Traditional Novena to Saint Anthony of Padua

St. Anthony is a favorite saint of the people. He is called the “Wonder Worker” because of the many miracles with which God has favored him. He has traditionally been the refuge of all who have lost things, whether temporal or spiritual.

An excellent expression of devotion to St. Anthony is the making of a novena – nine Tuesdays or nine consecutive days of prayer, public or private, for a certain intention. A novena differs from an octave in that it precedes, rather than follows a saint’s feast. Tuesday is especially honored in devotion to St. Anthony because his burial day, June 17, 1231, fell on a Tuesday.

Novenas began in Spain and France in preparation for the feast of Christmas, the number representing the nine months Jesus lived in the womb of his mother. The practice spread to the feasts of Mary and the saints.

Novenas have been attacked as superstitious, partly because of the special efficacy that some people attach to the number nine. This, of course, must be guarded against. No greater efficacy should be attributed to novena prayers as such, than to any devout prayer earnestly and perseveringly undertaken.

Perseverance and constancy are qualities of all good prayer; hence, it is good to give special emphasis to them by requiring repetition on certain days. This shows the worshiper’s earnestness and fervor.
Novena in Honor of Saint Anthony of Padua

Chaplet of Saint Anthony of Padua
Pray the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be and then repeat the prayers successively three times. Saint Anthony of Padua, Pray for Us. Amen.

Opening Hymn:

O dei miracoli, inclito santo
Dell’alma Padova tutela e vanto
Benigno guardami prono ai tuoi pie!
O Sant’Antonio prega per me,
O Sant’Antonio prega per me.

Per te d’angustia esce l’afflitto
Trova ricovero il derelitto
Col pane al povero doni la fe!
O Sant’Antonio prega per me,
O Sant’Antonio prega per me.

Sempre benefico ai tuoi devoti
Ne ascolti l’umile preghiera e voti
Fammi propizio il Divin Re.
O Sant’Antonio prega per me,
O Sant’Antonio prega per me.

Opening Prayer:

St. Anthony, I rejoice at the favors our Lord has so liberally bestowed on you. I remind you especially of that blessed moment when the Divine Infant Jesus condescended to embrace and fondly caress you. Oh what great happiness and joy must have filled your heart on that occasion!

Because of this special grace and the joy of your heavenly vision, by which you now behold Him face to face, I humbly ask you, O dear St. Anthony, to help in my afflictions, troubles and anxieties, particularly concerning (here mention your troubles and desires).

O let your heart be moved to intercede; to hear and answer our prayer to the Lord of the wants and the necessities of your fellow Christians. One word, one sigh from your heart, which Jesus loved so much, will lead to holiness and fill us with joy and gratitude. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Anthony:

Doctor of the gospel, light of holy church, lover of souls, true son of Francis of Assisi, Anthony of Padua! Help us have a true and solid devotion to you, and imitate your life and work for God and souls. Hold before us the Book of books, Holy Scripture, the source of your wisdom. Be to us a teacher of the ways of God and the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Put into our hearts the flame of love, the fire of divine charity, that we may love our merciful Father in heaven; that the King of kings, as you said, may reign in our hearts and purify them of all evil; that we may love our neighbor, that is, everyone, as you taught.

May the lily of your chastity, your spirit of prayer, make us faithful to the vows of our Baptism, to the vows of marriage or of religious life. Be to our day also an apostle and teacher that we may live with you the gospel of Christ and grow with you in him.

Holy teacher of the gospel, pray that the spirit of the gospel may reach all people of all nations, beginning with us. Pray that the spirit of Christian love and unity may fill the people of God, and bring all his children together again as one flock with one Shepherd. Amen.

