



NINE DAY (NOVENA)

**WITH SCRIPTURE, REFLECTION, AND
PRAYER**

**For Our Faith Community,
Disciples of Christ**

Please Join Us in Prayer

The Campaign Prayer team invites you to unite with fellow parishioners to participate in a nine-day novena based on Scripture, reflection and prayer. Jesus tells us that where two or three gather in His name, He is there with them.

Let us unite our spirits in prayer that we may all support the Growing, Living, Building Together Campaign in whatever way we can with confidence that what we ask for in accordance to His will, He will hear and answer.

You may begin the Novena at any time. However, you might prefer to begin on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, so that you will conclude on Commitment Weekend.

Growing, Living, Building Together Campaign Prayer

Dear Lord,

We know everything we have comes from you.

You came to show us that life consists of giving.

Open our hearts to recognize the need to enlarge our gathering space, to improve accessibility, and to upgrade our facilities so they may be more welcoming to parishioners and visitors.

Teach us to be generous as you are generous. Show us the joys of giving. Inspire us to give sacrificially and cheerfully according to our means.

Guide us as we are growing, living and building our spiritual home for everyone together.

Through Christ Our Lord,

AMEN.

NINTH DAY

Chronicles 29: 14-16

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand; all belongs to you.”

Reflection

When we get a bonus for good performance at work, we are very proud. We feel we deserve applause. But when we reflect, we realize that our education, talents, and opportunities all originated with God. He distributes gifts to each person in accordance to His will. We want to give back to Our Lord when we recognize that He is responsible for all that we have. “God has given us two hands—one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing.”

Question to ponder

What is your greatest God given gift? How can use this gift to give back to the Lord?

Prayer

Dear Lord, let me always be aware that all my gifts and possessions come from you. I am nothing without You.

Campaign Prayer inside front cover

Optional extended reading and prayer

Read all Chronicles 29/Rosary/Divine Mercy/Favorite Prayers

SECOND DAY

Psalms 27: 4-5

“I ask only one thing Lord: Let me live in your house every day of my life to see how wonderful you are and to pray in your temple. In times of trouble, you will protect me. You will hide me in your tent and keep me safe on top of a mighty rock.”

Reflection

Prayer is our connect-point with God. In this psalm, David asks for safety, protection from enemies and grace to live and pray in the house of the Lord. We lead busy lives with work, family and numerous activities, and consequently we sometimes forget our first concern is our relationship with the Lord.

Question to Ponder

We get to know others by direct contact; the same is true with our God. Do I start my day with a short and personal prayer?

Prayer

Lord, thank you for being You. Help me to keep you special in my life. Continue to give me the daily grace to love my neighbor.

Campaign prayer inside front cover

Optional extended reading and prayer

Read all Psalm 27

Rosary/Divine Mercy/Favorite Prayers

SEVENTH DAY

Hebrews 13:1-2

“Keep being concerned about each other as the Lord’s followers should. Be sure to welcome strangers into your home. By doing this, some people have welcomed angels as guests without even knowing it.”

Reflection

A wave, a nod, a smile, a hug initiates meaningful feelings of concern for friends, neighbors, and parishioners (some we know, and some we don’t know). These are simple actions that carry the gospel of love to others. By extending a welcome to someone, which is a normal human interaction, we may experience a personal contact on a spiritual level. Try it!

Question to Ponder

Offering your hand in friendship to a stranger...Is this a warm positive gesture?

Prayer

Lord, give me the gift of hospitality. Open my heart to those who struggle with poor health, loneliness, or mental illness. Assist me to be faithful to daily prayer.

Campaign prayer inside front cover

Optional extended reading and prayer

Read all Hebrews 13

Rosary/Divine Mercy/Favorite Prayers

EIGHTH DAY

Matthew 14:29-31

“Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out. ‘Lord, save me!’ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. ‘You of little faith,’ he said, ‘why did you doubt?’

Reflection

When we do a task with confidence, we often surpass expectations and surprise ourselves and those around us. When we doubt our skills, we perform inferiorly. So, it is in our relationship with the Lord. He is always with us, but when we think we alone are in control, we overlook his power to help us. We remain emotionally and spiritually confident when we communicate and walk hand in hand with the Lord.

Question to Ponder

What do you do when you are afraid to do something you must do?
Whom do you turn to for help?

