

ST. CALLISTUS PRAYERS

BEFORE MORNING MASS - W

LEADER: Good morning, everyone! We now begin the Novena to our **MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP**



devotional prayers with the following intentions: In thanksgiving for all the blessings and graces we received, for the intentions of the Holy Father, our Bishop Barber, clergy and religious, especially Fr. Dante, Fr. James and all the priests who minister to our St. Callistus Church. We also pray for our St. Callistus parish community, especially those suffering and in need of healing. Finally, we include the souls in purgatory and the conversion of sinners.

IMMACULATE MOTHER (song) [STAND]

Immaculate Mother to you do we plead
To ask God, our Father, for help in our need
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria, Ave, Ave, Ave Maria

We pray for our country, the land of our birth
We pray for all nations, that peace be on earth

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria, Ave, Ave, Ave Maria

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

ALL: *Amen.*

[KNEEL/SIT]

LEADER: Brothers and sisters, as children of our Blessed Mother, we are gathered before her miraculous picture to honor her and to pray for all our needs. Unworthy children that we are, let us first of all ask God's mercy and pardon.

ALL: Merciful Father * You sent Your Divine Son * to redeem us by His death and resurrection * and to give us new life. By this you make us your children * to love one another in Christ. How many times in the past * we have forgotten this sublime dignity. We have sinned against our brothers and sisters, * we have offended You. Merciful Father, forgive us. Repenting sincerely of our sins we ask Your mercy * may we always live as Your devoted children.

NOVENA PRAYER

ALL: Dear Mother of Perpetual Help * from the cross Jesus gave you to us for our Mother. You are the kindest, most loving of all mothers. Look tenderly on us your children as we now ask you to help us in all our needs, especially this one ... (pause to recall your petitions). While you were on earth, dear Mother * you willingly shared in the sufferings of your Son. Strengthened by your faith and confidence * in the fatherly love of God * you accepted the mysterious designs of His will. We, too, have our crosses and trials. Sometimes they almost crushed us to the ground. Dearest Mother * share with us your abundant faith and confidence in God. Make us aware that God never ceases to love us, * that He answers all our prayers * in the way that is best for us. Strengthen our hearts to carry the cross * in the footsteps of your Divine Son. Help us to realize * that he who shares the cross of Christ * will certainly share His resurrection.

Dearest Mother, as we worry about our own problems * let us not forget the needs of others. You always loved others so much; help us to do the same. While praying for our own intentions * and for the intentions of all here present at this novena * we earnestly ask you, our Mother * to help us comfort the sick and the dying * give hope to the poor and the unemployed * heal the brokenhearted * lighten the burden of the oppressed * teach justice to their oppressors and bring back to God all those who have offended Him.

Dearest Mother, help us to avoid sin which separates us from our heavenly Father * and from one another. Full of trust in you * we place ourselves under the mantle of your maternal protection * and confidently hope for your powerful help. Amen.

PRAYER FOR OUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS

ALL: O Mother of Perpetual Help * you are the dispenser of all the graces * which God bestows upon us * wretched sinners * and for this end * has He made you * so powerful * so rich * so kind * in order that * you may assist us * in our miseries. You are the advocate * of the most miserable * and abandoned criminals * who have recourse to you. Help us, then, * to recommend ourselves to you. We place our eternal salvation * in your hands * to you we consign our souls. Number us * amongst the most special servants * take us * under your protection * and we are satisfied. Yes * for * if you help us * we fear nothing * neither our sins * since you will obtain for us * the pardon of them * nor the devil * for you are more powerful * than all hell. Our only fear is * that through our own negligence * we should cease * to recommend ourselves to you * and should therefore be lost. Obtain for us * our Lady * the pardon of our sins * the love of Jesus * final perseverance * and the grace of * ever having recourse to you, * O Mother of Perpetual Help.

PRAYER FOR THE HOME

ALL: Mother of Perpetual Help * we choose you as Queen of our homes. We ask you to bless all our families * with your tender motherly love. May the Sacrament of Marriage * bind husbands and wives so closely together * that they will always be faithful to each other * and love one another as Christ loves His church.

We ask you to bless all parents, may they love and cherish their children * whom God has entrusted to them. May they always give them the example * of a truly Christian life. Help them to bring up their children * in the love and fear of God. Bless all children * that they may love, honor and obey their fathers and mothers. To your loving care * we especially entrust the youth of today.

Give us the sense of responsibility * that we may do our part * in making our home a haven of peace * like your own home in Nazareth. We take you as our model. Help us to grow daily in genuine love of God and neighbor * so that justice and peace may happily reign * in the entire family of mankind. Amen.

PETITIONS TO OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

Holy Mary *Pray for us*
Holy Virgin, conceived without sin “
Our Mother of Perpetual Help “
We sinners call to you *Loving Mother, help us**

[Include a seasonal prayer below, when appropriate]

Advent: That we may prepare like you * for the coming of Christ ... *

Christmas: That we may give our hearts * completely to Christ this Christmas ... *

Lent: That we may be faithful to the * promises we made at Baptism ... *

Easter: That we may rejoice with you * at Christ’s victory over sin and death ... *

Response below: *Loving Mother, help us**

That we may be filled with the Holy Spirit * and become courageous witnesses of * Christ’s love for everyone ... *

That we may be more and more like * our Divine Lord, as you were ... *

That we may be meek and humble of * heart like your Son, Jesus ... *

That we may fear losing God’s friendship * forever by unrepented sin ... *

That we may seek Christ’s mercy * and forgiveness constantly in the * sacrament of Penance ... *

