

NOVENA
TO THE CHRIST CHILD



Translated

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from: Nobenan Nino Jesus
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NOVENA TO THE CHRIST CHILD

Our Father . . .

Hail Mary . . .

I believe in God . . .

Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God, come to my assistance, Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be . . .

OPENING PRAYER

Sweet Jesus, Savior of mankind. You have graciously dwelt with us, you longed to be with little children, for you once said: "Let the children come to me for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Lord, let us come before you. We kneel and pray to you that you have mercy on our sins and frailty, and that you give us grace and mercy which we long for from your small and all powerful hand.

At this novena we are striving to let others know of your loveable image. And we pray that you give us light and grace from heaven which will enable us to remember the sweet passing of your divine childhood.

And those thoughts are combined with the powerful prayers of your mother Mary, who will reveal to us and cause us to love you in this vale of tears.

THE FIRST DAY

(The birth of the Child Jesus)

Picture in your mind the Child Jesus at the cave in Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling clothes, laying on a bed of straw between two animals breathing on him to keep him warm. How poor, small and helpless the Almighty Son of God.

See Mary and Her husband Joseph knelling and adoring the Lord of heaven and earth. The angels glorify and sing his praises. That night when the Son of God became Man was brighter than the clear noon day sun. And a wondrous star appeared in the East pointing to all on earth where the Child Jesus dwells.

We believe in the Child whom we see; he is the one who created us out of nothing and he is the Almighty Lord who is without end, the Eternal God who became man by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he is the one who saved us. What we see there is a child cradled by his Mother and fondled by Joseph his foster-father, and who is adored by the poor and believing shepherds of Bethlehem. But that Child will grow in a humble place in Nazareth, who will work as a carpenter, from the sweat of his brow he will eat his bread and that his life will be about thirty years. And when that is done he will suffer much, carry the cross for our sins, he will pour out his life for us on the wood of the cross. The people who believe in him, if they follow his teaching and his will, will enter the kingdom of heaven. But the hard hearted who disbelieve will suffer eternal damnation in hell.

MY LORD AND MY GOD

O Wisdom who comes from the mouth of God the Most High, who reaches the beginning and end of time, guiding creation with power and love. Come, teach us the paths of knowledge.

THREE YEARNINGS OF THE SOUL

O God who became a Child. You said: "he who asks will receive." Give me what I ask of you before your image. Our Father.

O God who became a Child. You said: "he who seeks will find." Let me find the good that I seek because I know that it is in the closed palm of your hand. Our Father . . .

O God who became a Child. You gave word to the people that "he who knocks will be opened unto". Listen to me knocking at the door of your merciful heart. Open for me so that I may enter and stay with you forever. Our Father . . .

(Pause now and ask for the favors you seek at this novena.)

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray. All powerful and eternal God, Lord of heaven and earth who was seen by the small ones. We ask you to lead us to the true belief of your Child Jesus and to follow your will in our lives, and to enable us to reach your kingdom promised to the poor in spirit. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus became man like us. And he gave himself up to death who delivered us by his death, who earned his everlasting Name.

Blessed be the name of the Lord. Now and forever.

PRAYER

O God who sent your only begotten Son to save all men, and who was named JESUS. Please give us the grace to honor his Name on Earth and to please you in heaven because of his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SECOND DAY

(Everything as in the first day except)

(The most holy name "Jesus")

Picture in your mind the angels and all peoples kneeling and bowing to the most holy name of Jesus, a name which is above every other name, chosen by God in heaven before the world began commanded that the only Son of God be called "Jesus."

The name "Jesus" gives hope. Heaven was closed for a long time because of sinful people. But the Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, joyfully came to earth. He poured his precious blood and he saved us from our sins and from the clutches of the evil one Satan. On the first of the New Year the Son of Mary was circumcised. It was the will of God that the one born from Mary will wake up to the name JESUS, which means "Savior," a name all in heaven, on earth and under the earth will fall down to in worship. That divine name will effectively save the people if they so desire. The holy name JESUS can reap for us grace and mercy from heaven together with the help of God to keep us from falling into temptation, and that he will give us countless blessings on earth especially those which will truly benefit us spirituality. We believe this because of the truth that his Holy Name is all powerful when we say it and because God the Father will hear us in his name especially if it comes from our hearts.

