

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

16-24 December 2015



Introduction: Christmas Novena is a journey towards the joyful celebration of Christmas and an intense preparation for the coming of the Messiah through the prophecies, psalms, and gospels. Let us celebrate “A **BLESSED CHRISITMAS**” this year as we are invited to reflect upon the Blessedness of the beatitudes from the Gospel of St. Matthew. The beatitudes call us to a new way of being and doing that can radically transform our lives and the lives of all we touch. As we are getting ready to meet the Holy family at the stable in Bethlehem let us pray for families in need.

16th December

Born to be poor.

“*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*” (Matthew 5:1)

TO REFLECT: Being poor in spirit means being humble before God. The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us that the kingdom of heaven is within, where all of creation is once again in right relationship with God and with each other. We learn to love each other with true compassion and to live in ways that our lives become more unified.

TO ACT: Let us live our vow our poverty by renouncing our comfort today and thus make a *tent of sacrifice* for Christ to be born.

TO PRAY: Let us pray for all the families that suffer from material and spiritual poverty.



17th December

Born to bring comfort.

“*Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted*” (Matthew 5:4)

TO REFLECT: The birth of Jesus promises that each one of us will be comforted by the coming of an infant Savior who always walks with us in our pain and suffering. Jesus, the comforter, is a compassionate and understanding companion because He has experienced pain and suffering in his earthly life. Through our experience of pain we become truly compassionate and become God’s helpers reaching out to others in love.

TO ACT: Let us spend some time today to listen to a person who is in need of our comforting words and thus make a comfortable *manger of love* for Christ.

TO PRAY: Let us pray for the families who mourn over the loss of their dear ones and for those who are sick physically and mentally.



18th December

Born to be meek and humble.

“Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5)

TO REFLECT: The birth of Christ translates the true meaning of meekness as powerless as He came like a humble child on the earth. His humility lets us see the truth about ourselves and others which perhaps we miss when we're overwhelmed by emotion such as pride and anger. In meekness, we come to trust in God, and to live in humble surrender to His project of Love.

TO ACT: Let us acknowledge our mistakes and be the first one to ask pardon from others and thus prepare a glorious ***crown of humility*** for our Infant King.

TO PRAY: Let us pray for families that are divided due to misunderstanding, infidelity and doubt.



19th December

Born to be righteous.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” (Matthew 5:6)

TO REFLECT: The birth of Jesus expects us to be blessed people who thirst for a deeper relationship with God as much as a starving person hungers for food. Being righteous is to live in accordance with God's desires for us: to live in loving relationship with God and others. It echoes the experience of the psalmist, *“as a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God; my soul thirsts for you”* (Psalm 42:1).

TO ACT: Let us recall and share in the community about the event or a person who inspired us to follow Christ and thus prepare a pair of ***sandals of fidelity*** for our Savior.

TO PRAY: Let us pray for the families who long for the gift of a child and the families who wait for the return of their children who have left them away.



20th December

Born to be merciful.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” (Matthew 5:7)

TO REFLECT: The birth of Jesus reveals God's mercy to us. In being merciful we become reflections of his love and we are able to identify ourselves with others. We learn to see things as God would see them, we learn to feel the suffering of others and relieve them of their pain; we are able to understand others and offer generous forgiveness.

TO ACT: Let us become merciful and forgive a person with whom we find difficult to deal and prepare a pair of ***gloves of mercy*** for the Babe of Bethlehem.

TO PRAY: Let us pray for the families that suffer from unforgiving attitude, hatred and vengeance.



21th December

Born to be Pure.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” (Matthew 5:8)

TO REFLECT: In Jesus, we see what it is like to be pure in heart. He took on human nature and lived a life centered on God. He was constantly in touch with God and did God's will in all things. There

was unity in what He said and what He did. To become pure of heart is to have all aspects of our lives centered on God, our thoughts, desires, and actions. There should be coherence in what we say and what we do. To become pure of heart means that all aspects of our life radiate from our experiences of God's love.

TO ACT: Let us spend extra few minutes in the presence of the Lord today asking for the grace to purify our intentions words, and actions and prepare a beautiful *garment of purity* for Jesus.



TO PRAY: Let us pray for the families who lost faith in God; for those who are not regular to their religious practices and family prayers.

22th December

Born to bring peace.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9)

TO REFLECT: The birth of Christ invites us to be peacemakers and to live our lives in His presence. We can experience this inner peace when our whole life is offered to God and others in love. The radical love of Christ inspires us to love while expecting nothing in return, that can cut across and end the mounting barriers of increasing revenge and hatred, which dominate our world.

TO ACT: Let us surrender all our plans and activities of this day at the feet of the Lord to enjoy his peace and prepare a *peace ring* for our Infant redeemer.



TO PRAY: Let us remember to pray for the families who suffer without peace due to war, violence and natural calamities.

23th December

Born to be persecuted.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 5:10)

TO REFLECT: The birth of Christ brings God's realm of love, righteousness, truth and justice that challenge systems built on power, greed, oppression, falsehood, and the exploitation of others and the creation. Those who have devoted their life to God and live according to God's law are being led in all things by God. Jesus Himself knew persecution, and He calls us, His disciples, to be meek and respond to persecution or suffering with patience and fortitude.

TO ACT: Let us be sincere and speak the truth in charity with courage and prepare a *scepter of sincerity* for the new born King.



TO PRAY: Let us pray for the families who are persecuted for their faith in Christ.

24th December

Born to rejoice.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,” (Matthew 5:11)

TO REFLECT: The birth of Christ calls us to accept the suffering for His name and rejoice over being called as Christians and above all His disciples. He always wants us to realize that we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation set apart to sing the praises of God who called us out of darkness and sin. The suffering we endure daily for His name will strengthen our love for Him.

TO ACT: Let us hide our suffering and bring joy to others by our kind words and prepare some *sweets of kindness* for the child to be born.



TO PRAY: Let us pray for the families that have no food, shelter and security.

25th December

Born to be blessed.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (Psalm 98,3)

TO REFLECT: The birth of Christ invites us to rejoice over His coming and share this joy with others. The deepest of joy we can find in our relationship with God which leads us to others in love. This beautiful event of God coming in human form urges us to live our blessedness with our heart and soul.

TO ACT: Let us rejoice in the divine child expressing our genuine interest in others by wishing them a happy Christmas and offer a *bouquet of happiness* to the new born King in the crib of our hearts.

TO PRAY: Let us pray for the families of our community sisters and share our joy and happiness with them.



**BLESSED CHRISTMAS &
A JOYOUS NEW YEAR !**