

Divine Mercy Novena

First Day:

Today bring to Me ALL MANKIND, ESPECIALLY ALL SINNERS, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. In this way you will console Me in the bitter grief into which the loss of souls plunges Me.

Most Merciful Jesus, whose very nature it is to have compassion on us and to forgive us, do not look upon our sins but upon our trust which we place in Your infinite goodness. Receive us all into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart, and never let us escape from It. We beg this of You by Your love which unites You to the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon all mankind and especially upon poor sinners, all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion show us Your mercy, that we may praise the omnipotence of Your mercy for ever and ever. Amen.

RECITATION OF THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

(To be led & then recited by all)

1. Make the Sign of the Cross

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

2. Optional Opening Prayers

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat three times)

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!

3. Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

4. Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst 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.

5. The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

6. The Eternal Father

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

7. On the 10 Small Beads of Each Decade

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

8. Repeat for the remaining decades

Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

9. Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

10. Optional Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

The Way of the Cross

*At the cross her station keeping
Stood the mournful Mother weeping
Close to Jesus to the last.
In her heart His sorrow sharing,
All His bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword had passed.*

Opening Prayer

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

To you, eternal Father, we now offer this tribute of our worship in a spirit of humility and with a contrite heart. May it redound to your honor and glory, and make us and all faithful Christians, both living and dead, deserving of the forgiveness of our sins, the increase of grace, and the reward of everlasting life.

**Let us glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
In whom is salvation, life, and resurrection.**

Let Us Pray

O God, through the passion, death, and resurrection of your Son, you showed us the path to eternal glory by the way of the Cross. As we now follow him by our prayers to the place of Calvary, may we also share in his victory over sin and death, and be received into his kingdom for all eternity, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever. Amen.

*See, how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother highly blessed
Of the sole Begotten One!
Christ above is torment hangs:
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying glorious Son.*

FIRST STATION: Jesus Is Condemned to Death

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

In the morning, the chief priests, elders, scribes, and the whole council, binding Jesus, led him away and took him to Pilate. And they all condemned his, saying: He is guilty of death; we have found this man saying that he is Christ the King. And Pilate, sitting in the place of judgement, handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

**God spared not his only Son.
But delivered him up for all of us.**

Let Us Pray

O Lord Jesus Christ, you came down upon earth from the glory of the Father in heaven, and shed your precious blood for the remission of our sins. We humbly pray that, on the day of judgement you may find us worthy to be placed at your right hand, and to hear your words: Come, you blessed of my Father! This we ask of you now living and reigning forever. Amen.

*Who, on Christ's dear Mother gazing,
Pierced by anguish so amazing,
Born of woman, would not weep?*

SECOND STATION: Jesus Takes Up His Cross

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

Carrying his Cross, Jesus went forth to the place called Calvary. Hail, O Christ our King! You alone had pity on the folly of our sins. Obedient to the will of the Father, you are led forth to be crucified, like an innocent lamb to the slaughter. To you be glory; to you be triumph and victory over sin and death; to you the crown of highest honor and acclaim.

**The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
For the wickedness of his people he has stricken him.**

Let Us Pray

Lord, you once said: Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Grant that we may be able so to carry it as to obtain your saving grace. This we ask of you now living and reigning forever. Amen.

*Who, on Christ's dear Mother thinking,
Such a cup of sorrow drinking,
Would not share her sorrows deep?*

THIRD STATION: Jesus Falls the First Time Under the Cross

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ humbled himself to the point of death, even to death on the Cross. That is why God exalted him above every creature, and gave him a name that is above all other names. Come, let us adore and bow down in worship before God; let us weep in the presence of the Lord who made us, for he is indeed the Lord our God.

**Surely he has borne our infirmities.
And he had carried our sorrows.**

Let Us Pray

Almighty God and Father, we confess that we are weak and that we often fall in the midst of trials and sufferings. Through the merits of the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ, your only begotten Son, give us new courage and hope. This we ask in Jesus' Name, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

*Gracious Mother, Font of Love,
Touch my spirit from above,
Make my heart with yours accord.*

FOURTH STATION: Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

To what shall I compare you? Or to what shall I liken you, virgin daughter of Jerusalem? For great as the sea is your distress. O Mother of mercy, grant that we may always realize in ourselves the death of Jesus and share with him in his saving passion.

