

DAYS 7-9

DAY 7 • The flight into Egypt

Soon after Jesus' birth, Mary and Joseph must flee with him to protect his life. The Holy Family becomes a family on the road, unsettled and dependent on welcome. Their story speaks to migrants and refugees who leave home because of danger, and to all who seek a safe place. Pray for families forced to travel, for those who welcome them, and for peace in places torn by violence. Ask what hospitality looks like in your own community. May our welcome reflect the welcome God gives us in Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus, protect families in danger and make us people of welcome. Amen.

DAY 8 • Nazareth: hidden life

After danger passes, Jesus grows in the quiet rhythms of Nazareth. Most of his earthly life is spent in ordinary work, family affection, prayer, and community. Nothing offered in love is too small for God. The hidden years bless our daily routines and the people whose faithful labor often goes unseen. Bring your home, work, and responsibilities to Jesus. Ask him to make the ordinary holy: a meal shared, a task completed with care, a word of patience. Let Nazareth teach you to find God not only in extraordinary moments but in this day.

Prayer: Jesus of Nazareth, bless my daily life and make it a place of love. Amen.

DAY 9 • Bethlehem: God-with-us

On this holy night, Mary gives birth to Jesus in Bethlehem. The long-awaited promise becomes a tiny child, laid in a manger and welcomed by ordinary people. God is with us—not as an idea, but as a living presence who brings light into the night. Pause before the Nativity. Notice Mary's trust, Joseph's care, and the child's quiet vulnerability. What gift can you offer Jesus tonight? Perhaps it is a worry, a relationship, or a renewed promise to serve. Welcome him with joy: the Savior is born, and hope has a home among us.

Prayer: Emmanuel, God-with-us, be born anew in our hearts and in our world. Amen.

Final prayer

Child Jesus, remain with us. Make our homes places of peace, our faith steadfast, and our love generous. May the joy of your birth renew our hope and lead us to serve you in our neighbors. Amen.

Close with the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.



DECEMBER 16-24, 2026

Tonight the Savior is born

A Christmas novena for prayer and reflection

How to pray

Each day: make the Sign of the Cross; pray the Prayer for Forgiveness and opening prayer; read the day's meditation and short prayer; then pray the final prayer, followed by the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.



JESUS' FACTORY

Prayer for forgiveness (I Confess)

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do; through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault. Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Opening prayer

Loving Father, as we begin this Christmas novena, draw us close to Jesus, your Son. Open our hearts to the wonder of his coming. Teach us to welcome him with Mary and Joseph, to recognize him in the poor and displaced, and to share his humble love with everyone we meet. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Daily response

After each meditation, pray its short prayer, then the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

DAYS 1-3

DAY 1 • Love made human

The eternal Son of God chose to become one of us. Love did not remain distant or abstract: it entered our days, our work, our joys, and our pain. In Jesus, God draws near enough to be held and heard. As you look toward the manger, let this truth settle in your heart: you are not forgotten or alone. Christ has taken on our humanity and walks with us. What part of your life most needs his nearness today? Bring it to him without fear. Ask for the grace to see each person you meet as someone whom God loves enough to come close to.

Prayer: Jesus, draw near to me and teach me to love as you love. Amen.

DAY 2 • The Child God

The One who sustains the universe comes to us as a child, dependent on Mary and Joseph for warmth, food, and care. This mystery reveals a God who does not overwhelm us with power but invites our tenderness and trust. In the smallness of Bethlehem, God honors the vulnerable and makes room for every child. Let the quiet of the stable soften what has become hard within you. Who needs your patient care? Where might you allow yourself to receive help? Welcome the Child Jesus with the simplicity of a heart that knows it is loved.

Prayer: Little Jesus, make my heart gentle, trusting, and ready to welcome you. Amen.

DAY 3 • Born in poverty

Jesus is born without comfort or status, in a place offered by strangers. His poverty is not a rejection of the world but a sign that no human condition is beyond God's reach. He stands beside those who lack shelter, security, or the things others take for granted. At the manger, we learn that dignity does not come from possessions. Ask Christ to free you from whatever keeps you from seeing people in need. Consider one concrete act of generosity this week. Let the gifts you have become a welcome for someone else.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me recognize you in those who are poor and make me generous. Amen.

DAYS 4-6

DAY 4 • The humility of Jesus

The Lord of all creation accepts the hiddenness of infancy and the ordinary care of a family. Jesus teaches us that humility is not thinking ourselves worthless; it is making room for God and for one another. Mary and Joseph receive the mystery with attentive hearts and faithful service. In their company, ask for freedom from the need to be noticed or praised. What quiet act of love can you offer today without seeking recognition? Let the humility of Christ give you courage to serve, listen, and begin again.

Prayer: Jesus, teach me the freedom and joy of humble service. Amen.

DAY 5 • Sorrow and tenderness

From his first days, Jesus shares the fragility of human life. The manger's tenderness already carries the shadow of a world marked by danger and grief. God does not look away from sorrow; in Christ, God enters it and remains with us. Bring to the Holy Family the pain you carry, the names you worry about, and the losses for which you still grieve. Ask Jesus to comfort those who are afraid or lonely this Christmas. May the stable become a place where tears are welcomed and hope begins again.

Prayer: Compassionate Jesus, stay close to all who suffer and console us with your presence. Amen.

DAY 6 • Mercy from heaven

The Son comes from heaven to rescue us, not by force but through self-giving love. The child in the manger is already the Savior who will offer his life for the world. His mercy reaches beyond our failures and calls us back to life. Receive that mercy honestly: name what needs healing, ask forgiveness, and trust that God's love is stronger than your sin. Then extend the same patience to someone who has hurt you. At Christmas, let gratitude for Christ's saving love become a decision to forgive and to begin anew.

Prayer: Savior Jesus, forgive me, heal me, and teach me to offer mercy. Amen.