

Hello Everyone,

Below please find the Novena Prayer that we will be praying starting tomorrow, Friday, 10/8/21 - Saturday, 10/16/21. Isn't it just like God, that we end our novena just in time to refresh ourselves with the Eucharistic celebration during the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

In preparing this novena, we had the opportunity to re-discover what a novena is and can be. It was so amazing, we just had to share it with you. May it be a blessing to you and enrich your prayer time.

The word novena is derived from the Latin, “novem,” which means nine. When we pray a novena, we praise God. We petition for our need or that of a loved one. We also practice waiting and learn to trust and thereby increase our faith and trust in God.

When we pray a novena, we follow the example of the first disciples, who after witnessing Jesus glorious and most mysterious ascension into Heaven, gathered with Mary the mother of God, and together in one place and with one accord, in communion with each other, waited and prayed together for the Holy Spirit to guide them. They freely participated in this act of faith, in both recognition of and in obedience to Jesus Christ.

As recorded by the scripture writer, in the first chapter of Acts of the Apostles, when asked about the future, Jesus says, “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1: 7-8). They prayed continuously for nine days.

When the disciples prayed together for those nine days for the coming of the Holy Spirit, they modeled a powerful method of prayer that has come to be known as a novena.

While most popular in the Roman Catholic Church novenas have been prayed for centuries by millions of Christian believers. It is traditionally prayed for the nine days before Pentecost, but novenas can be longer and can be prayed at other times of the year. Again, traditionally, a novena is prayed via the intercession of one of the saints, at the same time, using the same prayers, for nine consecutive days.

Within the richness of our Church's unified diversity, novenas have been modified taking on new expressions to meet the needs and abilities of those praying them. It is in this light that our novena will be prayed for nine consecutive days and we will use the same prayer. But, given that we all have different responsibilities and the variable restrictions due to COVID-19, we will not be praying in the same location, nor at the same time. If we all commit to pray, using the format below, each of the nine days, our prayers will surely be mystically united, and we too will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us, so that we too can be stronger witnesses for Christ.

St. Ignatius of Loyola (Patron Saint of Discernment)

Pray Daily for 9 Days:

[For those of us were on the road, or just in need of a short quick version, please go to the following website:

<https://novenaprayer.com/st-ignatius-loyola-novena/>]

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

Eternal Lord of all things, I feel your gaze on me. I sense that your Mother stands near, watching; and that with You are all the great beings of heaven: angels and powers and martyrs and saints. Lord Jesus, I think You have put a desire in me. If You will help me, please, I would like to make my offering. I want it to be my desire and my choice, provided that You want it too, to live my life as You lived yours. I know that You lived as an insignificant person in a little, despised town. I know that You rarely tasted luxury and never privilege; and that, You resolutely refused to accept power. I know that You suffered rejection by leaders, abandonment by friends, and failure. I know... I can hardly bear the thought of it all. But it seems a towering wonderful thing that You might call me to follow You and stand with You. I will labor to bring God's reign if You will give me the gift to do it.

(Mention your request here... by all means ask God for what you need to do in this ministry. If you're anxious or nervous, this is a good time to talk to God about that. Sometimes when we commit to do something for God, our personal lives can get a bit rattled. Tell God how it's going for you. He knows your need; but He loves hearing your voice and speaking with Him about it can be so comforting.)

[After talking to God about what you need, please ask God to bless Called & Gifted. Ask Him to be with every member of the team as they continue to work together to bring this to those whom God is calling to participate in it. Lord, strengthen those whom You are calling, nudging, even pushing to participate in Called and Gifted. May Your Holy Spirit fill the atmosphere where we will gather either via technology or in person so that in our time together and in our prayer time when we are apart, our faith may be strengthened, our love for

You and all persons increased, and our hope renewed. Grant us, if You will, a great deal of: patience, acceptance, openness, wisdom, fortitude, courage, compassion, understanding, commitment, and whatever else is needed to be there with/for each other. You know our numerous weaknesses Lord. Please forgive us when we fail to be or to do what You have called us to be or to do.]

St. Ignatius Loyola pray for us. Amen.

Say 1: Our Father... Say 1: Hail Mary... Say 1: Glory Be...

Amen.