**A sword of sorrow has pierced your soul.
And has filled your heart with bitter pain.**

Let Us Pray

Lord Jesus Christ, at the hour of your cruel death on the Cross, a sword of sorrow pierced the grieving soul of the Virgin Mary, your Mother. May she plead for clemency in our behalf, now and at the hour of our death. This we ask of you now living and reigning forever. Amen.

*Make me feel as you have felt;
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ my Lord.*

FIFTH STATION: Simon of Cyrene Is Forced to Take Up the Cross

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

As the soldiers were leading Jesus away on the road to Calvary, they laid hold of a certain Simon, of Cyrene, a passerby, who was coming in from the country, and forced him to take up the Cross of Jesus. If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

**Whoever does not carry his cross and come after me.
Cannot be my disciple.**

Let Us Pray

O God of grace and might, accept our prayers and sacrifices, and be moved to have mercy on us. Strengthen us in our weakness so that our rebellious wills may yield to your divine will in all things. This we ask of you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender child
All with bloody scourges rent.*

SIXTH STATION: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

Lo, we have seen him, and there is not beauty in him, nor comeliness. He is despised and rejected, a man of sorrows, his face full of grief. He is worn out by suffering, like one in whose presence the people hide their faces. He is scorned and disdained. His appearance is that of one tortured beyond human endurance. And yet he is fairer than all the sons of men, and by his wounds we are healed.

**Turn not your face away from us.
And withdraw not from your servants in your anger.**

Let Us Pray

O God, renew us according to your own image and likeness by the precious blood of Jesus Christ your Son. Guide our footsteps in your paths, that we may truly experience the gift of your divine charity. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

*For the sins of his own nation,
He now walks in desolation,
Till his earthly life is spent.*

SEVENTH STATION: Jesus Falls a Second Time

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

They delivered me into the hands of the impious, they cast me out among the wicked, and they spared not my life. The powerful gathered together against me, and like giants they stood against me. Afflicting me with cruel wounds, they mocked me.

**But I am a worm and no man.
The reproach of men and the outcast of the people.**

Let Us Pray

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up our fallen world. Grant your faithful people abiding peace and joy. Deliver us from the perils of eternal death, and guide us to eternal happiness in heaven. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Holy Mother, pierce me through:
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.
Let me share with you his pain,
Who for all my sins was slain,
Who for me in torments died.*

EIGHTH STATION: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

Following Jesus on the road to Calvary was a great multitude of people and of women who bewailed and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said: Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. Remember that the days are coming when they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us," and to the hills, "Cover us." If they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?

**They who sow in tears.
Shall reap in joy.**

Let Us Pray

O God, you chose rather to have mercy than to be angry with those who put their hope in you. Grant us your grace that we may truly grieve and make amends for the evil we have done, and thus obtain the gift of your heavenly consolation. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Let me join with you in grief,
Take away my unbelief,
All the days that I may live.*

NINTH STATION: Jesus Falls a Third Time

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

My people, what have I don't to you, or in what have I grieved you? Answer me. I brought you out of the land of Egypt, and you have led me to the gibbet of the Cross. Forty years I fed you with manna in the desert, and you have beaten me with blows and scourges. What more should I have done for you that I have not done?

**He was led as a sheep to the slaughter.
He was mute as a lamb before the shearer.**

Let Us Pray

Guard us, O God on High, by your ever present mercy and goodness. Without your help, we cannot overcome the evil that beckons us, because of our weak human nature. Without you we shall surely fall. Help us to avoid all that is sinful, and guide our steps in the way of all that is profitable for our salvation. This we ask of you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*At the cross with you to stay,
There with you to weep and pray,
This I ask of you to give.*

TENTH STATION: Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

They came to the place that is called Golgotha, or Calvary, the Place of the Skull. There they gave him wine to drink, mingled with gall. He tasted it, but would not drink. They divided his garments among them by drawing lots, and thus was fulfilled what the prophet had said: They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots.

