

St. Anne Novena
St. Anne's Church – St. Anne, IL



St. Anne Novena
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St. Anne Novena

~ Opening Prayers for Each Day ~

PRAYER (PRIEST)

Good St. Anne beloved of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph and mother of the most Blessed Mary, take us and all who are dear to us under your special care. Through your intercession may we obtain the virtues you instilled into the heart of your daughter, Mary, who was destined by God to be the mother of his divine, Son, Jesus. Pray for us that we may imitate the example of your faithfulness to your calling to be the mother of her who is the mother of God. Listen to our petitions and obtain our requests. Through your intercession, obtain the graces necessary for all who enter the married state to grow in love and fidelity all their life. May they sanctify their homes, and lead the children entrusted to their care to the knowledge and love of God and to eternal glory.

Father, hear our prayers, and through the intercession of St. Anne, grant us all we need to be faithful to our call to life in Jesus, who is Lord forever and ever. **R/. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR SPECIAL FAVOR (ALL)

Good St. Anne, I come to you with confidence because of your compassion for those who suffer and are afflicted. The effects of your goodness and power felt by those who honor you and seek God's favor through your intercession are well known. Hear my prayer and intercede for me before our gracious God. (Pause here and state your special intention.) Good St. Anne, I ask you to intercede for me in my need and obtain for me the grace I seek according to God's will for me and my good known to him alone. Pray for me until I experience his response to my prayers according to Jesus' own words: "Ask and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Above all obtain for me the grace of constant faithfulness to God so that, along with you and Mary and all Saints, I may rejoice in his presence forever. R/. Amen.

THE PILGRIM'S PRAYER (ALL)

Good St. Anne, I have come to this holy shrine to honor you and seek your intercession before our gracious and loving God. Many pilgrims to this place have felt effects of your kindness and powerful intercession. Gladly have I traveled to this holy place to seek your favor, I have every hope that you will be gracious to me as you have been to all who come here with faith and love.

Good St. Anne, I confidently hope that each hour of this day will bring a new blessing. But you know the special grace I need most at the present moment, for which I pray from the depths of my heart, and which I hope to obtain through your intercession. May I return home after this pilgrimage with a new benefit to proclaim, a new motive to trust in your kindness, and a new bond of love to attach me to you. Above all, help me and all who appeal to you to be faithful to Christ and to his church, and to be finally welcomed into God's kingdom of peace and joy. R/. Amen.

The Mediations for Each Day Follows These Prayers.



Day One: On Faith

Faith is the foundation, the source, and root of all supernatural life, and of all Christian virtue. Without faith it is impossible to live in union with God, sharing his life and friendship. Because God is all-powerful and loves us beyond all measure, we have every reason to have great faith. God has created the earth and all things visible and invisible. We were created body and spirit out of the pure love of God. Indeed, God loves us with a love greater even than the love of mother for her child. "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even through these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands." (Isaiah 49: 15)

The Lord has promised to grant us whatever we ask in faith and in his name. There is no prayer offered in faith that is not heard by our loving God. Then, as we begin this novena, let our faith be strong. And if we feel our faith is weak, we should ask God as father who asked Jesus to cure his son: “ I do believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24)

We must understand that of herself, St. Anne can do nothing for us. It is through her intercession that we seek God’s favor in all our needs as we honor her in this novena.

PRACTICE (ALL)

I will pray to St. Anne to intercede for me that I may have a strong and unwavering faith in God’s love and compassion.

NOVENA PRAYER (ALL)

Glorious St. Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke you and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I kneel at your feet and humbly beg you to take my present need under your special protection.

(State Your Intention Here)

Please recommend it to your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and lay it before the throne of Jesus. Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted. Above all, obtain for me the grace to one day meet God face to face, and with you and Mary, and all the angels and saints, to praise Him through all eternity.

Great St. Anne, engrave indelibly on my heart and in my mind the words that have reclaimed and sanctified so many sinners: “What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world if he lose his own soul?”

May this be the principal fruit of these prayers by which I will strive to honor you during this novena.

At your feet, renew my resolution to invoke you daily, not only for the success of my temporal affairs and to be preserved from sickness and suffering, but above all, that I may be preserved from all sin, that I may gain eternal salvation and that I will receive the special grace of...

(State Your Intention Here)

O most powerful St. Anne, do not let me lose my soul, but obtain for me the grace of heaven, there with you, your blessed spouse, and your glorious daughter, to sing the praise of the Most Holy and Adorable Trinity forever and ever. Amen.

PRIEST: Pray for us, St. Anne!

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER (PRIEST)

Let us pray. O good St. Anne, we are about to begin this novena in your honor and for our spiritual good. During the coming nine days we will thank God for the many graces he has given you, especially for your great faith. Come to our aid, St. Anne, and through your intercession may we grow in faith and be strong in the service of God. May we always realize that our home is in heaven. We ask above all for the salvation promised to all who persevere in faith and prayer. **R/. Amen.**

The Litany to St. Anne Follows (Page 52).

