

*Novena in
Anticipation of the
Feast of The Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*



The Novena honoring the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary consists of saying the Novena prayer on 9 consecutive days.

For our parish celebration of the Feast of the Assumption (our Patronal Feast) we have developed the following:

A daily novena prayer and prayer for each day.

In addition, this booklet also contains a daily reflection for those who may wish to reflect further following the daily prayers.

Walk with us toward the celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15) with this novena.

Spend a few moments each day contemplating Mary and praying with her.

Each Day pray the Novena Prayer, the Our Father, and the prayer for that day.

Recite the following prayer before the Novena.

Novena Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, You have destroyed the power of death and given the hope of eternal life in body and soul. You granted your mother a special place in your glory, and did not allow decay to touch her body.

As we rejoice in the Assumption of Mary, give to us a renewed confidence in the victory of life over death.

You live and reign forever and ever.

Amen.

Recite after the 3rd Decade

Day 1-

All: Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Jesus and our mother, we believe in your triumphant assumption into heaven where the angels and saints acclaim you as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

We join them in praising you and bless the Lord who raised you above all creatures. With them we honor you.

We are confident that you watch over our daily lives and we ask that you intercede for us now.

(mention your request) O Mary,

We are comforted by our faith in the coming Resurrection and we look to you for prayer and comfort.

After this earthly life, show us Jesus, the blest fruit of your womb, O kind, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary.

O Queen Assumed into Heaven, pray for us.

Amen.

Day 2–

All: Mary, Assumed into Heaven, we venerate you as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. As you tasted the bitterness of pain and sorrow with your Son on earth, you now enjoy eternal bliss with Him in Heaven.

Loving Queen, intercede for us in our needs.

(mention your request) O Mary

We praise Jesus for giving us such a loving mother.

O Queen Assumed into Heaven, pray for us.

Amen.

Day 3–

All: O Mother, Assumed into Heaven, because you shared in all the mysteries of our redemption here below, Jesus has crowned you with glory.

With your most glorious and powerful intercession, help us O loving Mother and present to Jesus our request.

(mention your request) O Mary,

O Queen assumed into Heaven, pray for us.

Amen.

Day 4–

All: O Dearest Mother Mary, Assumed into Heaven, God placed you at His right hand that you may intercede for His little ones as the Mother of God.

In the midst of all the saints you stand as their queen and ours — dearer to the heart of God than any creation. You pray for your children and give to us every grace won by our loving Savior on the Cross.

Please intercede for us in our needs and ask Jesus to grant our request if it be for the good of our souls.

(mention your request) O Mary,

O Queen Assumed into Heaven, pray for us.

Amen.

Day 5-

All: O merciful and loving Mother, may your glorious beauty fill our hearts with a distaste for earthly things and an ardent longing for the joys of Heaven.

May your merciful eyes glance down upon our struggles and our weakness in this vale of tears.

Hear then loving Mother, our request and plead to Jesus for us.

(mention your request) O Mary.

Crown us with the pure robe of innocence and grace here, and with immortality and glory in Heaven.

O Queen Assumed into Heaven, pray for us.

Amen.

Day 6-

All: Mary, our dear Mother and mighty Queen, take and receive our poor hearts with all their freedom and desires, all the love and all the virtues and graces with which they may be adorned.

All we are and all we might be, all we have and hold in the order of nature as well as of grace, we have received from God through your loving intercession.

Help us dear Mother to surrender to God all that we have including our petitions.

(mention your request) O Mary,

Our Lady and Queen, into your gentle hands, we entrust all, that it may be returned to its noble origin.

O Queen Assumed into Heaven, pray for us.

Amen.

Day 7-

All: Mary, Queen of every heart, accept all that we are and bind us to Jesus with the bonds of love, that we may be yours forever and may be able to say in all truth: "I belong to Jesus through Mary".

Our Mother, Assumed into Heaven and Queen of the Universe, ever-Virgin Mother of God, obtain for us what we ask for if it be for the glory of God and the good of our souls.

(mention your request) O Mary,

Our Mother, assumed into Heaven, we love you. Give us a greater love for Jesus and for you.

O Queen Assumed into Heaven, pray for us.

Amen.

Day 8–

All: Mary, Queen Assumed into Heaven, we rejoice that you are the Queen of Heaven and Earth. You have given your holy fiat to God and became the Mother of our Savior.

Obtain peace and salvation for us through your prayers, for you have given birth to Christ our Lord, the Savior of all humankind.

Intercede for us and bring our petitions before the throne of God.

(mention your request) O Mary,

through your prayers, may our souls be filled with an intense desire to be like you, a humble vessel of the Holy Spirit and a servant of the Almighty God.

Pray for us O Queen Assumed into Heaven, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Amen.

Day 9–

All: O Blessed Mother Assumed into Heaven, after years of heroic martyrdom on earth, we rejoice that you have at last been taken to the throne prepared for you in Heaven by the Holy Trinity.