Litany of Saint Anthony:

Lord have mercy on us! Lord Have mercy on us!
Christ have mercy on us! Christ have mercy on us!
Christ hear us! Christ, graciously hear us!
God, the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us!
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world have mercy on us!
God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us!
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us!
Holy Mary, have mercy on us!
Holy Father Francis, Pray for us!
St. Anthony of Padua.
St. Anthony, Glory of the Order of Friars Minor,
St. Anthony, Martyr in desiring to die for Christ,
St. Anthony, Pillar of the Church,
St. Anthony, Worthy Priest of God,
St. Anthony, Apostolic Preacher,
St. Anthony, Teacher of truth,
St. Anthony, Terror of evil spirits,
St. Anthony, Comforter of the afflicted,
St. Anthony, Helper in necessities,
St. Anthony, Deliverer of captives,
St. Anthony, Guide of the erring,
St. Anthony, Restorer of lost things,
St. Anthony, Chosen intercessor,
St. Anthony, Continuous worker of miracles,
Be merciful unto us, spare us, O Lord!
Be merciful unto us, hear us, O Lord!
From all evil, O Lord, deliver us!
From all sin,
From all dangers of body and soul,
From the snares of the devil,
From pestilence, famine and war,
From eternal death,
Through the merits of St. Anthony,
Through his zeal for the conversion of sinners,
Through his desire for the crown of martyrdom,
Through his fatigue and labors,
Through his preaching and teaching,
Through his tears of penance,
Through his patience and humility,
Through his glorious death,
Through the number of his wonderful deeds,
In the day of judgment,

We are sinners,  
We beseech you, hear us!
That You bring us to true penance,
That You grant us patience in our trials,
That You assist us in our needs,
That You grant us our petitions,
That You kindle the fire of your love in us,
That You favor us with the protection and intercession of St. Anthony,
Son of God,  
We beseech you, hear us!

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
spare us, O Lord!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
graciously hear us, O Lord!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us!
Christ hear us,  
Christ graciously hear us!

Pray for us, blessed Anthony:  
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Week 1: Jesus Christ is Lord  
— St. Anthony Apostolic Preacher.
My God and Father, give me new strength from the courage of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. He is our Good Shepherd.

Let me hear the sound of His voice, lead my steps in the path He has shown, that I may receive His help and enjoy the light of Your presence forever.

Strengthened by the Eucharist, may I feel its saving power in my daily life till I reach eternal life with You. Lead me to join the Saints in heaven.

Week 2: Deepening our Relationship with Jesus Christ through Sacred Scripture and Prayer  
— Saint Anthony Teacher of Truth
Lord Jesus, help me to understand the meaning of Your Death and Resurrection. I call out for Your mercy. Bring me back to You and to the life You won for us by Your Death on the Cross and Your Resurrection. Help me to grow in faith and hope, and deepen my love for You in Holy Communion.

Week 3: Lived Faith Professed through Baptism  
— St. Anthony Call to Holiness
Almighty God, strengthen my faith hope, and love. May I do with a loving heart what You ask of me and come to share the life You promise. Give me fidelity and love to carry out Your commands. Only with Your help can I offer You fitting service and praise. May I live the Faith I profess and trust Your promise of eternal life. May the power of Your love continue its saving work in my life.

Week 4: Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation  
— St. Anthony’s Life in the Holy Spirit
Jesus, Divine Word of God, You became man, born of the Virgin Mary. May I come to share Your Divinity, for You humbled Yourself to share our human nature. As You nourish me with the food of Life in the Eucharist, give me also Your Spirit, so that I may be filled with light at Your coming to my soul. Lead me to rejoice in true peace.

Week 5: Holy Mass, Sacrament of Holy Communion  
— St. Anthony’s Nourishment
God our Father, Your light of truth guides us to the way of Christ. May I who wish to follow Him reject what is contrary to His Gospel. Offer You the Eucharist to the glory of Your Name. May it make me pure and holy and bring me closer to eternal life. May I never fail to praise You for the life and salvation You give for the Sacrament of the Altar.

Week 6: Conversion of Heart, Sacrament of Reconciliation  
— St. Anthony’s Call to Conversion
Father, Your love never fails. Keep me from danger and provides for all my needs. Teach me to be thankful for Your gifts. Confident in Your love, may I be holy by sharing Your life, and grant me forgiveness of my sins. May your unfailing love turn me from sin and keep me on the way that leads to You. Help me to grow in Christian love.