Private Reflection:

St. Anne, along with her husband St. Joachim, prayed fervently for many years to have a child. When an angel told her of her conception, Anne immediately replied that she would offer the child as a gift to God. And so, they consecrated to God their daughter Mary, conceived without stain of Original Sin, at the tender age of three.

By openness to God's Will, Joachim and Anne's family became a holy family. As Catholics, to follow God's Will through the teachings and traditions of the Church, might be conceived of as radical to the eyes of the world. Our daily Rosary and frequent reception of the Sacraments will help us practice the Catholic lifestyle that God wills for us, no matter our state in life.

"St. Anne being herself a vessel of grace, not by name only, but by the possession of that rich treasure, was chosen by God to form his most beloved spouse to perfect virtue; and her pious care of this illustrious daughter was the greatest means of her own sanctification and her glory in the church of God to the end of ages."

-Lives of the Saints, by Fr. Alban Butler



Day Two: On Confidence

St. Anne has been object of popular devotion from the early days of Christianity. It is true we know nothing of her except from certain ancient writings of legendary character. Their value consists in the testimony they gave to the antiquity of devotion of the mother of Mary. The devotion did not so much depend on the legends as give rise to them. Popular traditions lay behind the early and wide-spread devotion to St. Anne, and to the growth of the many shrines in her honor to which so many people with needs come on pilgrimage to pray with great faith. And in truth there have been recorded many marvelous cures which have taken place at these shrines. But more important even than any physical cures have been the spiritual favors and “miracles of grace” which have been granted by God in response to the petitioners. We should not be surprised that God grants his favors through the intercession of St. Anne.

It is the privilege of all men and women who love God to be the instruments of his loving providence in the world. How much more is it the privilege and honor of those men and women we call saints, among whom we number good St. Anne, the grandmother of Jesus. If we value and seek the prayer of our friends in this world, how much more powerful must be the prayers of our friends in heaven. And honoring St. Anne by our devotion we are honoring God who is the source of her holiness and the “ fountain of all holiness.”

Our prayers during this novena, then, should be characterized by great confidence, which is the fruit of our faith in love and power of God.

PRACTICE (ALL)

Through the intercession of St. Anne, I will ask of God the grace of unshakable confidence in promises of Christ made to those who pray with faith and perseverance.

NOVENA PRAYER (ALL)

Glorious St. Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke you and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I kneel at your feet and humbly beg you to take my present need under your special protection.

(State Your Intention Here)

Please recommend it to your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and lay it before the throne of Jesus. Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted. Above all, obtain for me the grace to one day meet God face to face, and with you and Mary, and all the angels and saints, to praise Him through all eternity.

Glorious St. Anne, how can you be otherwise than overflowing with tenderness toward sinners like myself, since you are the grandmother of Him who shed His blood for us, and the mother of her whom the saints call advocate of sinners?

To you, therefore, I address my prayers with confidence. Please commend me to Jesus and Mary so that, at your request, I may be granted remission of my sins, perseverance, the love of God, charity for all mankind, and the special grace of... *(State Your Intention Here)* ...which I stand in need of at the present time.

O most powerful protectress, let me not lose my soul, but pray for me that through the merits of Jesus Christ and the intercession of Mary, I may have the great happiness of seeing Them, of loving and praising Them with you through all eternity. Amen.

PRIEST: Pray for us, St. Anne!

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER (PRIEST)

Let us pray. Good St. Anne, your name means grace and mercy. Never has it been known that anyone who sought your intercession with faith and confidence was left unaided. Inspired with hope we turn to you, good and kind mother, and, with sorrow for our sins, and in need of help, we offer our petitions. O good St. Anne, mother of the immaculate Virgin Mary, do not be deaf to our [prayers, but hear and answer them. **R/. Amen.**

The Litany to St. Anne Follows (Page 52).

Private Reflection:

This blessed title of Grandmother of Jesus is one of the greatest any human could desire. We can confidently petition St. Anne for favors, because of her special relationship with Our Lord. We pray for all those who need strengthening in the Catholic Faith or who have fallen away and need to be restored into the fold. Just as St. Anne maternally watched over her grandson while on earth, we can pray to her for fortification in our daily spiritual battles.

“Good St. Anne, like a true and faithful mother, does not turn a deaf ear to the pleas of her children; and as a mother’s heart is deeply touched at the sight of the afflictions of her children, so is St. Anne’s motherly heart touched by the petitions of those who come to her seeking solace and comfort.” – “Good St. Anne”



Day Three: On Freedom for God

Jesus says, “Blessed are the clean of heart they will see God.” [Mt. 5:8] One who is clean of heart serves for God’s sake, not out of self-interest. To be clean of heart is to have one’s priorities in order. It is to “seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all will be given you besides.”