Lift our hearts with you in the glory of your assumption above the dreadful touch of sin and impurity.

Teach us how small earth becomes when viewed from heaven. Make us realize that death is the triumphant gate through which we shall pass to your Son and that someday our bodies shall rejoin our souls in the unending bliss of heaven.

From this earth, over which we tread as pilgrims, we look to you for help.

In honor of your Assumption into Heaven we ask for this favor (mention your request) O Mary,

When our hour of death has come, lead us safely to the presence of Jesus to enjoy the vision of God for all eternity together with you.

Pray for us O Queen Assumed into Heaven, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Amen

After the Rosary Recital, the Novena Leader reads the Mediation. After the reflection, All recite the closing prayer.

Meditations for the Novena

Day 1 **FIDELITY**

Mary's path of hope opens with the Annunciation. It is a simple narrative, but it divides history. Here we see the fidelity of God, the fidelity of Jesus and the fidelity of Mary - a fidelity explained in three words by the angel to Mary, "Rejoice, fear not!" Nothing is impossible for God.

Fidelity is a central attitude of this first stage of Mary's path of hope. In reality, it is the first and essential attitude of the whole life of Our Lady. Everything started at the moment when she says "yes" to God. It is a radical and definitive "yes", but in the obscure light of faith. It is also in faith that she accomplished her journey. This makes her "yes" closer to the exigencies and limits of our own "yes". It was sufficient for her to rely on a triple security - God loved her with predilection, God asked for this consent, for God nothing is impossible. Mary's fidelity is lived in poverty, trust and availability.

Let us ask Mary for the grace to constantly place with confidence our fidelity on God's fidelity.

(silent reflection)

Prayer

Lord our God, we give you thanks for the mystery of the Annunciation. Our hearts have been enlightened through the angel's message and Mary's total trust. May the good news of your salvation be announced to all, and may it be received with faith and gratitude, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Day 2 **POVERTY**

Poverty is another trait of Our Lady during her whole life, but we want to underline it from the beginning of her journey. All paths taken suppose and demand poverty. It is impossible to go on a journey if we are loaded with too many things. A journey is always a detachment from persons and things.

The poverty of Mary was a progressive detachment, a mysterious insecurity and a dark premonition. Her poverty fulfills perfectly the messianic ideal of a "humble and modest" people, the "anawim" who remain faithful and who seek refuge in the name of the Lord. Jesus thought of her above all, when he proclaimed, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." Jesus did nothing but describe Mary when he proclaimed the beatitudes. Thanks to this radical and evangelical poverty, Mary lived in total simplicity, open to the Word of God and in joyful dependence to His will. (silent reflection)

Prayer

Lord God, with love you look at the humble and the poor and You reveal to them, as you revealed to Mary, the presence of your Son. By your Spirit, allow us to see in them the sacrament of your visit, through Jesus Our Lord. Amen.

Day 3— CONTEMPLATION

Contemplation is an essential and permanent trait of Mary. At the birth of Jesus, when the shepherd spoke and narrated all that had been said to them about “the Child,” Mary carefully kept all these words and meditated them in her heart.

The Magnificat is an obvious fruit of Mary’s contemplative spirit. When we want to penetrate into the prayerful soul of Our Lady, let us meditate the Magnificat. It is the song of gratitude, of joy, of praise of Mary, “the poor one.” All throughout the history of salvation, Mary, in deep contemplation, celebrates the fidelity of God towards his servant Israel and the marvels accomplished in his poverty as servant.

In Mary, contemplation is the work of the Holy Spirit who, in her, brought the Word of God to life. From the serene depths of this contemplation, Mary simultaneously perceives the presence of God in her and the imperatives of serving her brethren. “Mary left in haste...” (silent reflection)

Prayer

Blessed are you, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ. In Him, the Rising Sun and Victorious Light, You come to visit us. Grant us to recognize your coming, and with Mary, we shall exalt on this day and forever and ever. Amen.

Day 4 -SERVICE

Mary’s attitude of service appears, above all, in the wedding at Cana. Mary, “the contemplative,” is the first one to discover the problem of the young couple and she involves herself in their service. “They have no more wine.” “Do whatever He tells you.” These words of Our Lady, born from her deep faith in her Son and from a delicate love for the young couple, express the realism and fecundity of contemplation. It is always like that - when contemplation is real, it creates in us a great aptitude for service. Only contemplatives have this special capacity to immediately discover the problem of others, the inexhaustible capacity for giving.

Mary’s service, through the mysterious detachment of her whole life, goes up to the generous gift of her son for the evangelization of men and women and as an offering of reconciliation to the Father. (silent reflection)

Prayer

God of Love, You made a humble woman of our race to be the mother of your Son.

Through Mary's intercession, grant us to recognize the Christ in each of our brothers and sisters and live serving one another until that day when together, we shall sing your praise forever and ever. Amen.