THE THIRD DAY

(Everything as in the first day except)

(The Shepherds' visit)

Picture in your mind the shepherds at Bethlehem. They were told by the angel of God in the fields and they came to the place where he lay. It was a bright night. They slowly entered and came up and knelt before the Child Jesus. Words cannot express the deep feelings they had as they beheld the Divine Child of Mary who looked at them lovingly. Their lips and hearts were saying that this child was the long-awaited Messiah or the Christ who will save the children of Israel. The shepherds believed and loved God; they teach me that it is better that I love God with all my heart.

The Lord our God first loved us. And we are trying to respond to him. God loves us so much because he is a merciful Father. It was because of his love that we came from nothing and he desires that we be in heaven to enjoy everlasting happiness. But that is not enough. Inflamed by His great love for us, He sent down his only Son and He allowed him to be crucified to pay for our sins.

God the Son also burned with love for us when he left heaven and became man and embraced poverty and pain and death on the cross, because he desired that our hard heartedness be softened. He overpowers us; what shall we give in return? That we love him. That we love God the Father who has power over our hearts with his love more than we can ever hope to give in our lives.

Can our love be like His love?

THE FOURTH DAY

(Everything as in the first day except)

(The Wisemen visit)

Picture in your mind seeing the brightest star seen in the East and the three wise men following it riding on their camels and they came to Judea where they knelt before the Newborn King of the Jews giving him gold, frankincense and myrrh. The star rests on the cave where the Child Jesus was.

It was an animal stable that the King of heaven found lodging. The great and all powerful God-made-Man especially loved the poor, the helpless and the pitiful. The Three Wisemen were guided by their living faith. Very wise and faithful, they entered the palace of the King, the Son of God, kneeling before the Child who made heaven and earth and all within it, this Jesus who was with his Mother and St. Joseph. They worshipped him and gave gold to the Small King, frankincense to the Great God, and myrrh for the anointing of God-made-Man on his day of death and burial.

We too are trying to follow the good work they did; and we give to Jesus our hearts and our love. We pour out to him our prayers, like sweet-smelling incense which ushers forth from our inmost beings. And at the same time we offer him our good works, more loving than the myrrh; because the work of a christian surpasses its fruit and the fragrance of all trees.

But the Lord Jesus wants something more of us. His will is that we be loving and kind to our neighbor and that we work to alleviate the suffering because God himself worked to help the poor and the suffering, the orphan and the sick. When Our Lord was on earth he said: "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, that you do unto me."

That is why we will have mercy and help the poor with our little or great strength of our hands and with all that we have.

THE FIFTH DAY

(Everything as in the first day except)

(The presentation of Jesus)

Picture in your mind Joseph and Mary going to the temple in Jerusalem on the fortieth day of the birth of the Child Jesus. Joseph and Mary turns the child over to Simeon who carries him and offers God the Father his only Son because he knows that the Child he is carrying in his arms is not of man but of God in heaven. The Child Jesus even though he is not saying anything is giving himself to his Father, exchanged as sacrificial offering because he desires that the children of Adam and Eve eventually go to heaven. God the Father, in his glorious throne in heaven, is filled with joy and accepts joyfully the gift of Jesus Christ his Son and that of Mary his Mother. He receives him even though he knows that in thirty three years he will be offered again from the hands of his mother.

In the end, the Child Jesus offered two turtle-doves as prescribed by Moses for the poor and those who don't have much.

We, too, are told to give God our possessions because they are his. We are committed to see God as our Lord; because from his hand we came from nothing; and this offering we make frequently, especially in the morning when we arise from sleep; and again on Sundays and holy days, We obey Holy Mother the Church and joyfully will we go to Mass and do the work of a Christian, those deeds of mercy which will remind us that to the Lord belongs our body and soul and the things which we call ours. How will we ever obey that holy calling?

THE SIXTH DAY

(Flight into Egypt)

Picture in your mind Herod the King commanding that they kill the Child Jesus, because he was jealous of him. On that day they killed children who were two years or less in Bethlehem and neighboring towns. God told Joseph in a dream that someone is trying to kill the Child and the holy patriarch that same night took the Child and his Mother and they fled to Egypt. They stayed there for seven years. When the wicked and cruel king died, the angel of the Lord told Joseph to return to Israel. And so they left and they stayed in Nazareth.

That is what God does to the souls he chooses. If God wanted he could have killed Herod or dissuaded him not to endanger the Divine Child. But he preferred that the wicked king nail his own bad thoughts. He wanted to teach us that the saints on earth sometimes must suffer and be buffeted. And that, in truth, is the way to heaven, very narrow, thorny, and pitiful.