**They gave me gall for my food.
And in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.**

Let Us Pray

Strip us, Lord Jesus, of our former self, with its evil deeds and ways. And clothe us with that newness of nature which you have created in justice, holiness, and truth. This we ask of you now living and reigning forever. Amen.

*Virgin of all virgins blest,
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share your grief and pain.*

ELEVENTH STATION: Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

Having arrived at the place called Calvary, they crucified him there, and with him two thieves, one on the right, the other on the left, and Jesus in the midst. My people, what have I done to you? I exalted you with great power, and you have hanged me on the gibbet of the Cross.

**They have pierced my hands and feet.
They have numbered all my bones.**

Let Us Pray

O God, by the sacred passion of your only begotten Son, and by the five wounds from which his blood was poured, you repaired the evil wrought by sin in our human nature. As we on earth revere the wounds which he received, we pray that in heaven we may experience the fruit of his most precious blood. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Let me to my latest breath
In my body bear the death
Of your risen Son, once slain.*

TWELFTH STATION: Jesus Dies on the Cross

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

When Jesus saw his Mother at the foot of the Cross and, standing her, the disciple whom he loved, he said to his Mother: Woman, behold your son. After that he said to the disciple: Behold your mother. Having tasted the vinegar, Jesus said: It is finished. Then, crying in a loud voice, he said: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit. And, bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

[All kneel and pause for a short time]

**Christ for our sake became obedient unto death.
Even to death on the Cross.**

Let Us Pray

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, at the sixth hour you mounted the gibbet of the Cross for the redemption of the world, and shed your precious blood for the remission of our sins. We humbly beg that, after our death, we may enter with joy the gates of paradise. This we ask of you now living and reigning forever. Amen.

*Let his stripes and scourings smite me,
At his holy cross requite me;
Let his blood refresh me there.*

THIRTEENTH STATION: The Body of Jesus Is Placed in the Arms of His Mother

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

All you who pass by the way, look, and see if there be any sorrow like my sorrow. My eyes are spent with weeping, my whole being is troubled, and my strength is poured out upon the earth, as I behold the cruel death of my Son, for the enemy has prevailed against him. Call me not Naomi (that is, beautiful), but called me Mara (that is, bitter), for the Almighty has afflicted me and has dealt quite bitterly with me.

**Tears are on her cheeks.
And there is none to comfort her.**

Let Us Pray

At your passion, Lord Jesus, as Simeon had foretold, a sword of sorrow pierced the sweet soul of Mary, your glorious Virgin Mother. As we now reverently recall her bitter anguish and suffering, grant that we may obtain the blessed fruits of your redemption. This we ask of you now living and reigning forever. Amen.

*When the flames of hell would end me,
At the judgement day, defend me,
Gentle Virgin, with your prayer.*

FOURTEENTH STATION: Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

Joseph of Arimathea, who was also a disciple of Jesus, went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and Pilate ordered it to be given to him. Having taken the body down from the Cross, Joseph wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in a rock. And he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.

**You will not leave my soul in the netherworld.
Nor will you let your holy one see corruption.**

Let Us Pray

Lord Jesus Christ, you left us a record of your passion in the holy shroud wherein Joseph wrapped your sacred body when it was taken down from the Cross. In your mercy, grant that through your death and burial we may experience the glory of your resurrection. This we ask of you now living and reigning forever. Amen.

*Jesus, when you call me hence,
Be your Mother my defense.
Be your Cross my sacrifice.
While my body here decays,
May my soul your goodness praise,
Safe with you in paradise.*

Concluding Prayer

Let Us Pray

O God, you willed that your only begotten Son should suffer and die on the Cross for us, in order to rescue us from the power of the enemy. As we now glory in honoring that same holy Cross, grant that we may everywhere rejoice in your loving care and obtain the grace of rising with him. This we ask of you through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.