

NOVENA TO THE BLESSED MOTHER:

Day 1: Oh, Mother of Mothers, most pure and tender consoler, You, who gave perfect welcome, joy, love and adoration to Our Blessed Savior, who fed on the sublime nourishment of Your womb, take me, your imperfect and suffering child, into the womb of Your Immaculate Heart. There, console me, bathe me in the forgiveness of Jesus, heal my poor damaged soul and take me trembling before the Majesty of Your Son. Tell Him of my love for You, His Mother, to Whom He can refuse nothing. He listens to You Who gave Him the Holy of Holies, the New Ark of the Covenant, Your spotless womb within which to be prepared for the awful reality of God becoming Man. You became my Mother at the foot of the Cross. Let me run to You, Mother, as a child, and be lifted up into Your arms to protect me from the world and the snares set by Satan. I love You Mary. Let Jesus know that I love You so that His Justice to me may be melted like snow by the saving warmth of His infinite Mercy. Amen.

Prayer Request:

Mary, my Mother, please pray with me and perfect my prayer.

Our Father.....Hail Mary.....Glory Be

Day 2: Dearest Mother, we extol Your maternity with awe and reverence for the Divine Life You carried with such love. You showed us how to accept new life, no matter how much it disturbed the rhythm of Your former life. Only You know the intimate works of love whispered in Your Immaculate heart to the Sacred Heart of Your Baby, beating within Your womb. Oh, Mother of all mothers, whisper also to the hearts of all women. Help them to know that they are loved. Help them in turn to love the little souls entrusted to their care. Help them to welcome new life into their wombs with you and wonder at God's miracle. Help all fathers to give manly and holy support to their wives and to rejoice in the mystery of their paternity.

We implore You also Dear Mother, to awaken the conscience of humanity to the sacred trust we hold as regards to our own lives. Let us never sink into the pitiful and pitiless embrace of mercy-killing. Rather, help us to see life as God's Blessing, to know death as God's Calling and to accept our suffering as a joyful cross with which to save souls. Great Mother, we entrust our unborn children to You and our suffering brothers and sisters to You, knowing that You will cherish these with a love beyond our imagining. Amen

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Day 3: Oh, Mother of my brother Jesus, Mother of John who represented the whole Church, Mother of me, a sorry sinner, could you in your pity, take me into your house? Mary, I need sanctuary. I need the hospitality of the heart. I need you to love me as only the perfect Mother can. I need you to welcome me over the threshold of your humble home and to seat me at the fire of Jesus' love. Give me the mystical food to nourish my soul and let me sleep in Jesus' bed where I might dream of forgiveness, love and of my eternal mansion which God has prepared for me in heaven. Teach me the secrets that only a Mother knows of her son. Let me share in those moments of joy which you store deep within your heart, when you watched the Christ-Child playing with his friends. Let me understand how it was possible for your human heart to know the joy of Him and yet at the same time to accept your foreboding of His terrible final agony.

Oh, Mother, if I could take refuge in your little house in Nazareth, and be lifted up into your Immaculate Heart, I would be protected from the attacks of the evil snake, who is Satan. I would be able to face more courageously the trials of daily living and I would be nourished in the long quiet evenings with the perfume of your holy conversation.

Oh, Mother Mary, I love you and I need sanctuary in your holy house. Hear the cries of this poor sinner. I am one of the anawim of Israel crying to the Lord for alms. I do not cry for comfort or for riches or even bodily food and water, but for the Bread and Wine of Life, which you presented to the world for its Salvation. Mother Mary, bring Jesus to me to be my little friend, my loving brother, my great Redeemer and my Almighty God. Amen.

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Day 4: Oh, most pure, humble and obedient maid, you pleased the father so much with your great virtue, that He stopped to ask for your co-operation in the redemption of all humankind. I thank you Mother, for your great YES, which rings in triumph throughout the whole universe and for all time, down through the ages, the victory of light over darkness. I am a poor sinner, Mother, so poor in those wonderful virtues, lovingly nurtured by you and in you. I know you are repelled by my sinfulness, yet you love me as God's own creation.

Oh, sweet Mother, please pick me up from the dust where I have fallen, wash me in the water of Jesus' forgiveness and wrap me in your mantle of motherly love, that I might try again to conquer myself. Show me Mary how to persevere in virtue so that one day I might be counted among the Saints in Heaven, praising your Son, pleasing Him with the sweet fragrance of those flowers that grow in your garden – PURITY, HUMILITY, and OBEDIENCE. Amen.

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Day 5: Most Holy and Perfect Virgin, blessed by all generations, you who were virgin from birth to eternity, you who were virgin in your entire being, both body and spirit, hear my prayer. As I plunge deeper and deeper into the infinite mystery of your virginity, I surrender more and more to the fathomless beauty of your love of God. I desire to know all, to fill my soul with the understanding of your virginity, yet can I stand it? This mystery left the angels dumb with wonder, that a creature inferior to them could rise to become the Queen of all Angels. Oh Mary, rush to my aid. Surround me with the shining mantle of your virginity that I might be secure from the temptations of Satan and his world of fleeting pleasure. Let me instead be tempted by Joy, the Joy of knowing you, the Joy of being perfected by your example, the Joy of being led by you to your Son as a gift pleasing to Him. I pray, dear Mother, that one day all of the universe will resound with praise of your great virginity, that every corner of creation will be purified by your perfect purity, and that my sinful wounds will be healed with the ointment of your great love, Oh Blessed Virgin Mother. Amen.