Those who are not single hearted toward God find it most difficult to pray. The reason is that their hearts are bound to earth and cannot rise to God. Jesus says, “where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” [Luke 12:34] Or, as King Claudius in hamlet says, “My words fly up, my thoughts remain below.” Freeing ourselves from undue attachment to things of earth frees us to approach God with confidence to receive his gifts.

To choose what is not God is what is meant by sin. Deliberate undue attachment to things or to self cannot but impede our ability to pray honestly. If this is the case with us, the only honest prayer is a heartfelt for the grace of conversion-the grace to turn to God with a single heart, a pure heart. Then, like the tax collector who prayed, "O, God, be merciful to me a sinner," we will experience healing and forgiveness.

We must never forget that our sinfulness is no barrier to union with God so long as we honestly admit our sin and desire to repent. Rather, our weakness is our greatest claim to God's mercy. Jesus was called "the friend of 11:19] He is always ready to forgive and heal those who encountered him in faith and experience his love for them. In his love, he is always ready to accept us, comfort us and forgive.

PRACTICE (ALL)

I will strive honestly to recognize and to root out of my life all that is inconsistent with my love for God.

NOVENA PRAYER (ALL)

Glorious St. Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke you and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I kneel at your feet and humbly beg you to take my present need under your special protection.

(State Your Intention Here)

Please recommend it to your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and lay it before the throne of Jesus. Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted. Above all, obtain for me the grace to one day meet God face to face, and with you and Mary, and all the angels and saints, to praise Him through all eternity.

Beloved of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, mother of the Queen of Heaven, take us and all who are dear to us under your special care.

Obtain for us the virtues you instilled in the heart of her who was destined to become Mother of God, and the graces with which you were endowed.

Sublime model of Christian womanhood, pray that we may imitate your example in our homes and families, listen to our petitions, and obtain our request of...

(State Your Intention Here)

Guardian of the infancy and childhood of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, obtain the graces necessary for all who enter the marriage state, that by imitating your virtues, they may sanctify their homes and lead the souls entrusted to their care to eternal glory. Amen.

PRIEST: Pray for us, St. Anne!

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER (PRIEST)

Let us pray. Good St. Anne, so much of our life is not what it should be. Often have close our ears and hearts to God's word and resisted his call to a fuller life. Today is a time of grace and blessing. Pray for us, St. Anne, and obtain for us through your intercession the grace to turn away from all that can separate us from the love of God. Obtain for us the grace to hear God's word, to know his will, and to have the courage to do it daily. Good St. Anne, hear our prayer and intercede for us before the Lord our God. **R/. Amen.**

The Litany to St. Anne Follows (Page 52).

Private Reflection:

St. Anne's vocation on earth was wife to Joachim and mother to the Blessed Virgin Mary. For this reason, she is a model of virtue for married women and mothers. She is also invoked as Help of the Pregnant, Patroness of the Childless, and Protectress of Widows. She understands the married state, with its particular joys and burdens, but especially its purpose. "She [St. Anne] obtains for women, particularly in our misguided age, the light to understand the high purpose of Matrimony... The hope of the Church is in good Christian mothers; their sons and daughters will fill the sanctuaries and convents." – "Good St. Anne"



Day Four: On Forgiveness of Sin

Through Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, God brought us into the full life of the church. This initiation is the beginning of a life-long process of growth whereby we become conformed to Jesus and involved with the community of faith. However, human weakness marks our daily journey of faith and love, and growth in our spiritual life is not always steady. We may falter on the way. It is possible to turn away and abandon our life with God in Christ. But, unfaithful though we may be, God remains faithful and never abandons us; he constantly calls us back to life.

The means Jesus has given his church, whereby we can publicly turn back to God to receive forgiveness, is the Sacrament of Penance. In this sacrament we are accepted by God and reconciled to him as forgiveness is granted through the absolution of the priest.

Because we are all one in Christ, we offend God when we offend our brothers and sisters who are his children. Therefore. The sacrament involves reconciliation with our neighbor, and reconciliation with God. Indeed, these two reconciliations cannot be separated. That is why we confess to the church's minister who represents both God and community.

The Sacrament of Penance is a standing proof God's steadfast love and willingness always to forgive. Like every sacrament, this sacrament is an encounter with Christ, and therefore an encounter with God. Now it is true that to those who are truly contrite, God's forgiveness is available outside this sacrament. Nevertheless, there are many benefits, which come to us through the sacrament. In the sacrament we hear the words of forgiveness. We have the occasion of confessing our sins, which in itself is good for us. The very decision to confess requires that we examine our conscience, which we might otherwise neglect to do. For these reasons, and more. We should gratefully avail ourselves of this gift of our Lord to his church. In so doing we find great help in our spiritual growth and the right practice of our faith.

