

The Way to Christmas



The Way to Christmas



No objection to printing

Apostolic Vicariate of the Latins

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Introduction

Based on its discussion of the divine nature that transcends all things, every in-depth talk about God is called a theology, but when the talk about God becomes deeper, it means the human being is integrally present, i.e., from birth till death and beyond. We can here see a kind of combination between theology and the human nature: the heavenly with the earthly, the eternal Word with the physical earthy body. Here also, and based on our belief in the incarnation of the “Word”, we present “The Way to Christmas” as a prayer book that helps us deepen our relationship with the Living and Holy God, who first loved us, whom we knew, saw, touched, and heard as a complete human being, and whose name is “Jesus”; He is our Lord, God, and Savior. Through our contemplation of the humanity of the incarnate Word, we search in our meeting about Him, who is the eternal love, the eternal truth, the immortal beauty, and the light that never goes out. This is our cherished goal to whoever is going to contemplate and pray with us “The Way to Christmas”.

Why “The Way to Christmas”? We will not be able to comprehend and recognize the great and glorious matters, unless we start with their basic, essential, and small parts. Therefore, the nine stages of “The Way to Christmas” constitute these parts that are now together an integrated unit that means the Mystery of the Incarnation, and which we engage with good piety of faith, so that we may be more stunned at what the Lord has done for our love and salvation.

In each of the nine stages, we stand contemplating and witnessing the wondrous condescension of the Son of God,

who missed us and became a human being like us, where we also discover His plan and wisdom which turn our reality from within it upside down, preserving what is visible in its natural and simple form. On our way to Christmas, we go to meet the face of Christ, the Child of Bethlehem, and at the same time, we go to meet our true identity, we who are created in his image and likeness. Our aim here is to have a combination between our fragile wounded humanity and the humanity of the Lord Jesus that liberates, heals and, revives us.

As for if we come to the structure of contemplations and prayers, they are based on the following form: 1- the title stage title, 2- a reading from the Gospel, 3- reflections to deepen our feeling and thinking with the Mystery of the Incarnation, 4- a thank you and a request for a blessing, 5- and finally the heart prayer.

We hope this book to be a spiritual introduction that helps he who reads it to meet our Lord Jesus, and to accept His healing love through which our humanity completely restores its glory and dignity in order to achieve its goal.



How to Pray the Way to Christmas

[1] On the pastoral ecclesial level

- The Way to Christmas is celebrated at the time of Christmas or Advent every Friday before Christmas.
- It can be continued till the Feast of the Epiphany or Divine Appearance, i.e., till January 6.
- It can be recited during the novena.
- The priest, deacon, or one of the laities presides over the prayer.
- The preparation of the 9 stages is carried out either through icons, a screen, or stations that depict the stage. It could be either inside the church to reach the prepared manger or outside the church where it takes the form of a Gregorian march, and at the beginning of each stage, a candle is lit and incense is placed.
- The roles are followed according to the division found in the book.
- When chanting “We glorify You, we praise You...” the praying group prostrates and get up at “Let us thank God...”
- The heart prayer becomes in plural form.
- If it is recited as a novena, the additional prayers for each day are prayed.

[2] On a personal individual level

- “The Way to Christmas” is celebrated in the time of Christmas or Advent every Friday before Christmas.
- It can be continued till the Feast of the Epiphany or Divine Appearance, i.e., January 6.
- It can be recited during the novena.
- It is better to prepare a suitable place for praying or it could be in front of a manger prepared in the house.

- The heart prayer can be recited 10 or 33 times, according to the number of years of the Lord's life
- If it is recited as a novena, the additional prayers for each day are prayed.
- It is possible to choose one of the stages and allocate plenty of time for contemplation and silence.



Opening the Prayer

Priest : In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People : Amen.