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Day 6: Oh dolorous, suffering Mother, so filled with love and pain, have mercy on me who has crucified again and again your innocent Son. I am one of the torturers striking Jesus with the cruel lash. I am a soldier pressing the cap of thorns into His magnificent head. I am an executioner pounding the nails into His sacred body. I am one of the crowd taunting the lamb of God, daring Him to come down from the cross. Such are my sins Mary. No earthly mother of a mortal son could be expected to forgive such violence, yet I know that you stood at the foot of the cross and with the incomprehensible courage of the Mother of God, you not only forgave Jesus' murderers but you actually, truly, loved them.

I ask you now, most Sweet Mother, to forgive me from your Immaculate Heart and even to love me who have so hurt your Son. I confess my sins, I own up to my guilt against goodness and I run to you as my Mother as well as the Mother of God. Take me back Mother, embrace me with your loving arms, shed tears over my loss of innocence, and bring me into the sanctuary of your Immaculate Heart. Teach me to accept suffering joyfully, seal it with your motherly kiss and lovingly give it as my gift to Jesus in reparation for sin, in Thanksgiving for His Redemption and in love for your love. Mary, allow me to be generous like Joseph of Arimathea. Let me offer myself as a Sepulcher, a temple for your Jesus, my Savior. Purify me, that I might become a perfect resting place for the Son of God, a place from which I too can rise again to heavenly glory, praising Him with you forever. Amen.

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Day 7: Oh, Great Lady who agreed to become the vehicle through which Redemption was to come to the earth, without reservations or doubt, let me honor you even though I am so weak and spoiled by sin. I stand redeemed because of Jesus and you, and I am miserable because of my sins. Help me great Mother to feel true sorrow for my past, to wash myself in tears of remorse for the sufferings I have added to your loving heart. I need the sin of pride uprooted from me, the fire of lust extinguished, the worm of sloth purified by holy fire, the beast of gluttony immolated, the green demon of envy exorcised, the slithering snake of avarice crushed, and the storm of anger calmed by the Word, bathing me in the gentle rain of your Motherly love.

Oh Mary, thus cleansed and dressed in the new garment of purity, let me be given by you all the graces necessary for my salvation. Let me not stop there, Mother, but may I be so bold as to ask you for much, much more. I humbly ask you for all the graces necessary for the salvation of my family, my fellow parishioners, my fellow countrymen and for all of poor mankind. You are the fountain through which all of the Lord's graces flow out upon us Mary. Our mighty, immortal God is pleased to have it so. Never let me leave this holy fountain and never let the allurements and trinkets of the world tempt me away from you and your never-ending intercession for my soul and its salvation. Amen.

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Day 8: Mother of Mercy, our true Mother, who loves her poor children so much, that you come to us bringing gifts of miracles and healings to delights us, who, out of motherly concern, warns us of the dangers surrounding us, break into our hearts. Help us to repent of our self-centered and willful behavior. Oh Mother, cry all the more loudly to us until we hear you, knock at the doors to our hearts until we open them to your maternal love. We are spoiled children, refusing to share with our poor brothers and sisters, and worshipping before the terrible idol of self. Forgive us for ignoring you loving

concern for our souls. We think we know what is best for us and that must pierce your great heart again with the sword of Simeon.

Oh Mary, I see my sinfulness all too clearly. I see your Jesus, impaled upon the cross for those very sins. Give me a truly contrite heart, Mother, send me God's light and His truth, that I might weep for my sins and climb God's holy mountain. Help me to make reparations, not only for my own sins but for the sins of all humanity.

Give me the joy to cry out to the whole world, "I will serve" and let me spend the rest of my earthly life in humble and unceasing service to my God. Mary, most sublime and humble Virgin, teach me how to serve your Son. Amen.

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Day 9: O Mary, Virgin most powerful and Mother of mercy, Queen of heaven and Refuge of sinners. We consecrate to you our very being and our whole life, all that we have, all that we love, all that we are, we give you our bodies, hearts and souls, our homes, family and country.

We desire that everything in and around us may belong to you and share in the benefits of your motherly blessing.

In order that this act of consecration may be truly efficacious and lasting, we today renew at your feet the promises made at Baptism and First Communion.

We pledge that we will courageously and unceasingly profess the Truths of our holy faith and live as befits Catholics who are duly submissive to the direction of the Pope and the Bishops, in communion with him.

We pledge ourselves to keep the commandments of God and the Church, in particular, to keep holy the Lord's day. We also pledge ourselves to make consoling practices of the Christian religion, especially Holy Communion, as an integral part of our lives, insofar as we shall be able to do so.

Finally, we promise you, O glorious Mother of God and loving Mother of all human beings, to dedicate ourselves, with all of our hearts, to the service of devotion to you through the Sovereignty of your Immaculate Heart, may we thus hasten and assure, the coming of the kingdom of the Sacred Heart of your adorable Son, in our hearts as well as those of all people, in our own country as well as in the whole world, on earth as in heaven. Amen.

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Nihil Obstat, Bishop Joseph R. Windle, Diocese of Pembroke