PRACTICE (ALL)

I will celebrate the Sacrament of reconciliation in order to prepare for the fruitful celebration of liturgical seasons, and whenever I experience the need or desire to hear God's gracious word of forgiveness.

NOVENA PRAYER (ALL)

Glorious St. Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke you and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I kneel at your feet and humbly beg you to take my present need under your special protection.

(State your Intention Here)

Please recommend it to your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and lay it before the throne of Jesus. Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted. Above all, obtain for me the grace to one day meet God face to face, and with you and Mary, and all the angels and saints, to praise Him through all eternity.

Glorious St. Anne, I kneel in confidence at your feet, for you also have tasted the bitterness and sorrow of life. My need, the cause of my request, is... *(State Your Intention Here)*

Good St. Anne, you who did suffer much during the years that preceded your glorious maternity, I beseech you, by all your sufferings and humiliations, to grant my prayer. I pray to you, through your love for your glorious spouse Saint Joachim, through your love for your immaculate child, through the joy you felt at the moment of her happy birth, not to refuse me.

Bless me, bless my family and all who are dear to me, so that someday, we may all be with you in the glory of heaven, for all eternity. Amen.

PRIEST: Pray for us, St. Anne!

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER (PRIEST)

Let us pray. Good St. Anne, pray for us that we may always have a grateful appreciation of the Sacrament of Penance, and always good and fruitful use of it. Obtain for us the grace to truly deplore our sins, to achieve a sincere conversion, and to make a serious effort to amend our lives and become new persons in Christ. As God has forgiven us, may we always be forgiving persons. **R/. Amen.**

The Litany to St. Anne Follows (Page 52).

Private Reflection:

St. Anne is a good example of the Truth that God will take care of those who are faithful to Him. Even amidst the crisis in the Church, a great resurgence has begun through a faithful echo of clergy and laity willing to defend the unchanging teachings of Holy Mother Church at any cost.

“St. Anne was spared neither trials nor bitterness. God tested her severely, especially by ordaining that she would have to wait so long for Mary, her child of predilection. For years, hidden sorrow was her daily bread.” – “Good St. Anne”



Day Five: On the Eucharist

The night before he died. Jesus gave his church, and then represented by the small group of disciples, his most precious gift—the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. The Eucharist has such a wealth of meaning that we will here reflect on only one of many aspects. From this limited viewpoint we will consider the Eucharist as Holy Communion, Food for our spiritual life. As Jesus said, “those you eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them [John 6:54]

A second effect of this is to transform us into the likeness of Christ. Through this intimate encounter with Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, we are gradually transformed into his likeness and become what a Christian is called to be namely, another Christ.

But Holy Communion is given not only as the nourishment of our individual life in God. It is also given as the source of the life and unity of the Church, the Body of Christ. The effect of Holy Communion is to form into one body the many who share the one food, which is Christ. As St. Paul tells us: “Because the loaf of bread is one, we, many though we are, are one body, because we all partake of the one loaf.” [1 Cor. 10: 17] It is because we are all one in Christ, because we are his body, that we should love one another and care for one another as our very self.

For these reasons we should strive to grow in our awareness of the reality of what we receive in Holy Communion. We should strive by God’s grace to grow in faith and in our desire to be nourished and transformed by this sacred food, which is the very person of Christ. It is only what we really desire that we receive as God’s gift.

PRACTICE (ALL)

I shall always strive to overcome routine in receiving the Lord in Holy Communion. With strong faith and great desire, I shall receive this sacred food, and experience within myself its transforming power.

NOVENA PRAYER (ALL)

Glorious St. Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke you and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I kneel at your feet and humbly beg you to take my present need under your special protection.

(State your Intention Here)

Please recommend it to your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and lay it before the throne of Jesus. Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted. Above all, obtain for me the grace to one day meet God face to face, and with you and Mary, and all the angels and saints, to praise Him through all eternity.

Great St. Anne, how far I am from resembling you. I so easily give way to impatience and discouragement; and so easily give up praying when God does not at once answer my request.

Prayer is the key to all heavenly treasures and I cannot pray because my weak faith and lack of confidence fail me at the slightest delay of Divine Mercy.

O my powerful protectress, come to my aid, listen to my petition...

(State Your Intention Here)

Make my confidence and fervor, supported by the promise of Jesus Christ, increase as the trial to which God, in His goodness, subjects me is prolonged, that I may obtain, like you, more than I can venture to ask for.

In the future I will remember that I am made for heaven and not for earth; for eternity and not for time; that consequently I must ask, above all, for the salvation of my soul. Amen.

PRIEST: Pray for us, St. Anne!

