

**NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE
FEBRUARY 2021**



175th Anniversary of the Apparition

The Order of Novena

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Prayer for the Marian year

Priest: O Mary, (All) Mother of Reconciliation, as we dedicate this year to you we rejoice to call you blessed.

God the Father chose you as a favored daughter to carry out his providential plan of Salvation.
The Son of God willed you to be his Mother and Disciple, when, to save humanity, he assumed humanity.
The Holy Spirit loved you,
and fashioned you into his living temple, and showered you with extraordinary gifts.

At La Salette, with tears of light, you showed us your crucified Son;
you spoke the language of the humble;
you gave your message to Maximin and Melanie so that it might be made known to all “your People” of every language and culture;
obtain for us the grace to accept and love one another, and to work together for justice and peace.

To you, O Mother, Reconciler of sinners,
Pathway of hope and peace among peoples and cultures,
we confidently entrust all humanity and our “common home,” and the fears and hopes that inhabit them.
Speak once more to Jesus, your Son, that, like you, we too may do whatever he tells us.
Amen.

Memorare to Our Lady of La Salette

Priest: Remember, Our Lady of La Salette, **(all)** true mother of sorrows, the tears you shed for me at Calvary. Remember also the care you have taken to keep me faithful to Christ, your Son. After having done so much for your children, you will not now abandon me. Comforted by this consoling thought, I come to you pleading, despite my infidelities and ingratitude. Virgin of Reconciliation do not reject my prayers, but intercede for me obtain for me the grace to love Jesus above all else. May I console you by a holy life, and so come to share the eternal life, Christ gained by his cross. Amen.

Priest/ Our Lady of La Salette Reconciler of Sinners.

A/ Pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you.

Priest: St. Joseph.....Pray for us

Final Blessing

Priest/ The Lord be with you.

R/ And with your spirit.

Priest/ May Almighty God bless you all, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

R/ Amen.

Day One

Draw near my Children

Scripture Says

"Jesus told them, 'Let the children come to me. Do not hinder them. The kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'" Mt. 19:14-15

Mary says

"Come near my children."

Meditation

Mary as our mother invites us to draw always near to her. The invitation was given not just to the two shepherd children at La Salette. Today Mary also invites us to come near to her. It is an invitation that comes from her motherly love for us. Her hope is that we will open our hearts to her invitation and that we will have the courage to come near to her. Let her motherly love always draw us closer to her and to her Son.

Reflection

- 1.) We are called to "come near." Let us reflect if we are open enough to hear this call.
- 2.) We are asked to be open to Mary's invitation. What hinders us from answering this invitation or even more importantly of extending it to others?

Day Two

Freedom from fear

Scripture says

"The sight disturbed Zachariah and he was overcome with fear. But the angel said to him, 'Zachariah, do not be afraid, your prayer has been heard.'" Lk 1:12-13

Mary says

"Do not be afraid."

Mediation

How often does fear keep us from doing what we know is right? How often are we afraid of God? So often fear keeps us from being the best possible person that we can be. Mary invites us to put aside our fears. She wants us to know that God is looking at the good in us and it is that goodness that God loves into us. Our fear makes us believe that we would not be loved by God. By inviting us not to be afraid, our mother is asking us to accept the freedom of being God's children.

Reflection

- 1.) What do we fear most? What hinders us from experiencing Christ's freedom?
- 2.) Mary lovingly invites us not to be afraid. Do we have the strength to put aside our fears?

Day Three

Let us listen

Scripture says

Jesus proclaimed the Good News from God. *“The time has come”, he said, “and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News.”*

Mary says

“I am here to tell you great news.”

Meditation

To be a good listener is a great gift. Jesus and His mother still proclaim the Good News to us. Mary come to La Salette not just to tell us great news, but to also invite us to hear it and act upon it. Many times this Good News falls upon deaf ears. The tears of Mary emphasize her plea for us to listen to her Son and to listen to her message. By listening to this Good News, we become the rich soil that produces a good yield.

Reflection

- 1.) We are invited to listen to the Good News. What barriers have we put up that prevents us from being good listeners?
- 2.) How are we the rich soil which allows the Good News to be alive in today's world?

Day Four

Suffering

Scripture says

“All you who pass this way, look and see: is any sorrow like the sorrow that afflicts me?” Lam. 1:12

Mary says

“How long a time have I suffered for you!”

