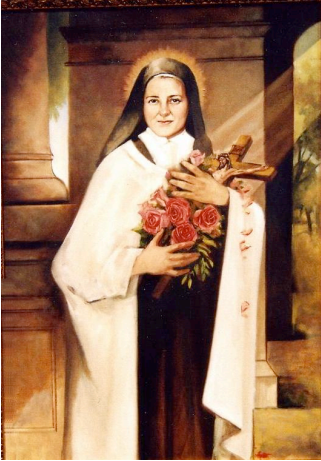
Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any who implored your help and sought your intercession were left unassisted. Full of confidence in your power, I fly unto you, and beg your protection. Despise not, O foster-father of the Redeemer, my humble supplication but in your bounty hear and answer me. Amen.

Day 6: Friday

St. Therese of Lisieux and Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

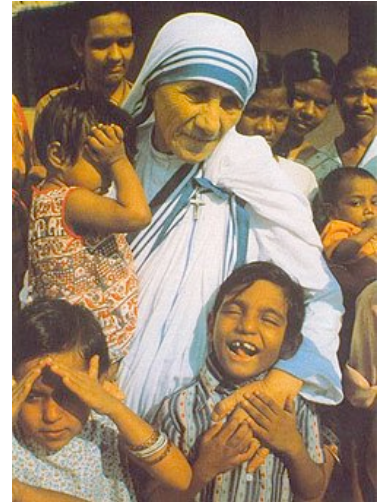
With a special focus on the virtue of charity



O holy women of great faith and charity, slight in stature but big of heart, I call upon your blessed intercession today for a young women. Holy St. Therese, one of the principal duties of Carmelites is to pray for the Church, and you did this throughout your days as a Carmelite nun with great fervor. May there be many women who respond generously to the call to religious life. Most of all, please ask our Lord to form us all in the way of Love.

O Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, you said, "We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love." I pray that our youth learn from your simple words of wisdom and example. Ask Almighty God to gently guide them to be an instrument for our Lord, to be "the little pencil in the hand of God who is sending a love letter to the world."

As servants of the Church, help all us fight against the greatest poverties you saw in the modern world -- loneliness, feeling unwanted, and deciding that an unborn child must die so that one can live as one wishes. Pray that our youth, especially discerning women, will always know, "*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.*" (Where true love and charity are found, God is always there.) Amen.



Recitation of the Rosary: The Sorrowful Mysteries

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.

Day 7: Saturday

St. Peter, St. Paul, and Blessed John Paul II

With a special focus on the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit



Holy Saints Peter and Paul, I ask your special intercession for young men who are being called to become faithful servants in the unbroken apostolic succession of the Church which you first built up. Peter, an unschooled and impetuous fisherman called directly by Jesus, and Paul, an educated Roman citizen ardent in persecuting the early Christians until an unexpected and dramatic conversion, you were highly unlikely in the eyes of men to be destined for glory. But, the eyes of God looked upon you with great favor and He blessed you with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Empowered by wisdom, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, understanding, piety and fear of the Lord, you each magnified God by preaching, teaching, converting and healing in the name of Jesus Christ, winning many souls, Jews and Gentiles alike, for the Kingdom of God. As you now look radiantly upon the face of God in His heavenly kingdom, I ask you to join me in my petition to God today that many will

respond as you did to the Divine invitation to service.

Blessed Pope John Paul II, 264th successor to the Chair of Peter, you called your vocation an “inner fact of unquestionable and absolute clarity.” Pray to Almighty God that those who are being called to the priesthood will be given that clarity as well. Pray that youth use their talents, like you did, to extend the Kingdom of Christ. My this next generation stand firmly for the sanctity of life, the dignity of the human person, encouraging all to open wide the doors of their hearts to Christ. Blessed John Paul II, pray for all the faithful that they always be found praying without ceasing, fighting the good fight, finishing the race, and exemplifying a life of love for Christ, love for the Blessed Virgin Mary, love for the Church. Amen.



Recitation of the Rosary: The Glorious Mysteries

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.

Day 8: Sunday

St. John the Evangelist

With a special focus on Love for Mary



St. John the Evangelist, patron of our diocese, you knew and experienced Christ in a deeply personal way -- on the shores of Galilee, atop Mt. Tabor, in the Garden of Gethsemane, at the foot of the cross, at the side of His beloved mother, and in the empty tomb. You were the disciple Jesus loved the most, and to whom He entrusted the highest privilege, the care of His Holy Mother. With intimate affection and relationship, your Gospel proclaims the good news in highly loving and richly symbolic ways, speaking of Jesus the Christ as the light of the world, the way, the truth, and the life, the bread of life, and the narrow gate. I ask your powerful and tender intercession for our Bishop, priests, deacons, and all the faithful of our diocese. Pray that our Bishop also be a beloved disciple of Christ, boldly approaching the foot of the cross and leading others to the Lamb of God. Pray that all our priests

be holy, faithful and filled with great love. Pray that our deacons follow the example of the holy deacons of old: holy, generous, and actively working to serve the poor. O Holy St. John, that we become heralds of truth who stand patiently in love. Like you, may we not be filled with fear, but rest in the knowledge that "perfect love casts out all fear" (1 John 4:18). Pray that, like Mary, our love for God will grow as we recognize the great love that God has for each of us -- "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3: 16) Amen.



Recitation of the Rosary: The Luminous Mysteries

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.

Day 9: Monday

Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

With a special focus on the gifts of faith, hope, and charity



Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Loving Heart for mankind, Heart on fire for souls, Heart of infinite mercy, Your heart beats every second with love for Your children. Most Sacred Heart, place those whom you are calling to be priests or religious next to Your Heart. May they find refuge in Your Heart, and there, hear your invitation to love and serve. May their hope in Your Heart empower them to cast away all fears and worries. May this hope assist them to brighten lives of the faithful. May their love within Your Heart grow to serve You with great desire in every detail, and release this love with the open-hearted purpose of service for souls, seeing Christ in all, despite any sins or weaknesses. O Most Sacred Heart, increase their faith, hope, and love for Jesus and love for the Immaculate Heart of Mary, because without faith, hope, and love, there is no foundation on which to build heavenly virtues.

O Lord of the harvest, send many faithful workers into your vineyard. Amen.

Recitation of the Rosary: The Sorrowful Mysteries

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine 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.