Priest : Our beloved brothers and sisters, God our Lord, in whom we believe in the right faith, has entered the core of our history and sanctified it. He is in the fullness of time. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, so we saw his glory as glory from the Father to the Only-begotten Son full of grace and truth.” Proceeding from what the Lord made out of His love for us, let us go on praying and contemplating the way to Christmas. “He who is in the image of God made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant”, so that we know ourselves in Him that we were created in his image for glory and freedom, and let us now ask for the grace of His Holy Spirit to pray in us in order to be good at praising and glorifying the Holy Trinity with Saint Mary, Saint Joseph, and all the saints, raising to Him the most sacred praise and thanksgiving for the incarnation of God the Word.



Prayer to invoke the Holy Spirit (between two choirs) /

*/** Come, O Holy Spirit, You are the Holy and Life-giving, You have given life since eternity.

* Come to us now, come and make our hearts a dwelling place for the Child Jesus: The Lord God.

** O Spirit of love and life, kindle us with your purifying fire.

* O Spirit of Faith and Wisdom, enlighten us with “The Word”.

** O Spirit of hope and strength, fix us with “The Grace”.

*/** Come, O Spirit of the Lord, come to us now.

* Come to us with your peace, come to us with your joy.

* Come and purify our inclinations, heal our wounds and unite our hearts.

*/** Come, O Spirit of the Lord, come to us now,

* Pray for us with your merciful and sweet groans:

** Your voice is silence, your presence is serenity, your face is peacefulness.

* In our night you guide us like the morning star to the dawn of truth.

**/* Come, O Spirit of the Lord, come to us now,

* With a breath from You, come and take us to Jesus

* Let us enter the manger and show us Jesus Child

**/* Come, O Spirit of the Lord, and imprint our being in Jesus.

“Emmanuel-our God with us”, we worship You, in spirit and truth we worship You.

We offer You our life as incense, gold, and myrrh, and with the power of the Spirit we say: We love You, Jesus.

**We exalt you, we praise you, O Jesus, for your incarnation.
We come to you, O Savior, who came to deliver us.
We exalt you, we praise you, O Jesus, for your incarnation.**

We exalt You

Lyrics and melodies: Brother Charbel Rizk OFM Cap.

$\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, using eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

We e-xa-alt you we Prai-se You O Je-sus in Your in-car-na-tion

5 We come to You O sa - viour who came to de - li - ver us

8 We e-xa-alt you we Prai-se You O Je-sus in Your in-car-na-tion



O Come O Come Emmanuel

https://youtu.be/7xtpJ4Q_Q-4

O Come O Come Emmanuel

ADVENT

Words: various, combined by unknown author approx 12th Century. Translated by John Mason Neale, 1851.
Music: 'Veni Emmanuel' 15th Century French processional. Setting: 'Common Service Book' (ULCA), 1917.
copyright: public domain. This score is a part of the Open Hymnal Project, 2005 Revision.

$\text{♩} = 130$



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - derest all things might - i - ly;
3. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se, free Thine own from Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny;
4. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spi - rits by Thine ad - vent here;
5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our hea - v'nly home;

That mourns in lone - ly e - - xile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
To us the path of know - ledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save, And give them vic - t'ry ov'r the grave.
Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And death's dark sha - dows put to flight.
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to mi - - ser - y.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - - u - el shall come to thee, O I - - sra - el.



1- The Annunciation, God's Promise That Was fulfilled

Priest: The first stage: Let us contemplate the angel Gabriel announcing to the Virgin Mary the birth of the awaited Christ, the Son of God.

“We exalt you, we praise you...”

(Prostration)

Priest:

Having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, you highly favored one! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women!” But when she saw him, she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered what kind of salutation this might be. The angel said to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and shall name him ‘Jesus’. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever. There will be no end to his Kingdom” (Luke 1: 28 – 33).

Reader: You who have an infinite wisdom, and in order for us to know it, You use time according to a hidden plan from You to reveal through it your sublime love for us. You who made the virgin Mary of Nazareth, awaiting your salvation with a real and fervent desire, and aiming at You with all of her heart while listening to your angel Gabriel with a careful attention full of hope, joy, and love. In the Annunciation, You showed us that You are very faithful to your promises, You truly are the Lord of History, and You will not leave us to absurdity, loss, and destruction. Rather, You took the initiative to us by sending your son Jesus in order to find in him the meaning of our existence, so we strengthen our relationship with You as our mother Virgin Mary did.