Week 7: Seeking God by Following Your Vocation  
— St. Anthony’s Call to God’s Will, Living the Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders
Our Father, may everything I do begin with Your inspiration, continue with your help, and reach perfection under Your Guidance. With Your loving care guide me in my daily actions. Help me to persevere with love and sincerity.

Teach me to judge wisely the things of the earth and to love the things of heaven. Keep me in Your presence and never let me be separated from You. Your spirit made me your child, confident to call You Father. Make your love the foundation of my life. Teach me to long for heaven. May its promise and hope guide my way on earth till I reach eternal life with You.
**Week 8: Comforter of the Afflicted, Healing of Mind and Body in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick – St. Anthony Helper in Necessities**

Lord Jesus, may everything I do begin with Your grace, continue with Your help, and be done under Your guidance. May sharing in the Mass free me from sin and make me worthy of Your healing. May I grow in Your love and service and become a pleasing offering to You, and with You to the Father. May this mystery I celebrate help me to reach eternal life with you.

**Week 9: The Life of the Church, Honoring the Blessed Mother and the Communion of Saints — St. Anthony Pillar of the Church**

O Lord, our God, You called your people to be Your Church. As they gather together in Your Name, may they love, honor and follow Your Son to eternal life in the Kingdom He promised. Let their worship always be sincere, and help them to find Your saving love in the Church and its sacraments.

Filled with the Spirit of Christ, those whom You call to live in the midst of the world and its concern, help them by their work on earth to build up your eternal Kingdom. May they be effective witnesses to the truth of the Gospel and make Your Church a living presence in the midst of the world.

Increase the gifts You have given Your Church that Your faithful people may continue to grow in holiness in imitation of Your beloved Son.

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**Saint Anthony’s Spiritual Testimony (from Saint Anthony’s Sermons)**

Death and life depend on three things: the **heart**, the **tongue**, the **hands**

The **heart** symbolizes our consent of good or evil, the **tongue** represents the way we express ourselves in words; and the **hands** represent how we act.

Therefore, those who deny Christ in the darkness of sin, repent at the preaching of God’s word, that in the light of Christ they can repeat thrice along with St. Peter: I love, I love, I love!

I love with my heart, in faith and devotion; I love with my tongue, affirming the truth and giving good example to my neighbor, that is everyone; I love with my hands, as seen in pure action.

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**The Miraculous Responsory of St. Anthony of Padua**

by Saint Bonaventure

If then you ask for miracles,
Death, error, all calamities,
The leprosy and demons fly,
And health succeeds infirmities,

(Refrain)
The sea obeys and fetters break
And lifeless limbs thou dost restore,
While treasures lost are found again,
When young and old thine aid implore.

All dangers vanish at thy prayer
And direst need doth quickly flee,
Let those who know thy power proclaim
Let Paduans say, “These are of thee.” (Refrain)

To Father, Son may glory be,
And Holy Ghost, eternally.
To Father, Son, may glory be,
And Holy Ghost, eternally. (Refrain)

**Closing Hymn:**

**Tu Sei La Mia Vita (Symbolum ‘77)**

Tu sei la mia vita, altro io non ho.
Tu sei la mia strada, la mia verità.
Nella tua parola, io camminerò,
finché avró respiro, fino a quando tu vorrai.
Non avró paura, sai, se tu sei con me,
io ti prego, resta con me.

Credo in te, Signore, nato da Maria.
Figlio eterno e santo, uomo come noi.
Morto per amore, vivo in mezzo a noi.
Una cosa sola con il Padre con i tuoi,
fino a quando-io lo so, tu ritoronerai
per aprirci il regno di Dio.

Tu sei la mia forza, altro io non ho.
Tu sei la mia pace, la mia libertá.
Niente nella vita ci separerà.
So che la tua mano forte non mi lascerá.
So che da ogni male tu mi liberaerai.
E nel tuo perdono vivró.

Padre della vita, noi crediamo in te,
Figlio Salvatore, noi speriamo in te.
Spìrito d’Amore, vieni in mezzo a noi,
Tu da mille strade ci raduni in unitá,
E per mille strade, poi, dove tu vorrai,
Noi saremo il seme di Dio.