

DAY SEVEN

**Reflect: Joseph, renowned offspring of David**

**Read:** "The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'" (Mt 1:20-21)

**Respond:** Good St. Joseph, protector of the Church, pray that my family will forgive each other and know the salvation of Jesus.

DAY EIGHT

**Reflect: Mary, morning star**

**Read:** "A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." (Rv 12:1)

**Respond:** Mother of God, guide my family through life's storms to the safe harbour that is Jesus.

DAY NINE

**Reflect: Jesus, delight of all the saints**

**Read:** "We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus." (Heb 12:1-2)

**Respond:** Lord Jesus, make my family holy like your Holy Family.



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## THE HOLY FAMILY PRAYER

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

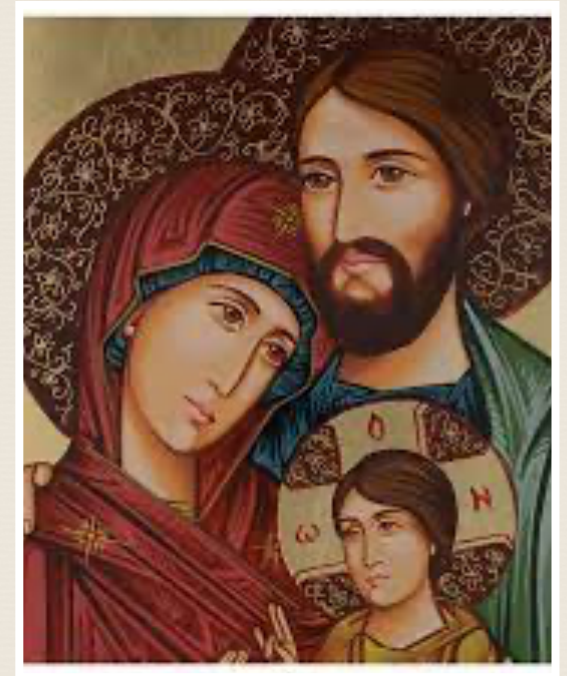
HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the centre of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

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## WAITING ON THE FATHER'S PROMISE

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Devote some time daily with your family for the next nine days to reflect, read and respond to God in prayer with this novena to the Holy Family.



A novena is a prayer extended over nine days, inspired by the first chapters of the Acts of the Apostles. Jesus ascended into Heaven 40 days after his Resurrection, instructing his apostles, "Not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the 'promise of the Father.'" (Acts 1:4) Then, the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles on the 50th day (Acts 2:1-4) after they "devoted themselves with one accord to prayer" for nine days. (Acts 1:14)

A novena is not about getting all the words exactly right, nor is there anything magical about the number nine (magical no, biblical yes). A novena's power is in committing yourself to daily prayer. You might set a notification on your phone or make a calendar event to remind you to pray each day. If you pray a novena with others, especially family members, they can help encourage you and pray for you if you forget.

During the original Pentecost novena, the apostles trusted that Jesus would keep his word by sending the Spirit to renew the face of the earth. (Ps 104:30) If God is asking you to entrust a part of your life to him for renewal, then you should trust that he will also provide the grace to bring about renewal. God will provide the grace; all you need to provide is the space.

Here is a novena in honour of the Holy Family that can initiate a time of prayer for your family. Devote some time to reflect upon these titles of Joseph, Mary or Jesus, to read the Scripture passage and to respond to God in prayer.

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"AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSEHOLD, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD." -  
*Joshua 24:15*

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You can set aside any nine days to devote yourself to God in prayer. Ask for a patron saint's intercession leading up to a feast day and know that prayer unites Christ's body, the Church. Consider an upcoming life event (a job interview, retirement, graduation or wedding) and pray a novena before the big day.



**DAY ONE**

**Reflect: Joseph, light of patriarchs**

**Read:** "When all the land of Egypt became hungry and the people cried to Pharaoh for food, Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians: 'Go to Joseph and do whatever he tells you.'" (Gn 41:55)

**Respond:** Good St. Joseph, who provided our Lord with food, pray that my family will be nourished by the true bread from heaven, Jesus.

**DAY FOUR**

**Reflect: Joseph, head of the Holy Family**

**Read:** "He made him lord over his household, ruler over all his possessions. To instruct his princes as he desired, to teach his elders wisdom." (Ps 105:21-22)

**Respond:** Good St Joseph, who taught our Lord to pray, pray that my family may gain true wisdom by knowing Jesus.



**DAY TWO**

**Reflect: Mary, cause of our joy**

**Read:** "Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, while all the women went out after her with tambourines, dancing; and she responded to them: Sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea." (Ex 15:20-21)

**Respond:** Mother of God, inspire my family to sing a joyful song of salvation in Jesus.

**DAY FIVE**

**Reflect: Mary, handmaid of the Lord**

**Read:** "Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.'" (Lk 1:46-48)

**Respond:** Mother of God, help my family to serve with the humility of Jesus.



**DAY THREE**

**Reflect: Jesus, Savior of the world**

**Read:** "Moses summoned Joshua and in the presence of all Israel said to him, 'Be strong and steadfast, for you shall bring this people into the land which the LORD swore to their ancestors he would give them; it is you who will give them possession of it.'" (Dt 31:7)

**Respond:** Lord Jesus, the new Joshua, bring the deceased members of my family into your promised land.

**DAY SIX**

**Reflect: Jesus, eternal Word of God**

**Read:** "[Jesus] unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.'" (Lk 4:17-19)

**Respond:** Lord Jesus, make the members of my family heralds of your Good News.