Prayer

Dear Lord, let me be aware of the power you have over me and all the world. Take away my doubt and give me confidence to do what you ask of me.

Campaign prayer inside front cover

Optional extended reading and prayer

Read all Matthew 14

Rosary/Divine Mercy/Favorite Prayers

FIRST DAY

Isaiah 40:31

“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.”

Reflection

Disappointment is reality for each of us. The way we handle defeat affects our attitude? If we pout and surrender, we feel helpless and glum. However, if we anticipate another chance to do better and prepare ourselves for the challenge, we become spirited and revived. With reliance on God, we convince ourselves that we can go beyond and above our abilities. We are amazed at the new energy level we attain.

Question to Ponder

How do I handle defeat? Do I see through a glass that is half empty or through a glass that is half full?

Prayer

Dear Lord, give me strength to bounce back after disappointment. Let me turn to you for strength to handle the situation and give me hope for a better tomorrow.

Campaign prayer inside front cover

Optional extended reading and prayer

Read all Isaiah 40

Rosary/Divine Mercy/Favorite Prayers

SIXTH DAY

Ephesians 4: 1-3

“Therefore, the prisoner for the Lord, urges you to live worthily of the calling with which you have been called with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Reflection

Friends, spouses and fellow parishioners have differences of opinions on many issues. But, as the Body of Christ, Church members must humble themselves to be understanding so that Church teachings and God’s love will help them to respect diversity, to work together to build up unity within the Church, and to create an atmosphere of peace for everyone.

Questions to Ponder

Can you think of someone within the Church with whom you have differences? What can you learn from the teachings of Christ to better understand and to consider that person’s point of view?

Prayer

Dear Lord, help me to bring people together. Let me be an instrument of peace. Amen.

Campaign Prayer inside front cover

Optional extended reading and prayer

Read all Ephesians 4

Rosary/Divine Mercy/Your Favorite prayers

THIRD DAY

Philippians 4: 6-8

“Don’t worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. And now, Dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.”

Reflection

When we are consumed with worry and stress, we cannot function normally. Often, we panic, and our hearts are filled with negativity. Negativity begets bitterness. Most problems we face are not solvable by ourselves. We need help. St. Paul advises us to pray whenever we are anxious so that we may allow for peace and quiet to flow through our beings.

Questions to Ponder

What is your primary concern? Can you trust God to help, think positive thoughts, and acknowledge He is in control?

Prayer

Dear Lord, strengthen my trust that you will take care of all my needs. Give me peace in accepting your will.

Campaign Prayer inside front cover

Optional extended reading and prayer

Read all Philippians 4

Rosary/Divine Mercy/Your Favorite prayers

FOURTH DAY

Romans 8: 28,38

“We know that in all things God works for good with those who love Him, those whom He has called according to His purpose. For I am certain that nothing can separate us from His love, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above or the world below; there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Reflection

Who can we always depend on? Who can write straight with crooked lines? Who is always there for us? When we feel distant from God, who moved?

Questions to ponder

How can I show my gratitude for God’s steadfastness and love?

Prayer

Dear God, help me to remember that you and you alone are the source of Power and Love I can always depend on. Help me to love, respect, honor and show gratitude to you in all things and all circumstances. Help me to build a Temple to honor you for the King that you are.

Campaign Prayer inside front cover

Optional extended reading and prayer

Read all Romans 8

Rosary/Divine Mercy/Favorite prayers

FIFTH DAY

James 2:14-18

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or a sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat well,’ but you do not give him the necessities of the body, what good is it? Indeed, someone may say, ‘You have faith; I have works.’ Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.”

Reflection

Faith is the underlying force of Christian life. If one has Christian values, good deeds will automatically follow. Christians want to help each other, so it is only logical that they perform acts of kindness to show their love. How can we offer proof of our love without good works and assistance? Telling someone we love them is not as effective as demonstrating concern with actions. “Others will know we are Christians by our love.”

Question to ponder

What is your motivation to do good deeds?

Prayer

Dear Lord, you call me to love my neighbors as myself and teach me that faith without works is dead. Open me to the opportunities to serve you and my brothers and sisters.

Campaign Prayer inside front cover

Optional extended reading and prayer

Read all James 2

Rosary/Divine Mercy/Favorite prayers