

Novena to St. Therese of Lisieux



Feast Day

September 23 – October 1

PRAY ALL

Gracious and Loving God, You gifted Your Church with the powerful example of our Carmelite Saint and Sister, Therese of Lisieux. Her “Little Way” inspires us to seek intimacy with You, the Living God of Love. Her intercession from heaven continues to evoke goodness from Your Heart, as she showers Roses upon people of faith. As we gather today to honor her, we give you thanks as the God of all Life, who loves us eternally and passionately, in Jesus Your Son and our Brother, and through the Holy Spirit who lives within and among us. Amen.

Preparatory Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Thy divine love. Send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created. And Thou shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who did instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us, we beseech Thee, by the same Holy Spirit, to be truly wise, and fill us always with holy consolation, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

First Day – September 23

St. Therese – “He Whose Heart ever watcheth, taught me, that while for a soul whose faith equals but a tiny grain of mustard seed, He works miracles, in order that this faith which is so weak may be fortified; yet for His intimate friends, for His Mother, He did not work miracles until He had put their faith to the test. It is so sweet to serve the Good God in the dark night of trial; we have this life only to live by faith.”

Prayer

O Little Saint Therese, thou art to me a most sweet teacher. I ardently desire to profit by the holy lessons of virtue thou hast given and to follow thy blessed example. Thou hast taught how sweet it is to serve God by a life of faith, and I humbly beg thee to obtain for me this grace. Strengthen my faith, help me to see the Will of God in all the trials of life, and enable me so to imitate thee on earth that I may enjoy in thy sweet company the everlasting glory of Heaven. I recommend to thee, also, the special favors I desire in this novena...*(add intentions)*...and I beg thee to obtain them for me, if they be pleasing to God. Amen.

Second Day – September 24

St. Therese – “Life is passing, Eternity draws near...What is that life which shall never end? Jesus will be the soul of our soul. Unfathomable mystery! ‘Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man what great things God hath prepared for them that love Him.’ And this will come soon!”

Prayer

Glorious Little Saint Therese! I come with a heart full of devoted love and confidence to recommend to thee all my necessities, and to beg thee to assist me, especially in the work of my salvation. Obtain for me light to understand the great end for which I have been created. Help me to keep in mind the glory of God, and the everlasting joys with which God will reward those who love and serve Him faithfully during their short earthly sojourn, so that I may keep my heart raised above all that is passing and place all my hopes in the promises of eternal life. Obtain for me also, dear Saint, the special favors I ask in making these exercises ...*(add your intentions)*...If my requests are pleasing to God and for the good of my soul. Amen.

Third Day – September 25

St. Therese – “I do not will that creatures should possess a single atom of my love; I wish to give all to Jesus, since He makes me understand that He alone is perfect happiness. All shall be for Him, all! And even when I have nothing to offer Him, I will give Him that nothing...There is only one thing to do here below: to love Jesus, to win souls for Him so that He may be loved. Let us seize with jealous care every least opportunity of self-sacrifice, let us refuse Him nothing – He does so want our love!”

Prayer

O Little Therese, Victim of Divine Love, thy words are full of heavenly sweetness. They penetrate my heart and make me desire to love Jesus even as you did. Help me, I beseech thee, my blessed Patron. Teach me to set no value on human affections, but to give all my love to our infinitely loving and lovable Savior, and to prove my love by scattering at His Feet the flowers of little sacrifices in order to win souls to His Sacred Heart. Obtain, moreover, the petitions I desire in making this novena in thy honor...*(add your intentions)*...if it be the most Loving Will of our Heavenly Father to grant them. Amen.

Fourth Day – September 26

St. Therese – “Veiled in the white Host, O my well Beloved, how meek and humble of heart dost Thou show Thyself to me! Thou couldst not stoop lower to teach me humility, and I, to respond to Thy love, desire to put myself in the lowest, place and share Thy humiliations that I may have part with thee’ in the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Prayer

Thou art so great in Heaven, O dear Little Flower of Jesus, because thou wert so lowly in thy life on earth. Show me how to be truly humble: make me understand the lesson Jesus teaches when He says “Learn of Me because I am meek and humble of heart” and aid me to overcome my pride and self-esteem, so that I may be pleasing to God in this life and afterwards obtain a place in that happy Kingdom which He has promised to little ones. I beg of thee, dear Little Saint, not to regard my unworthiness, but graciously to intercede for the particular favors I ask in this novena...*(add your intentions)*...if they be pleasing to God and good for my soul. Amen.

Fifth Day – September 27

St. Therese – “Now that I am about to appear before the Good God, more than ever do I understand that there is but one thing necessary: to work solely for Him, and to do nothing for self or for creatures...There is no stay, no support to seek out of Jesus. He alone changes not. What happiness to think that He can never change!”

Prayer

Behold at thy feet, O dear Little Saint, one who venerates thee with heartfelt devotion, and who comes to ask thine aid. Obtain, I pray thee, the grace I need in order to be truly detached from the things of the world so that I may find all my joy in living and acting solely for God, who should be the only object of my love. Plead, too, with Jesus for the special favors I ask in making these exercises in thy honor ... (*add your intentions*)...and obtain my requests if they be according to His most Holy Will. Amen.

Sixth Day – September 28

St. Therese – “It is a great trial to see only the dark side of things, but that does not depend completely upon you. Do your best to detach your heart from the cares of this world, and above all from creatures; then you may be sure that Jesus will do the rest. He could not suffer you to fall into the abyss...Oh! Let us profit by the brief moments of this life to give pleasure to Jesus, let us win souls for Him by our sacrifices.”

