

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

First Day: December 16

O God and Savior of our souls, sweet Infant Jesus, Whom the angels and shepherds adored in the stable of Bethlehem on that holy night when Thou wert born of the Virgin Mary, we offer Thee our profound adoration and our most earnest thanksgiving for having become man for our redemption and salvation; grant that we may apply all our powers to fulfill Thy gracious designs, that we may become perfectly renewed in heart and inflamed with Thy holy love.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

Second Day: December 17

O merciful Redeemer, Who didst vouchsafe to remain in the chaste cloister of Mary's womb, hidden and unknown, though Thou wast the Eternal Word, and the wisdom of the Father; grant that we may learn from Thee to love solitude and silence, and escape the evils that are of mind and of heart; grant that we may glorify Thee, and edify others by our purity and modesty.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

Third Day: December 18

O Infant God, Who from the moment of Thy conception in holy Mary's womb, didst offer Thyself to Thine eternal Father for the salvation of our souls, vouchsafe to give us a lively sense of the one thing necessary, so that we may labor zealously for others, and work out our own salvation in fear and trembling, yet with confidence in Thy love.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

Fourth Day: December 19

O sweetest Jesus, Who didst go up to Bethlehem in the womb of Mary, to obey the commands of Caesar, who had ordered all his subject to be enrolled; grant us grace to obey with alacrity the most arduous commands from those who hold Thy place over us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

Fifth Day: December 20

O most adorable Jesus, Who, upon Thy arrival at Bethlehem, was rejected by all men; grant us to follow Thy example in sufferings and contempt, that we may welcome Thee joyfully into our hearts, when Thou seekest an entrance there, either by holy inspirations or by Thy divine Sacraments.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

Sixth Day: December 21

O Divine Infant, Who, when excluded from Bethlehem, didst inspire Thy holy Mother to retire to a poor and wretched stable, in which obscure and humble place it was Thy will to be born, in order to confound our pride, and teach us humility - O grant that henceforward, conforming ourselves to Thy will, we may renounce all pomp and pride, and become truly meek and humble of heart.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

Seventh Day: December 22

O Divine Word Who for the love of us, Thy poor creatures, wast pleased to be born under the most lowly roof, to be wrapped in the meanest swaddling-bands, and to be laid in a vile manger, amongst beasts, and to suffer a thousand evils. O grant that we also may renounce all worldly vanities, and embrace poverty of spirit, and mortification of the flesh, so necessary for our perfection. Grant that we may be thoroughly detached from creatures, and poor in all things save in Thy love and Thy grace.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

Eighth Day: December 23

O Divine Savior, O King of peace, Who wast pleased to make Thy appearance amongst us when the whole world was in peace, vouchsafe to send us Thy peace, so that all our powers being brought into subjection to Thee, Thou mayest at the approaching solemnity be born anew in our souls.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

Ninth Day: December 24

O Divine Savior, O King of immortal glory, Who, in Thy great mercy, didst come into the world to redeem us and to make us holy; grant that, denying all ungodliness and love of this world, we may live soberly in ourselves, justly toward our neighbor, and piously before Thee, that so we may be happy with Thee for all eternity.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.





O Radix Jesse (Isaiah, Ch. 11)
"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots."

O Clavis David (Isaiah, Ch. 22:22)
"I shall place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no one shall shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open."

O Oriens (Isaiah, Ch. 9:2)
"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined."

O Rex gentium (Jeremiah 10:7)
"Who would not fear You, O King of the nations?" (Isaiah, Ch. 28:16) *"See, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation ..."*

O Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14)
"A virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel."

Dec. 17: O WISDOM, Who proceedest from the Mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end mightily, and sweetly ordering all things: COME and teach us the way of prudence.

*O come, Thou Wisdom, Son divine,
 Our weakened wills to Thee incline!
 And shed Thy light o'er life's dark way,
 Lest, lured by sin, we go astray.
 Rejoice! Rejoice, O Israel!
 To thee shall come Emmanuel.*

Dec. 18: O ADONAI, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: COME and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

*O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
 Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
 In ancient times didst give the law
 In cloud and majesty and awe.
 Rejoice! Rejoice, O Israel!
 To thee shall come Emmanuel.*

The seven "O Antiphons" (also called the "Greater Antiphons") come from the Divine Office at Vespers during the Octave *before* Christmas *Eve*. These Antiphons are the source of the lyrics of the Advent song "Veni, Veni Emmanuel."