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER (PRIEST)

Let us pray. Good St. Anne, through your intercession obtain for us the grace to appreciate the most holy Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Through our sharing in this sacred food, may be strengthened in our spiritual life, and grow in the likeness of Christ. May we come to love our sisters and brothers in Christ as we love ourselves. Good St. Anne, grandmother of Jesus, obtain for us the braces we so need and desire. **R/. Amen.**

The Litany to St. Anne Follows (Page 52).

Private Reflection:

We are all laborers in some way on earth. Good work is honorable, and we can turn to St. Anne for aid in our labors. But it is most essential that our labors be for a spiritual purpose as well as a practical one. "The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few" (Matt 9:37). We must awaken from our spiritual slumber and put our duties as Catholics into action.

"Among the various classes of laborers, many regard St. Anne as their special protectress. But it is very significant that Christian sculptors venerate her as their model. They have chosen as their emblem the image of St. Anne teaching the child Mary, with these words inscribed beneath: 'Thus she wrought the Tabernacle of God.'" – "Good St. Anne"



Day Six: On Prayer

If we are going to grow spiritually, there is nothing more important for us than prayer, The Gospels tell us that Jesus was a man of prayer. It was while he was praying, after his baptism, that the Holy Spirit came upon him. He fasted and prayed for forty days before his ministry. He taught his disciples the necessity of praying always and not losing heart. And he prayed with great intensity and anguish the night before he died on the cross.

Spirituality based on true faith is a love affair between God and his people. A human may be defined as “a creature that is capable by grace of entering into a relationship of love with God.” Outside of this relationship, human life has no meaning. How. A love relationship can neither begin nor be sustained with communication.

In human communication two persons reveal themselves to each other and discover each other as lovable. As love grows, the desire for union grows. So, it is with human relationship to God the word for communication in this relationship is “prayer.” It is by prayer that we will grow in our personal union with God. Without prayer the relationship will cool, possibly even die.

In the intimacy of prayer, our divine lover is revealed to us at the same time as we are revealed to ourselves. In this discovery of self in prayer, our illusions and self-deceptions are swept away. We see ourselves as we truly are and conversion becomes possible. Pride gives way to honest humility; self-concern yields to concern for others; fear and insecurity give way to trust. As our love for God grows, so does our ability to love our neighbor. We have not only discovered ourselves, but we have discovered the other as worthy of love. Through the power of the Holy Spirit who is given to us in prayer, we find our self-able to love God above all else, and our neighbor as ourselves.

PRACTICE (ALL)

I will find some time every day to be alone and quiet in the presence of God, and I will try to be mindful of the divine lover often during the business of my everyday life.

NOVENA PRAYER (ALL)

Glorious St. Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke you and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I kneel at your feet and humbly beg you to take my present need under your special protection.

(State Your Intention Here)

Please recommend it to your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and lay it before the throne of Jesus. Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted. Above all, obtain for me the grace to one day meet God face to face, and with you and Mary, and all the angels and saints, to praise Him through all eternity.

Glorious St. Anne, mother of the Mother of God, I beg for your powerful intercession for the freedom from my sins and the assistance I need in my troubles... *(State Your Intention Here)*

What can I not hope for if you deign to take me under your protection?

The Most High has been pleased to grant the prayers of sinners, whenever you have been charitable enough to be their advocate.

Kneeling at your feet, I beg you to help me in all spiritual and temporal dangers; to guide me in the true path of Christian perfection, and finally to obtain for me the grace of a happy death, so that I may contemplate your beloved Jesus and daughter, Mary, in your loving companionship throughout all eternity. Amen.

PRIEST: Pray for us, St. Anne!

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER (PRIEST)

Let us pray. Good St. Anne, we often find it difficult to pray. We are often assailed by distractions that force our thoughts away from God. Often when our voices go up in prayer, our thoughts remain below. Good St. Anne, obtain for us the grace of having a spirit of prayer, that our hearts may burn with love for God, our Father, grant that through the intercession of St. Anne, the mother of Mary, we may be prayerful persons. This we ask in Jesus' name. **R/. Amen.**

The Litany to St. Anne Follows (Page 52).

Private Reflection:

We are urged by the Church to keep our end in mind, because our lives on earth are indicative of our eternal life or death in Heaven or Hell. By honoring Our Lord, Our Lady, and the saints, especially St. Anne, we can obtain great assistance in our last moments.

“‘Those who honor St. Anne,’ said Our Lady, ‘will obtain great aid in every need, especially at the hour of death.’ To another person she said: ‘The honor you show to my mother is doubly dear and pleasing to me.’” – “Good St. Anne”



Day Seven: On Conversion

When Jesus began his public ministry, he proclaimed the good news of God: “This is the time of fulfillment; the kingdom of God is at hand! Repent, and believe in the gospel.” [Mk. 1:15] he called for conversion. The Greek word for “conversion” is variously translated. At times it is “reform your life,” or “repent,” or “do penance.” It literally means, “Change your mind, “ or “Change your way of thinking.”