Meditation

Suffering is something that we try to avoid at all costs. Yet Mary invites us to become aware of her suffering and the suffering of those around us. The suffering of the victims of war, prejudice, poverty, and injustice calls out to us. So often we are indifferent to the suffering that surrounds us. Mary invites and challenges us to respond to the sufferings of our brothers and sisters. Many times this suffering overwhelms us and we feel powerless. Mary's invitation to look at her suffering reminds us that we are able to alleviate some of this suffering by reaching out, even if only to one person at a time.

Reflection

- 1.) There is much suffering in this world. What can I, as one person, do to alleviate some of that suffering?
- 2.) What are my attitudes toward those who suffer?

Day Five

I will give you rest

Scripture says

"Come to me all you who labor and are overburdened and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28

Mary says

"I gave you six days to work: I kept the seventh for myself, and no one will give it to me."

Meditation

Keeping holy the Sabbath is not seen as just a law, but as rather an invitation to rest. Too often we get caught up in the cycle of business and consumerism and fail to re-create ourselves. There were many times during Jesus' ministry when he withdrew from the crowds to be alone with his Father or with his disciples. Mary also recognized the value of rest and invites us to withdraw from our busy activities and to spend some time with our God. She pleads with us to set aside time to be with her Son who is the source of our life. It is an invitation to come alive and live life to its fullest.

Reflection

- 1.) We are invited to rest in the Lord. Are we kind enough to ourselves to do this?
- 2.) Is God asking too much to return one/seventh of our time to Him?

Day Six

Change of heart

Scripture says

"It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing of this reconciliation." 2 Cor. 5:18

Mary says

"If they are converted, rocks and stones will turn into heaps of wheat, and potatoes will be self-sown in the fields".

Meditation

Conversion is difficult because it challenges us to change many things with which we have become comfortable. Conversion calls us to let God change our hearts and our attitudes. He invites us to grow. Our mother's invitation to conversion is asking us to turn away from our selfishness and to center ourselves in her Son. It is an invitation to new life. Christ said: "I came that people may have life." This life brings us to the promise of refreshment and renewal. Heeding our mother's call to conversion makes our own lives full of grace and one with the Lord.

Reflection

- 1.) We are called to conversion every day. Where, in my life or attitudes, do I sense a need to grow?
- 2.) Have I ever really experienced a conversion in my life?

Day Seven

Do you pray?

Scripture says

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thes. 5:16-18

Mary says

“Do you say your prayers well, my children?... Ah, my children, you should say them well, at night and in the morning.”

Meditation

Mary's invitation to prayer is an invitation to be in union with her Son. She realizes how much joy her union with her Son has brought her and she wants us to share in that joy. So often we look upon prayer as something we must do rather than a source of joy. By inviting us to pray, our mother is asking us to allow her Son to be a part of our lives. We are invited to personal prayer and to shared prayer with others. Our prayers bring Christ to life in our world. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I." If we truly pray, Christ is not someone who is far away from us, but rather someone who is in our midst. Mary invites us to invite Christ into our lives.

Reflection

- 1.) How do we look on prayer? Is it something we must do? Or is it a joy?
- 2.) Do we realize the presence of Christ when we gather in prayer?

Day Eight

We gather together

Scripture says

“The faithful met in their houses for the breaking of the bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone”. Acts 2: 46-47

Mary says

“In the summer, only a few elderly women go to Mass... In the winter, when they don't know what to do, they go to Mass just to make fun of religion.”

Meditation

In the early Church, the faithful met to share their faith and worldly goods. To gather as a community was a high priority for these people. Mary invites us to be once again a community of believers. She challenges us to see the value of gathering together for the breaking of the bread which is the nourishment of our spiritual life. Mary invites us to become a community in which the members support each other through prayer, moral support and the gifts which God has given us. Religion and faith is not just between God and me. Our faith finds its expression within a community of believers. Our mother invites us to union with her Son, herself and all the faithful.

Reflection

- 1.) How important is the community in our faith lives?
- 2.) How do we become the body of Christ?

Day Nine

The Mission of Christ: Our mission

Scripture says

“Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved.” Mk. 16: 15-16

Mary says

“Well, my children, you will make this known to all my people.”

Meditation

The mission that Jesus entrusted to his disciples is also the mission that he extends to all his followers. At La Salette, Mary gave life to that mission. She also reminds us of our mission and invites us to make that mission a vital part of our lives. By the way we live we proclaim our faith in Christ. By the way we live we invite others to share in that faith. The mission is to believe, to hope, and to love Christ. It may sound very simple, but the beauty of the mission is rooted in simplicity. Too often we overlook the simple things of life. So Mary invites us not just once, but twice to make this message known to all her people.

Reflection

- 1.) How do I live the mission of Christ in my life?
- 2.) How willing am I to make this mission, this message known to all people?