



PRAYER TO SAINT MONICA

Exemplary mother of the Great Augustine, you perseveringly pursued your wayward son... not with wild threats but with prayerful cries to heaven. Intercede for all mothers who like you long to see their children in the house of God.

Teach us to remain close to all God's children, especially to the prodigal sons and daughters who have sadly gone astray. Dear St. Monica, troubled wife and mother, many sorrows pierced your heart during your lifetime. Yet, you never despaired or lost faith. With confidence, persistence, and profound faith you prayed daily for the conversion of your beloved husband, Patricius and your beloved son, Augustine.

Grant me that same fortitude, patience, and trust in the Lord. Intercede for me, dear St. Monica, that God may favorably hear my plea for (names of those you are praying for) and grant me the grace to accept His will in all things, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Pray Hail Mary 3 times
Pray Glory Be 3 times
Saint Monica, pray for us



NOVENA TO SAINT MONICA

INTRO

In this second year of the National Eucharistic Revival, the Office for Divine Worship in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles finds encouragement in the vulnerability that is offered to Jesus in the Eucharist by its faithful through their needs. It is in openly admitting our needs to Jesus, present in the Eucharist, that we are able to intimately know his goodness. Following the example of many Saints, we surrender our needs, our pleadings, our pain to the God of all goodness.

In empathy to the pain of so many mothers that hurt because their beloved children are no longer practicing the faith that they received in their baptism, we share this novena with parishes so that they may offer it to their parishioners. This novena is under the patronage of Saint Monica, Mother of Saint Augustine. Saint Monica was a mother of faith that persisted in prayer and action for the conversion of her wayward son. Her obstinate son tried to resist her pleas, kind words and loving actions for so many years but Saint Monica never gave in to despair. Rather, she hoped in the goodness of God.

Therefore, let us hope and offer up our prayers, with Saint Monica, to our loving God. We invite people to start praying this novena on Sunday, August 27, the feast of Saint Monica, and end on September 4. This novena can be prayed at any time. While this year the feast of St. Monica is not observed since it falls on a Sunday, nevertheless this prayer may be said in parishes at prayer groups or individually.

How to pray this novena:

1. Quiet your mind and observe prayerful silence
2. Invoke the Holy Spirit. For example, you may say: Come Holy Spirit
3. Read and reflect on the intention for the prescribed day
4. Pray the prayer to Saint Monica
5. Pray Hail Mary (3 times)
6. Pray Glory Be (3 times)
7. Commend yourself to Saint Monica's intercession by saying: Saint Monica, pray for us.

Day One

Today we pray for all of our children who are absent from our homes and churches. Firstly we pray for their safe keeping, but more importantly we pray for their return. May the Holy Spirit strip away their fears and give them strength and wisdom to return home.

Day Two

Today we pray for all of our children that have been baptized but have lacked formation, opportunity, or desire to mature in their spiritual faith; and now as adults do not practice their Catholic faith. May they hear the Holy Spirit speak loudly in their hearts about the truth of their faith gifted to them by their parents; and may they be empowered with uncontainable zeal for living their baptismal call.

Day Three

Today we pray for all of our children that have been hurt by someone in the Church. May many of us surround them with prayer, care, service and presence so that their wounds may heal and their lives may flourish in God's love and care.

Day Four

Today we pray for all of our children who do not agree with the teachings of the Church. May the Holy Spirit seep through any opening in their intellect and in their heart so that they may experience a holy enlightenment.

Day Five

Today we pray for all of our children who feel their sins are too big to come back to God. May they notice the ever-longing gaze of the Merciful Father and may we encourage them to run back to him.

Day Six

Today we pray for all of our children who fear estrangement if they openly practice their faith. May the Holy Spirit fill them with courage and joy to openly embrace the call to discipleship and holiness.

Day Seven

Today we pray for all of our children who feel lonely and abandoned by God. May the veil of this evil deception be lifted through the loving hands of their family and friends so that they come to know a privileged closeness with God as his sons and daughters.

Day Eight

Today we pray for all of our children who we have adopted spiritually. May they come to know about the love and care of the Father through our actions, our presence and our relentless intercessory prayer.

Day Nine

Today we pray for all of our children who are ready to come back to Church but don't know how to take the first step. May the Holy Spirit inspire many to come to their aid so that they receive encouragement and guidance in their return to the Church.