Conversion is not a once-in-a-lifetime happening. It is a continuing process ever deepening faith. We are called to conversion over and over again. The reason, as we know from experience, is that our life in God-that life we call “grace” -is always threatened by sin. We can be lukewarm in our Christian commitment. Without realizing it, we hold values and attitudes, which are unchristian.

The gospel, therefore, is a continual challenge to our ways of thing, and a continual call to turn to God with greater fidelity, zeal, and love. Until we reach the point that we practice the gospel perfectly, and we perfectly possess the mind of Christ, we are called to a fuller conversion. And if we should be so unfortunate as turn away from God completely in mortally sin, to reject the divine life and love, then our conversion is once more absolutely necessary; not simply for growth but for life itself. And this conversion could well be more difficult than our first.

Conversion is always by God's call and grace. Jesus tell us, "No one can come to me unless draw by Father who sent me," [John 6:44] So conversion, and the divine life it brings us, is always God gift. It is grace. Yet, it is always and everywhere available to men and women of good will, but never as something earned, merited, or deserved. To realize this truth is a fundamental condition for a sound spiritual life. When, and only when, we have this realization can our religion truly be a free, loving and grateful response to God who loved and gifted us first.

PRACTICE (ALL)

I will try to grow familiar with the Gospel, and I will try always to remember that it is the Gospel which judges me; not I who judge the Gospel. In that way, I will always be open to receive and respond to its challenge.

NOVENA PRAYER (ALL)

Glorious St. Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke you and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I kneel at your feet and humbly beg you to take my present need under your special protection.

(State Your Intention Here)

Please recommend it to your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and lay it before the throne of Jesus. Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted. Above all, obtain for me the grace to one day meet God face to face, and with you and Mary, and all the angels and saints, to praise Him through all eternity.

O Good St. Anne, so justly called the mother of the infirm, the cure for those who suffer from disease, look kindly upon the sick for whom I pray. Alleviate their sufferings; cause them to sanctify their sufferings by patience and complete submission to the Divine Will.

Finally dear St. Anne, please obtain health for them and with it, the firm resolution to honor Jesus, Mary, and yourself by the faithful performance of duties.

But, merciful St. Anne, I ask you above all for the salvation of my soul, rather than bodily health, for I am convinced that this fleeting life is given to us solely to assure us a better one.

I cannot obtain that better life without the help of God's graces.

I earnestly beg for them from you for the sick and for myself, and especially for the petition for which I am making in this novena... (*State Your Intention Here*) ...through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, through the intercession of His Immaculate Mother, and through your efficacious and powerful mediation, I pray. Amen.

PRIEST: Pray for us, St. Anne!

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER (PRIEST)

Let us pray. Good St. Anne, your life was a continual and generous response to God whose love and gift you received. By your prayers obtain for us the grace to be open to God's word and call. Obtain for us the grace to turn away from anything that can stand in the way of our love for God. God our Father, through the intercession of St. Anne, may we always respond to your call to conversion, and may thus grow in our love for you day by day. This we ask in the name of Jesus. **R/. Amen.**

The Litany to St. Anne Follows (Page 52).

Private Reflection:

Devotion to St. Anne has been spread throughout the world. Notably in North America is the Shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré in Quebec, which houses major relics of her finger and the forearm which held the infant Mary. Half a million pilgrimage there each year and to St. Anne's credit, we know that countless sick have been miraculously cured on site. May these beautiful witnesses serve to break our hesitations to ask; we need only ask her to obtain favors for us too!

"The number of cures wrought through the intercession of St. Anne is countless. Day after day the churches dedicated to her, as that at St. Anne de Beaupré, have resounded with the suppliant voices of her clients. Sight has been restored to the blind, hearing to the deaf, soundness to the bodies of the infirm and crippled."
– "Good St. Anne"



Day Eight: On Practice of Sacrifice

The word ‘sacrifice’ means to make (something) sacred. To make something sacred is to give it to all-holy God, Jesus’ whole life was a sacrifice because it was wholly given over to God. As we share in Adam’s sin because we have ratified his disobedience by our disobedience, so we share in the sacrifice of Christ if with him we give ourselves wholeheartedly to God.

And just as Jesus’ sacrifice was accepted by God in his resurrection and glorification, so we, too, are accepted by God and share in Jesus’ resurrection and life if we share his cross and death. This sharing in the suffering and death of Jesus happens to us when we do God’s will regardless of the cost. This is what Jesus did. He obeyed his Father even when that obedience led to his death on the cross. We will have to die to our self-will, our own desires, and our natural inclinations whenever these come into conflict with God’s will.

This is the sacrifice that is required of all of us. And this sacrifice is accomplished when we are faithful to the duties of our state in life, especially when this faithfulness costs us something in self-denial and suffering. And cost it will, we can be sure of that.