That we may be aware of God speaking * to us in the events of daily life ... *

That we may pray daily with love and trust, * especially in moments of temptation ... *

That we may realize the value of worshipping * God together in the Eucharist ... *

That we may grow in the love of Christ * and neighbor by frequent Communion ... *

That we may reverence our bodies as * temples of the Holy Spirit ... *

That we may strive to be true Christians * by our loving concern for others ... *

That we may proclaim the dignity of work * by doing our own work conscientiously ... *

That we may forgive from our heart those * who have wronged us ... *

That we may see the evil of seeking our * own interest at the expense of others ... *

That we may work for the just distribution * of this world’s goods ... *

That we may share our talents with others * for the good of the community ... *

That we may accept our responsibility in the * community in a spirit of genuine service ... *

That the Holy Spirit may guide * and strengthen Pope Francis, the * bishops and the clergy ... *

That we may be blessed with an * increase of priestly vocation ... *

That we may bring the knowledge and love * of Christ to those who do not know Him ... *

That we may be aware of our dependence on * God in the midst of human achievements ... *

That we may be ready at death to enter * the home of our heavenly Father ... *

That we may die at peace with Christ * and our fellowmen ... *

That we may be comforted at the death of * our dear ones by our hope in the risen Lord ... *

That our departed brothers and sisters * quickly share in your Son’s resurrection ... *

LET US PRAY IN SILENCE FOR OUR OWN INTENTIONS (pause)

ALL: Holy Mary help us in our needs * pray for all * the people of God. * May all experience your * perpetual help.

LEADER: Lord, you gave us Mary to be our Mother ever * ready to help us, grant us the grace to have * recourse to her in all our needs.

ALL: Amen

CONSECRATION (skip unless first Wednesday

of the Month) ALL: Immaculate Virgin Mary (Mother of God and Mother of the Church) * You are also our Mother of Perpetual Help. With hearts full of love for you * we consecrate ourselves to your Immaculate Heart * so that we may be your devoted children. Obtain for us true sorrow for our sins * and fidelity to the promises of our Baptism.

We consecrate our minds and hearts to you * that we may always do the will of our heavenly Father. We consecrate our lives to you * that we may love God better * and live not for ourselves but for Christ your Son * and that we may see Him and serve Him in others.

By this humble act of consecration * dear Mother of Perpetual Help * we pledge to model our lives on you * the perfect Christian * so that consecrated to you in life and in death * we may belong to your Divine Son for all eternity. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

ALL: Lord Jesus Christ * You bore your sufferings and carried our sorrows * in order to show us clearly * the value of human weakness and patience, * graciously hear our prayer for the sick. * Grant that those who are weighed down with pain * and other afflictions of illness * may realize that they are among the chosen ones * whom You call blessed. * Help them to understand * that they are united with you in Your sufferings * for the salvation of the world. Amen.

PRAYER FOR OUR TEMPORAL NEEDS

ALL: O Mother of Perpetual Help * with the greatest confidence * we come before your sacred picture * in order to invoke your aid. You have seen the wounds * which Jesus has been pleased * to receive for our sake. * You have seen * the Blood of your Son * flowing for our salvation. You know * how much your Son desires * to apply to us * the fruits of His Redemption. Behold * we cast ourselves at your feet * and pray that you * obtain for our soul this grace * we stand so much in need of. O Mary * most loving of all mothers * obtain for us * from the Heart of Jesus * the source of every good * this grace * (**mention it here internally** (pause)). O Mother of Perpetual Help * you desire our salvation * far more than we ourselves. Your Son has given you to us * for our Mother. You have chosen * to be called Mother of Perpetual Help. We trust not in our merits * but in your motherly love. Mother of Perpetual Help * for the love * you bear to Jesus * your Son and our Redeemer * for the love * of your great servant Alphonsus * for the love of our souls * obtain for us * the grace we ask from you. Amen.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

ALL: Lord Jesus Christ * truly present in the most Blessed Eucharist * we adore You. It has pleased the Father * that in You all His fullness should dwell * and that through You He should reconcile all things to Himself. Grant us the grace to be truly grateful * for all that our Father has done for us.

Grant that we may be truly sorry for our sins * and do penance for them.

Through You, we thank the Eternal Father for our gifts of life. * He has created all the wonderful things of this world for us. * May we learn to use them well * so that through them * we may grow in love for Him.

Above all, we thank our Father * for sending You to us * as the greatest expression of His love * to save us and all creation * by Your death and resurrection.

We thank You Lord * for giving us Your own Mother to be our Mother of Perpetual Help. May the countless favors we have received through her intercession, (and especially through this Novena) * inspire us to greater confidence in God's loving Mercy * and her Perpetual Help. * Grant that we may always do the Holy will of God * and persevere in His love. To the Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, * be honor, glory, and thanksgiving, forever and ever. Amen.

[STAND]

MOTHER OF CHRIST (song optional/time permitting)

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
What shall I ask of Thee?

I do not sigh for the wealth of earth
For the joys that fade and flee.
But, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ
This do I long to see,
The bliss untold which your arms enfold
The treasure upon your knee.

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
I toss on a stormy sea,
Oh, lift your Child as a beacon light
To the port where I fain would be
And, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This do I ask of thee.

When the voyage is o'er, O stand on the shore,
And show Him at last to me.

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

LEADER: The Mother of Perpetual Help prayers are finished. We invite you now to be in quiet contemplation with the Lord until the Mass begins. Thank you.