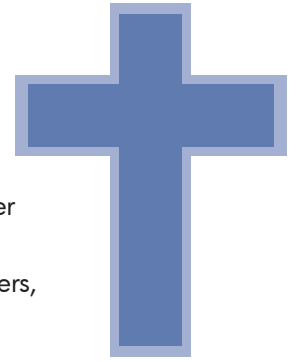


NOVENA FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP



A novena is a traditional form of prayer which takes place over a period of nine days (the number of days which Mary and the Apostles spent in prayer between the Ascension and Pentecost).

To participate in this novena, spend some time during each of the nine days using the daily prayers, reflections, and the Novena Prayer printed below.

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OCT 28 • DAY ONE

OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

READING: Ps 8:2, 4-10

REFLECTION

How will I praise God today? How will I show respect for others, especially my neighbor or those in my community who are not like me?

PRAYER

God of love, may we grow in our love for you by respecting the dignity of all people we encounter.

Amen.

• • •

OCT 29 • DAY TWO

OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

READING: Ps 146:1-8

REFLECTION

Who are the oppressed in your community? How am I helping them secure justice?

How am I helping to feed and give sight to those most in need?

PRAYER

God of Jacob, strengthen our hope in the Lord. Help us to keep the faith by striving for justice in our land. Give us hearts, hands, and feet to truly reach out to those in need.

Amen.

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OCT 30 • DAY THREE

OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

READING: Is 58:2-3, 6-8

REFLECTION

What actions do I perform to please God?

How am I healing the wounds of my community?

PRAYER

God of light, give us the freedom to walk in the footprints of your Son, Jesus. Let our light shine out for all to see by turning to those who call for our help. Heal our wounds, heal our community.

Amen.

NOVENA PRAYER

Immaculate Heart of Mary, help us to conquer the menace of evil, which so easily takes root in the hearts of the people of today, and whose immeasurable effects already weigh down upon our modern world and seem to block the paths toward the future.

From famine and war, deliver us. From nuclear war, from incalculable self-destruction, from every kind of war, deliver us. From sins against human life from its very beginning, deliver us. From hatred and from the demeaning of the dignity of the children of God, deliver us. From every kind of injustice in the life of society, both national and international, deliver us. From readiness to trample on the commandments of God, deliver us. From attempts to stifle in human hearts the very truth of God, deliver us.

From the loss of awareness of good and evil, deliver us. From sins against the Holy Spirit, deliver us. Accept, O Mother of Christ, this cry laden with the sufferings of all individual human beings, laden with the sufferings of whole societies. Help us with the power of the Holy Spirit conquer all sin: individual sin and the "sin of the world," sin in all its manifestations. Let there be revealed once more in the history of the world the infinite saving power of the redemption: the power of merciful love.

May it put a stop to evil. May it transform consciences.
May your Immaculate Heart reveal for all the light of hope. Amen.



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OCT 31 • DAY FOUR

OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

READING: Deut 30:15-20

REFLECTION

How do I defend the right to life especially of the unborn and those near death? How am I tempted to turn away from the commandments and not support the right to life of all people? How can I overcome that temptation?

PRAYER

God of life, may we protect and defend the inviolable sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death with strong voices, gentle hands, and loving hearts.

Amen.

• • •

NOV 1 • DAY FIVE

OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

READING: 1 Cor 11:26-29

REFLECTION

How is the Eucharist central in my life? My community?

Where do I reach out to the body of Christ in my community?

PRAYER

Lord, we come together at the Eucharist to celebrate your death and resurrection.

Help us experience authentic worship.

Help us grow in awareness of each person's dignity, and increase our sensitivity to injustices.

Guide us to seek ways to redress them.

Amen.

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NOV 2 • DAY SIX

OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

READING: Mt 5:43-46

REFLECTION

Who are my enemies? How do I love them?

How do I live up to the definition Jesus provides for living a Christian lifestyle, a life of Christian love?

PRAYER

God of peace,

Give us the courage to be reconciled with our neighbors, our enemies.

Give us the vision to truly see what it means to be a Christian so that peace and justice may rule in our world.

Amen.

NOVENA PRAYER

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NOV 3 • DAY SEVEN

OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

READING: Ephesians 4:1-6

REFLECTION

What divisions exist in my community? What structures in society seem unjust?

How am I striving to achieve justice and peace in my neighborhood, church, and nation?

PRAYER

God of justice, we are created in your image.

May we glorify you in all of our actions.

Amen.

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NOV 4 • DAY EIGHT

OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

READING: Is 32:15-18

REFLECTION

How do I recognize the Spirit's involvement in my life in the community?

PRAYER

Spirit of God, fill our hearts with peace so that we may bring peace to our community.

Amen.

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NOV 5 • DAY NINE

OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love.

READING: Mt 5:13-16

REFLECTION

How are you salt for your community?

How do I shine your light for all the community to see?

What deeds am I performing in order to glorify God?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you give us your love and your grace to do great things.

Give us the faith to shine our light by walking humbly and acting justly before our God.

Amen.

NOVENA PRAYER

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