It is necessary for us to ‘seek the cross,’ to seek what is unpleasant and painful. That is not to say that some freely chosen acts of mortification and self-denial, such as fasting, are not of value. But obedience to God is the most important sacrifice we can make, and this sacrifice will entail suffering of some sort or other. The point of this is that suffering endured in union with the suffering and death of Jesus guarantees that we, too, shall with him in his life and glory both now and in heaven. As Jesus told us: “if any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.” [Luke 9:23]

PRACTICE (ALL)

I will call upon St. Anne on those occasions when my conscience tells me that fidelity to God demands some painful sacrifice.

NOVENA PRAYER (ALL)

Glorious St. Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke you and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I kneel at your feet and humbly beg you to take my present need under your special protection.

(State your Intention Here)

Please recommend it to your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and lay it before the throne of Jesus. Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted. Above all, obtain for me the grace to one day meet God face to face, and with you and Mary, and all the angels and saints, to praise Him through all eternity.

Remember, O St. Anne, you whose name signifies grace and mercy, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, and sought your intercession was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto you, good, and kind mother; I take refuge at your feet, burdened with the weight of my sins.

O holy mother of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, despise not my petition... (*State Your Intention Here*) ...but hear me and grant my prayer. Amen.

PRIEST: Pray for us, St. Anne!

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER (PRIEST)

Let us pray. Good St. Anne, through your intercession obtain for us the grace to be obedient to God no matter what the cost might be. By your prayers help us to share in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross that we might also share in resurrection and life. God, our gracious creator, through the intercession of St. Anne, grant us the grace always to be faithful to you in all things. We ask this in Jesus' name. **R/. Amen.**

The Litany to St. Anne Follows (Page 52).

Private Reflection:

St. Anne did not lay up for herself treasures on earth when treasures from Heaven were in her midst. We are often asked to give of ourselves but, more often than not, neglect the path of charity. The world urges us to materialism and selfishness at every corner. As Catholics, we must combat this mentality and look to what is lasting.

“St. Anne’s love for the poor is evident from the praise bestowed upon her by St. John Damascene, who relates that she and St. Joachim distributed one third of their possessions to the poor. St. Anne still continues her charity in Heaven by assisting the poor, often in a wonderful manner.” – “Good St. Anne”



Day Nine: On Acceptance

If we suffer from some illness, or are afflicted in some other ways, we may ask God, through the intercession of St. Anne, to affect a cure, or to alleviate our need. But having prayed we must resign ourselves to God's will as Jesus did when he prayed in Gethsemane the night before his cruel death on the cross: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want," [Mt, 26:39] Referring to his prayer, the author of the Book of Hebrews wrote: "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission." [Heb. 5: 71 He was heard in two ways: He was saved from death, not by being spared the cross, but by conquering his death in resurrection; and by being granted what he wanted, namely, that God's will be done. If we pray in that way, our prayer will always be heard.

As the psalmist says; “I sought the Lord and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.” [Ps. 34:4] When afflicted by illness or misfortune, we should abandon ourselves to God’s will for us. God’s will be always for our good; it cannot be otherwise. May we embrace what he sends us as Jesus embraced the cross. This does not mean we are not permitted to do all that we possibly and lawfully can overcome the evil and the affections we face.

Indeed, we should. But having done all that, then we must embrace the cross as God’s will for us, not as a pain he wants us to endure, but, as a pain he permits only insofar as it will ultimately be for our good. And in faith we can trust God even though we are unable to see and understand what is happening to us. God’s word to us expressed by Paul in letter to the Romans is that “the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory to be revealed in us. (And) God makes all things work together for good for those who love him.” [Rom. Let us believe this word of God and trust him.

PRACTICE (ALL)

I will pray for the grace to embrace God’s will in all things.

NOVENA PRAYER (ALL)

Glorious St. Anne, filled with compassion for those who invoke you and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I kneel at your feet and humbly beg you to take my present need under your special protection.

(State Your Intention Here)

Please recommend it to your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and lay it before the throne of Jesus. Cease not to intercede for me until my request is granted. Above all, obtain for me the grace to one day meet God face to face, and with you and Mary, and all the angels and saints, to praise Him through all eternity.

Most holy mother of the Virgin Mary, glorious St. Anne, I, a miserable sinner, confiding in your kindness, choose you today as my special advocate.

I offer all my interests to your care and maternal solicitude. O my very good mother and advocate, deign to accept me and to adopt me as your child.

O glorious St. Anne, I beg you, by the passion of my most loving Jesus, the Son of Mary, your most holy daughter, to assist me in all the necessities both of my body and my soul. Venerable Mother, I beg you to obtain for me the favor I seek in this novena... *(State Your Intention Here)* ...and the grace of leading a life perfectly conformed to all things of the Divine Will.