Each Antiphon begins with "O" and addresses Jesus with a unique title which comes from the prophecies of the Old Testament. The initials of these Latin names, when read backwards, form the acrostic "Ero Cras" which means "Tomorrow I come."

Sapientia	
Adonai	Oriens
Radix Jesse	Rex Gentium
Clavis David	Emmanuel

O Sapientia (Sirach, Ch. 24)
"I [Wisdom] came forth from the mouth of the Most High ... Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss." (Wisdom, Ch. 8)
"She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well."

O Adonai (Exodus, Ch. 3:15)
"God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors ... has sent me to you: This is My Name forever, and this my title for all generations.'"

Dec. 19: O ROOT OF JESSE, Who standest as an ensign of the people, before whom kings shall not open their lips, to whom the nations shall pray, COME and deliver us, tarry now no more.

*O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice, O Israel!
To thee shall come Emmanuel.*

Dec. 20: O KEY OF DAVID, and scepter of the house of Israel, who openest and no man shutteth, who shuttest and no man openeth, COME and lead the captive from prison, sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death.

*O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads to Thee,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice, O Israel!
To thee shall come Emmanuel.*

Dec. 21: O ORIENT, Splendor of Eternal Light and Sun of Justice, COME and enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

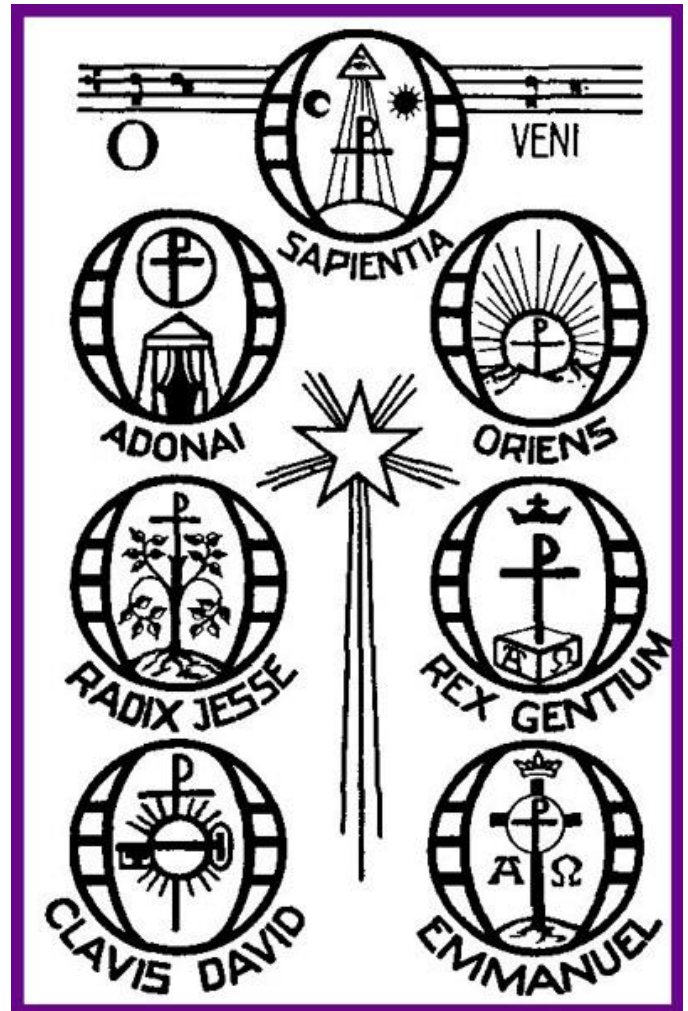
*O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice, O Israel!
To thee shall come Emmanuel.*

Dec. 22: O KING OF NATIONS, and their Desired One, the Cornerstone that makes both one, COME and save man whom Thou formed out of the slime of the earth.

*O come, Thou King of all the earth,
That we may share Thy wondrous birth!
Come, rule our heart and mind and will,
That we Thy precepts may fulfill.
Rejoice! Rejoice, O Israel!
To thee shall come Emmanuel.*

Dec. 23: O EMMANUEL, our King and Lawgiver, the Expectation and Savior of the nations, COME and save us, O Lord our God.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice, O Israel!
To thee shall come Emmanuel.*



Dec. 24: When the sun shall have risen in the heavens, ye shall see the King of Kings coming from the Father, as a Bridegroom from his bride chamber.