Prayer

Sweet Little Flower of Jesus, thou whose simplicity so wonderfully attracted the Heart of God, I come to ask thee to help me imitate thy example. Teach me to see God in all things, and never to be discouraged at my faults, so that I may follow thee on thy way of confidence and self-surrender, and arrive safely at the end of life’s journey, to enjoy with thee the blessed Vision of God forever. Obtain also for me, dear Little Therese, the favors I ask through your intercession in this novena ...(*add your intentions*)...and continue to assist me in every necessity. Amen.

Seventh Day – September 29

St. Therese – “What offends Jesus, what wounds Him to the heart, is want of confidence...For those who love Him and who come after each little fault and throw themselves into His arms, begging His forgiveness, the Heart of Jesus thrills with joy...Oh! The goodness and the merciful love of the Heart of Jesus, how little is it known! True it is that to share in these treasures we must humble ourselves, must acknowledge our nothingness, and that is what many souls are not willing to do.”

Prayer

O Little Saint Therese, how sweetly dost thou “sing the mercies of the Lord” and teach souls to approach with boundless confidence the Fountain of infinite Goodness! Filled with love and admiration, I earnestly beg thee to inspire me with sentiments like thine own, that I may never wound the Heart of Jesus by want of confidence. So thou, dear Saint, obtain for me this grace, and all the favors I desire in this novena...(*add your intentions*)... if my petitions are according to the Divine Will.” Amen.

Eighth Day – September 30

St. Therese – “My whole strength lies in prayer and sacrifice, these are my invincible arms; they can move hearts better than words. I know it by experience...Great is the power of prayer – a Queen, as one might say, having free access always to the King, and able to obtain whatever she asks.”

Prayer

O Holy Child of Carmel, Little Saint Therese, thou whose life was one of constant sacrifice and prayer, help me to imitate, in my feeble way, thy admirable example. Aid me to overcome the feelings of nature and to embrace generously, as you did, for love of Jesus and the salvation of souls, every little opportunity of self-denial. Teach me, also, to find all my strength and comfort in prayer and to seek in it the remedy of all my troubles, so that aided constantly by God I may pass safely through this “valley of tears” to the home of eternal rest in the Bosom of our Heavenly Father, unto the glory of His name. I beg of thee, also, dear Little Flower, to obtain the favors I have placed in your hands with so much confidence during this novena...(add your intentions)...if my petitions are pleasing to God and for His Greater honor and glory. Amen.

Ninth Day – October 1

St. Therese – “How I love the Blessed Virgin! She is represented as unapproachable, rather ought she to be shown as imitable. She is more Mother than Queen! I have heard it said that all the Saints are eclipsed by her radiant brightness as the Sun at rising makes the stars disappear. How strange that seems! A Mother eclipsing the glory of her children! I think quite the contrary, I believe that she will immensely increase the splendor of the elect. The Virgin Mary! How simple does her life appear to me!”

Prayer

Hail, Little Therese, devoted Child of Mary! Look down upon one who loves thee, and hasten to listen to my petitions. Obtain for me the saving grace of a great devotion to Our Lady. Help me to love her more and more and to seek her aid with child-like confidence in every necessity. Teach me to honor her by imitating her virtues, and do thou, Little Therese, present me to my heavenly Mother, begging her to show herself a Mother to me always, and to guide me safely through the perils of this world until she brings me at last to the Feet of Jesus, there to rejoice in His Divine Presence forever, with her and thee and all the Angels and Saints.

At the close of these exercises, I give thee thanks with loving gratitude, dearest Saint, for all the graces thou hast obtained for me during this novena, and I humbly beg thee to continue to intercede for the particular favors I desire to obtain...(add your intentions)...I choose thee to be always my heavenly patron, guide, and friend. Deign, then, to assist me in my trials that I may bear them with Christian patience and resignation; encourage me to walk steadily on the narrow way which leads to heaven, and help me now and at the hour of my death by your powerful intercession and protection. Amen.

St. Therese, showering roses from heaven	Pray for us
St. Therese, zealous for souls	“
St. Therese, fulfilling your promises	“
St. Therese, comforter of troubled hearts	“
St. Therese, curing ills of body, mind and spirit	“
St. Therese, leading people to God	“
St. Therese, bringing earth nearer to heaven	“
St. Therese, drawing us closer to Jesus	“
St. Therese, always sending some answer to our prayers	“
St. Therese, hidden during life	“
St. Therese, made glorious by God after death	“
St. Therese, Patroness of the Missions	“

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world	Spare us, O Lord
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world	Graciously hear us, O Lord
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world	Have mercy on us

LEADER

O Little Flower of Jesus, pour into our souls the fragrance of eternity, that we might follow your “little way” of intimacy with God, and so love one another as to create the Kingdom of God here on earth, and then come to share endless glory with you in heaven. Amen.

LET US PRAY

Gracious and merciful God, from the garden of Your heart sprang forth the gift and blessing of our sister, Therese. She in turn offered back to You an intimate, faith-filled journey, and invites us to do the same. In her humility, she saw herself as a tiny wildflower, ever dependent on Your care to carry her through the seasons of her life. Your grace enabled her to open her tiny petals year after year, that she might offer you pleasure and joy in her “little way.” Her ardent desire to bring each of us to You, allows the fragrance of her mission to carry on today. Open our hearts to the wisdom of her simple life, that we might, in our own little way, bloom where You would have us be. We ask this in Your name, through the blessings of Jesus, and the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Song – O Little Flower

(Tune of “Jesus, my Lord, my God, my All)

O little Flower your praises we sing	A Show’r of Roses you can send
For you are with our Lord and King.	Just as you promised, please descend;
As this world’s lowly Little Flower	Be with us here from God’s domain
In Heaven now you have great pow’r.	And let us glimpse your Heav’nly reign.

Refrain:

O Saint Therese, hear our plea
 Fulfill the trust we place in thee
 Fulfill the trust we place in thee