I place my soul in your hands and in those of your kind daughter.

I confide it to you, above all at the moment when it will be separated from my body, in order that, appearing under your patronage before the Supreme Judge, He may find it worthy of enjoying His Divine Presence in your holy companionship in Heaven. Amen.

PRIEST: Pray for us, St. Anne!

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER (PRIEST)

Let us pray. Beloved St. Anne, during this novena we have asked for your intercession in our needs. We believe that our gracious God hear all our prayer, and that his answer is certain and generous.

We thank you for your prayers, and we thank him now for all his blessings and for the good we shall receive by his grace through the prayers of this novena, Obtain for us, good St. Anne, the grace to experience his response to our prayers, and to gratefully accept it. We ask this through your intercession and in Jesus' name. **R/. Amen.**

The Litany to St. Anne Follows (Page 52).

Private Reflection:

Happy Feast Day of St. Anne! This glorious saint was one of the first to be a faithful echo of her Grandson. Her uncompromising submission to God's will is a testament of her faith.

Once again, I invite you to take a grandmother's favors to a celestial level. Ask your Heavenly Grandmother on this day to restore to the One, True Church our loved ones who have sailed away from the harbor of Truth. We ask her to ask her Daughter, Our Lady, and her Grandson, Our Lord, for an abundance of merits and graces on this special day!

"Mary surpasses all the faithful in veneration, esteem and in tender and filial love for her holy mother. While Anne and Mary lived on earth, the bond of love that united their hearts was most ardent and intimate. Nor has this bond been dissolved in Heaven."

- "Good St. Anne"

THE LITANY TO ST. ANNE

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

God the Father of heaven

God the Father of heaven

God the Son, Redeemer of the world

God the Holy Spirit

Holy Trinity one God

St. Anne, grandmother of our Savior

St. Anne, mother of Mary, virgin and mother

St. Anne, Ark of Noah

St. Anne, Ark of the Covenant

St. Anne, root of Jesse

St. Anne, fruitful vine

St. Anne, issue of a royal race

St. Anne, joy of angels

St. Anne, daughter of the patriarchs

St. Anne, filled with grace

St. Anne, mirror of obedience

St. Anne, mirror of mercy

St. Anne, mirror of piety

St. Anne, bulwark of the Church

St. Anne, liberator of the captives

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

St. Anne, refuge of sinners,	Pray for us.
St. Anne, intercessor for the married	Pray for us.
St. Anne, mother of widows	Pray for us.
St. Anne, mother of virgins	Pray for us.
St. Anne, mother of the sick	Pray for us.
St. Anne, harbor of salvation	Pray for us.
St. Anne, sight of the blind	Pray for us.
St. Anne, tongue of the mute	Pray for us.
St. Anne, consolation of the afflicted	Pray for us.
St. Anne, help of all who have recourse to you	Pray for us.

PRIEST: God has loved St. Anne,
R/. and delighted in her beauty.

PRIEST: Let us pray. God, our gracious and loving creator, you honored St. Anne by choosing her to be the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Hear our prayers and grant that through her intercession, we may attain the grace of everlasting life. Through the name of Jesus, who is Lord forever and ever.
R/. Amen.

HYMN TO ST. ANNE (TO THE TUNE "IMMACULATE MARY")

To kneel at thine alter, in faith we draw near,
Led onward by Mary, thy daughter so dear.

Chorus: O good St. Anne, we call on thy name.
Thy praises load thy children proclaim.

To all who invoke thee thou lendest an ear,
Thou soothest the sorrow of all who draw near. *Chorus*

The sailor, the traveler whom storms make afraid Find safety
and calm when they call on thine aid. *Chorus*

The weary, despondent or sorrowful here,
Find help in their sadness, a balm for each tear. *Chorus*

The sick the afflicted, the lame and the blind; The suffering, the
erring all solace here find. *Chorus*

As pilgrims we come here to kneel at thy feet;
O grant what we ask thee, if for us 'tis meet. *Chorus*

St. Anne, we implore thee to list to our prayer
In time of temptation take us in thy care. *Chorus*

In this life obtain for us that which is best,
And bring us length to our heavenly rest. *Chorus*



St. Anne's Catholic Church was founded by Father Charles Chiniquy, who travelled to Illinois in 1852 and helped found the parish for which the city was named. He was accompanied by most of his French-Canadian parishioners from nearby Bourbonnais, IL. The current structure was built in 1872 to replace Father Chiniquy's original log church. The stone structure is of Gothic design and topped with a bell tower. The church survived a fire in 1893. The church contains a national shrine to St. Anne, established in 1888 to provide parishioners with a counterpart of the shrine at Beupré, Canada. The shrine is now known throughout the Middle West and several miraculous cures have been reported. St. Anne's Day, July 26th, brings hundreds of visitors to venerate the relic of la bonne Sainte Anne.