



As we approach the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation celebrated on December 8), we offer you two forms of prayer, THE NOVENA TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION and THE LITANY TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, to pray beginning on November 29 for 9 days until December 7, to help you celebrate this Feast. The church uses nine days as the traditional period of time for the devotional prayer called a “novena”. A novena is repeated nine successive times for special intentions, often focusing on hopeful mourning, yearning, and prayer. Novenas often end on the ninth day with a special feast of joy and hope.

### **NOVENA TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. Amen.

(State your request here.)

November 29: For grace on the Shepherds of our Diocese, living and deceased who like Mary have strived to live lives of Holiness to inspire the people of the Diocese of Rockford.

November 30: Remember the priests, living & deceased of our diocese who are called to serve the vineyard of Rockford with the same filial devotion. May they fall under your shadow of protection to have the strength and courage to be ministers of word and sacrament to the people of God.

December 1: For the young people of our diocese who learn the faith through our Catholic School and Religious Education. May your divine love of your Son inspire them to learn and grow in the grace and love of Christ.

December 2: For Catholic Charities of Diocese of Rockford who serves the poor, the marginalized, and the alienated. May their outreach be the hand of Christ who recognized the face of God in each human person.

December 3: For our brothers and sisters who have left the Church, that they might accept the invitation to return and worship with us.

December 4: That parishes become evangelizing parishes, sharing faith through Christian witness and service.

December 5: For St. Joseph Parish, that we will live out our mission statement: *“To be a visible sign of Christ’s presence among us in the world, by living out the Gospel message of God’s love in ministry and service.”*

December 6: That each of us will take the opportunity to invite someone who has drifted away from the church to come back home and that they feel truly accepted upon their return.

December 7: For those preparing for marriage and those who are married, that they live out the covenant relationship of the sacrament of marriage.

Pray One Our Father, One Hail Mary, and One Glory Be

Concluding Prayer: O Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your Divine Son while upon this earth; you have the same influence now in heaven. Pray for us and obtain for us from him the granting of this petition if it be the Divine Will. Amen.

### **LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN**

Lord, have mercy on us	
Christ, have mercy on us	
Lord, have mercy on us	
Christ, hear us	Christ, graciously hear us
God the Father of heaven,	have mercy on us
God the Son,	
Redeemer of the World,	have mercy on us
God the Holy Spirit,	have mercy on us
Holy Trinity,	have mercy on us

After each intercession say “pray for us”

Holy Mary, ...	Mystical rose, ...
Holy Mother of God, ...	Tower of David, ...
Holy Virgin of virgins, ...	Tower of ivory, ...
Mother of Christ, ...	House of gold, ...
Mother of Divine Grace, ..	Ark of the covenant, ...
Mother most pure, ...	Gate of heaven, ...
Mother most chaste, ...	Morning star, ...
Mother inviolate, ...	Health of the sick, ...
Mother undefiled, ...	Refuge of sinners, ...
Mother most amiable, ...	Comforter of the afflicted, ...
Mother most admirable, ..	Help of Christians, ...
Mother of good counsel,	Queen of Angels, ...
Mother of our Creator, ...	Queen of Patriarchs, ...
Mother of our Savior, ...	Queen of Prophets, ...
Virgin most prudent, ...	Queen of Apostles, ...
Virgin most venerable, ...	Queen of Martyrs, ...
Virgin most renowned, ...	Queen of Confessors, ...
Virgin most powerful, ...	Queen of Virgins, ...
Virgin most merciful, ...	Queen of all Saints, ...
Virgin most faithful, ...	Queen conceived without sin, ...
Mirror of justice, ...	Queen assumed into heaven, ...
Seat of wisdom, ...	Queen of the most holy Rosary, ...
Cause of our joy, ...	Queen of Peace, ...
Spiritual vessel, ...	
Vessel of honor, ...	
Singular vessel of devotion, ...	

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Grant we beseech You, O Lord God, that we, Your servants, may enjoy perpetual health of mind and body: and by the glorious intercession of the blessed Mary, ever Virgin, be delivered from present sorrow and enjoy eternal gladness. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. That means Catholics must celebrate it by attending Mass on that day. Our Masses on Tuesday, December 8 will be at 7AM, 12:10PM and 7PM.**