We too try to imitate them so that if we want to get to heaven, if we become a friend of God, we know that we have to expect suffering and pain in our lives. Should evil be done to us or suffering come our way, what can we do? We will follow the patience and the incomparable courage of Mary and her husband Joseph; we will remain quiet and serve God if that be his will.

Such ought to be our patience when we were suffering and persecuted by the people.

THE SEVENTH DAY

(Everything as in the first day up to here)

(The house of Israel)

Picture in your mind seeing the Holy Family in a small home in Nazareth where Jesus, Mary and Joseph lives. Christ is now eight years old. As beautiful as the sky, merciful in his speech, sweet in his demeanor towards people. He grew in wisdom and grace. Morning and night he prays like God-made-Man, kneeling before his Father, and his Father glorifying him in his work. At times he works with Joseph. At times he helps his mother at home; then at times they go out together among the people and they marvel at his words of wisdom and his whole life. They were in Egypt for seven years and their joy was even greater when they returned home to a more comfortable home in Nazareth. And the thought came to their minds that the wonderful Child of theirs will one day suffer and die.

The aroma of the Lord as God gives joy to the people when he sees how helpless they are. He mixes joy with sorrow in the home. We know that; We will not exult ourselves if we find richness which quickly passes away. We will not be empty inside if troubles worry us as if God is absent or abandoned us. But we will praise the Lord in good times and in bad because he has given both to us, and these will help us attain heaven; and that is all he asks of us in exchange for the good and salvation of our souls. We will not let the day go by without praising his Holy Name.

But what shall we do in the meantime in good times and in bad times?

THE EIGHTH DAY

(Everything as in the first day up to here)

(Jesus in Jerusalem's Temple)

Picture in your mind before you the loving Child Jesus with Mary his mother and Joseph, they are being escorted with the crowd to Jerusalem. All three stopped there. After finishing their worship they return to their home. Mary mixes among the women, Joseph goes with the men. The child can go with either. In the middle of their journey home Joseph and Mary met and both presumed that Jesus was with the other. They began to worry as if a hammer struck at their hearts. No one in the caravan saw Jesus among any of them.

We think, we reflect here the deep sorrow of Mary and Joseph. They are obedient to the will of God but their hearts are twisted with the loss of the child. They returned to Jerusalem and looked every nook and cranny of Jerusalem's roads.

Why did he leave his parents? It was to show us that he had to do his Father's will in heaven. If our Lord wanted us to do his will, that we will do first. If our hearts are overburdened with sorrow and the tears of our parents or relatives, we will think of Christ's incidence and his parents' response that God comes before man. Mary and Joseph lost the child but not deliberately. But God has his ways and he tried their patience because he loves them much. When, after three days of fruitless searchings, they went with the scribes of the temple and they found Jesus sitting among the doctors of the law asking and being asked questions.

And us, have we not lost God and deliberately so? Yes, we fell and sinned against God seriously. We lost Jesus, we are truly lost. How bad. How wicked. And today will we not look again and be sorry for what we have done in our hearts and promise that we will be faithful to the God we don't want to abandoned? Are we not asking the Divine Heart to have mercy on us?

Yes. We will confess our sins, and will serve God our Savior and his people.

THE NINTH DAY

(Everything as in the first day up to here)

(The obedience of Jesus)

Picture in your mind before you the Child Jesus when he left the temple of Jerusalem and went back down to Nazareth with Joseph and Mary. He remained there thirty years obedient to them. When the Child Jesus left his parents for three years and was found in the temple he taught us that we must be obedient to the will of God and must put aside love for ourselves if it does not conform to the will of the Most High.

But when he returned to Nazareth we are told of nothing more than that he was subject to Joseph and Mary. He wanted to show us that it is blessed to be obedient to parents and those in authority because it is God whom we obey in them, who are His representative in the end obeys God who is in heaven. But he who does not obey God's representative on earth disobeys God himself in heaven. For it is true that parents and those in positions of authority are not to abuse their use of authority commanding evil.

Disloyal, rebellious man; who does not like to obey; who does not like to be a subject? But if we are to see the Son of God who became a child and obeyed his mother, Mary, and his foster-father, Joseph, how much more must you become obedient?

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him born, the King of angels.
2. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation.
Sing, all ye citizens of Heav'n above:
Glory to God, in the highest glory!
3. *Adeste fideles, Laeti triumphantes:
Venite, venite in Bethlehem;
Natum videte, Regem angelorum:*

Chorus: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
*Venite adoremus, Venite adoremus,
Venite adoremus Dominum.*

SILENT NIGHT

1. Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin-Mother and Child.
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.
3. Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at thy birth, Jesus Lord, at thy birth.