Day 5 - -LISTENING TO THE WORD

Listening is another trait proper to Our Lady in her long path of silence during which she accompanies the apostolic and missionary work of her Son. The evangelist Luke presents to us two instances of Mary "listening" attentively to the Word of God. On one occasion where Jesus was preaching to the crowd who followed him, someone said: "Your mother and your brothers are here to see you." He replied, "My mother and my brothers are those who listen to the Word of God and put it into practice." (Lk. 8, 19-21). Here Jesus establishes the real parental bond with Mary. Mary was able to give us Jesus in the flesh because first of all, full of faith, she welcomed Him in her heart.

Mary is "happy" because she gave us Jesus, the Son of God made man. But this was made possible because "the humble servant of the Lord" knew how to say "yes" to the Word she received. To live listening to the Word of God means possessing a great contemplative capacity. Only the poor in spirit are capable of it.
(silent reflection)

Prayer

Lord God, at every moment you await our response of faith. Grant us to allow the Word that took flesh in Mary to bear fruit: the Word, who is Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Day 6 - - AN OFFERING

Let us contemplate Mary as she offers her Son to the Father. It is a providentially powerful moment when Mary feels Jesus is truly her own. He is not only her Son, but also her Redeemer. "At the foot of the Cross stood His Mother" (Jn.19 : 25-27).

Mary understands and feels the rending pain of her offering; but she also experiences her mysterious fruitfulness. Never has she ever felt so alone - her Son dies. But never also has she ever felt accompanied and even more fruitful. The Church is born. "Behold your son" (the Church, humanity).

The world cannot live without Christ. "God so loved the world that He gave his only Son." Today the world cannot live without "the Church, the Body of Christ." Everything is fruit of the love of the Father; but everything, too, is fruit of the generosity - so serene and strong, painful and fruitful - of Mary. (silent reflection)

Prayer

Lord, you willed that the mother of your Son, standing by the Cross, be one in his sufferings. Grant that your Church be also united with the passion of Christ in order to participate in His resurrection. We make this prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Day 7 - COMMUNION

At the Cenacle we see Mary presiding over the community of apostles and disciples with love and prayerful hope. Mary's presence is fundamental for communion. Mary is there in the missionary beginnings of the Church, as she was at the start of the evangelical activity of Jesus. It is good for us to think of Mary, Mother of Jesus, belonging to this community of faithful disciples, listening with docility to the apostles and participating in their Eucharistic celebration.

In our journey of hope with Mary, this attitude of communion is fundamental. Mary lived it in silence, prayer and the experience of the cross. Communion demands detachment and death. It demands encounter and reconciliation. Above all, it demands a total fidelity to the Word of God.

The total mystery of Mary is a mystery of communion - between heaven and earth, between God and humanity, between contemplation and service - because her whole life was a pure obedience of faith to the Father's will. Mary's fidelity renders communion possible. Communion, in reality, is a concrete expression of fidelity. (silent reflection)

Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God! The Virgin, full of grace, was total availability to your Word. Through her intercession, open our lives to Him who wants to be born in us as he was one day born in her, Mary, the mother of your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Day 8 - MISSION

The Church that manifested itself at Pentecost is essentially missionary. By the power of the Spirit, the first Church grew and was shaped, built up by the Word and the Eucharist, but the Church continues to be born daily in the faithful heart of Our Lady. She is born in the contemplative silence of Mary, given flesh by the Word to be contemplated. Mission demands ardor and transparency from one who gives testimony, fidelity and courage from the prophet, serene strength from the martyr. Because of this, mission demands contemplation, interior coherence, and serenity before the cross.

Mary's contemplative silence made the Church grow from within. Her perfect docility to the Spirit assures interior unity in the Church and effectivity in her missionary expansion. (silent reflection)

Prayer

Father, through your liberating Spirit, you transformed the apostles. Through Mary's intercession, spread out this same Spirit on your Church praying for the world. May she be today the sign of a new freedom, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Day 9 - .HOPE

Mary's path, especially after Pentecost, becomes a path of hope. It is a path taken essentially in the company of the Risen One.

From Pentecost, her path is that of silence and witnessing of the early Christian community until, tradition tells us, her peaceful dormition and glorious assumption into heaven. Here we behold the plenitude of the mystery of Mary: her Paschal mystery.

The mystery of the Assumption of Our Lady is essentially a mystery of hope, because it teaches us to look at and to ardently desire what is definitive. Our world needs hope -- a hope that needs to move into what is truly good, towards God's good pleasure, towards encounter and unchanging communion, towards the building of a truly new society, towards the possession of the new heaven and the new earth where justice reside. Mary accompanies us in our own journey of hope towards the encounter with the Lord. We are sure that she constantly gives us to Jesus, that she helps us to discover in our daily life the face of her Son and makes us count on his fidelity, that she prepares us in view of the encounter with Him and that she will show us at the end of our pilgrimage, the blessed Fruit of her womb. (silent reflection)

Prayer

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.