

Novena Against Disease and Pestilence

Novena Prayer

Lord God Almighty, You are Creator of heaven and earth and the Eternal Father. You sent Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be born of the Virgin Mary as man that we might receive adoption as Your sons and daughters, and, after His Ascension, You both sent the Holy Spirit as Paraclete to be a source of grace welling up within us. As this pestilence spreads through our communities and throughout the world, we beg You to look with mercy and compassion upon us, unworthy though we are, to heal the sick, to protect all from illness, especially those who care for the sick, and to put a quick end to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

We offer this novena especially for... (name your intentions)

Pray the Daily Prayer (found below)

End with the *Memorare*

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O virgin of virgins my mother. To thee I come. Before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

First Day

Lord, today we pray for an increase in humility. Help us, through the physical weakness brought on by disease to recognize our own spiritual weakness. During the Black Plague, the people recognized their need for Your help, so they turned to fourteen saints, the Fourteen Holy Helpers, to ask for their prayers. Today, in this modern pandemic, we ask once again for the prayers of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, as we unite in prayer with all the saints and angels.

Fourteen Holy Helpers, pray for us.
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.
Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Second Day

Lord, today we pray for an increase in faith. The spread of this disease has filled us with uncertainty and anxiety. Give us faith the size of a mustard seed that we will learn to trust in you in every circumstance of life. St. Luke the Evangelist was a physician by training, but he also had a deep desire to spread the faith, and you even inspired him to write two books of the New Testament. Inspire us to witness to the faith even now.

St. Luke, pray for us.
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.
Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Third Day

Lord, today we pray for an increase in compassion. We tend to look to ourselves and our own needs first, so we ask you to help us to see the sufferings of other people and help however we can, through prayer and fasting, generosity, or just a kind word. St. Theresa of Calcutta had a deep compassion for the poorest of the poor and spent her entire life caring for them. Help us, like Mother Theresa, to always show compassion.

St. Theresa of Calcutta, pray for us.
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.
Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Fourth Day

Lord, today we pray for an increase in peace. The threat of illness and death, the restrictions we're under, and the uncertainty of the future have robbed us of our peace. St. Therese of Lisieux became very familiar with sickness and disease as she suffered with tuberculosis and ultimately died at the young age of 24. Even then, she was able to be filled with peace because you were always at her side. She promised, (I will) "spend my heaven doing good on earth." May she now pray for us.

St. Therese de Lisieux, pray for us.
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Fifth Day

Lord, today we pray for an increase in hope. As this pandemic carries on we are tempted to despair. We ask ourselves if this will ever end. St. Rocco also had much reason to despair during his life, as he was kicked out of town for contracting the Bubonic Plague and, later, falsely imprisoned for five years, and yet he knew that You were always with Him. May we remember that You are always with us and place all our hope in you.

St. Rocco, pray for us.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Sixth Day

Lord, today we pray for an increase in fortitude. Every day there is some new trial to put a stumbling block in our path, and we do not know if we have the strength to continue, to persevere. Your servant, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos answered your call to holiness first by traveling to a foreign land to minister to German immigrants and then by caring for the sick during the Yellow Fever epidemic in New Orleans, until he died from it himself. Fr. Seelos showed great fortitude by relying on Your strength. Give us the strength to bear our own crosses with Your help.

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, pray for us.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Seventh Day

Lord, today we pray for an increase in wisdom. In this time of suffering we wonder what it is for and why You've allowed this to happen. We have trouble seeing Your hand in all of this. St. Frances Xavier Cabrini always tried to follow where You were leading her, even when it took her from her home in Italy to the United States. She followed You by founding schools, orphanages, and hospitals in order to share Your wisdom and love. Give us the wisdom to see how You are working in this time of pandemic.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, pray for us.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Eighth Day

Lord, today we pray for an increase in love for You and our neighbor. We are concerned for our families and communities. Many of us are out of work or living with reduced means, and many of us are cut off even from our families, and are unable to engage in many of our hobbies and pastimes. St. Damien of Molokai left everything behind out of love for You and his neighbor when he travelled to the island of Molokai to minister to the lepers who lived there. Help us to offer our losses as a sacrifice to You, to give with a generous heart, and to grow each day in Your love.

St. Damien of Molokai, pray for us.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Ninth Day

Lord, today we pray for an increase in docility to the Holy Spirit. St. Joseph gives us an example of listening to the voice of God and acting on it, even as not a single word of his is recorded in the Bible. He followed the promptings of the Holy Spirit in taking in the Blessed Virgin and in protecting her and the Infant Jesus, and that is why he is Protector of the Church. Lord, through the intercession of St. Joseph send Your Holy Spirit to protect Your Church, to heal the sick, to end this pandemic, and to enable us to hear Your Word and keep it.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.