(Brief silence)

Let us thank God the Father, for the blessing of Virgin Mary’s Annunciation, in which we knew that He is the Lord of History, and He missed us with his only begotten Son.

Let us ask God our Father, for the grace of faithful listening to Him, asking for an understanding of his holy and righteous will in our lives.

Heart prayer:

Dear Jesus, come to me (us) and dwell in me (us), dispel my fears by the power of the peace of your Holy Spirit. (3 times)

**O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.**

Chorus:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Prayer of the First Day (Page 37).



2. “Yes” Virgin Mary

Priest: The second stage: Let us reflect on Virgin Mary when she accepted the birth of the Savior from her, so she became the mother of God.

“We exalt you, we praise you...”

(Prostration)

Priest:

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, seeing I am a virgin?” The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, also the holy one who is born from you will be called the Son of God... Mary said, “Behold, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word...” Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord. My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, for he has looked at the humble state of his servant. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed. (Luke 1: 34 – 35, 38, 46 – 48)

Reader: Son of the Highest God, You who made Virgin Mary your mother, who knew You as an embryo in her womb. You took our nature from her, and wanted her to be your mother though You are God. You are the Holy One, whom we desire to see your glorious, radiant face, as You are the Word, whose voice of love and truth resounded in our nature which is taken from the womb of Saint Mary, the Ever-Virgin, with whom and by means of her answer: “I, the Lord’s servant, may it be to me as You have said.” You showed us the way of our liberation from the bondage of matter and sin, when we follow her example, by surrendering our will and intention to your liberating wil.

(Brief silence)

Let us thank God the Son, for the grace of freedom He has given us so as to enter, like Virgin Mary in a true relation with Him.

Let us ask God the Son, for the grace to surrender our being

to Him willingly, so that He may fulfill the purpose of our sanctification, with the strength of his incarnation.

Heart prayer:

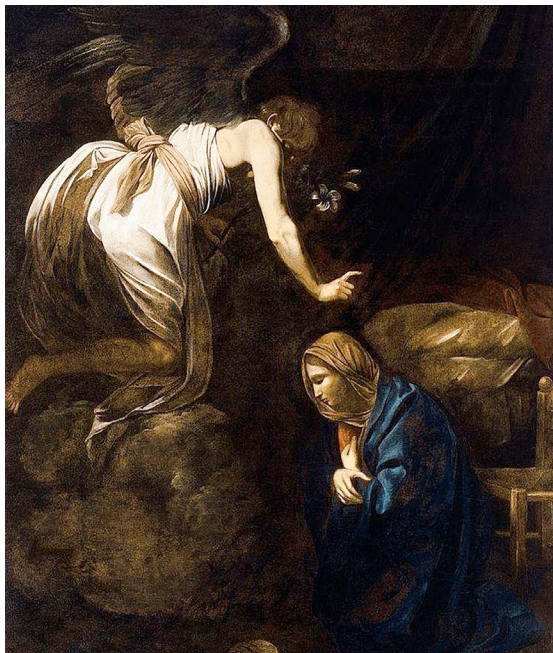
I (We), the servant of the Lord, may it be to me (us) as You have said. (3 times)

**O come, O Key of David come,
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road,
and bar the way to death's abode.**

Chorus:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Prayer of the Second Day (Page 37).



3- St. Joseph's Struggle

Priest: The third stage: Let us contemplate the struggle of St. Joseph, Mary's husband, when he knew about the amazing divine conception.

"We exalt you, we praise you..."

(Prostration)

Priest:

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the exile to Babylon fourteen generations; and from the carrying away to Babylon to the Christ, fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was like this: After his mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, before they came together, she was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, being a righteous man, and not willing to make her a public example, intended to put her away secretly. (Matthew 1: 17 - 19)

Reader: O Holy Spirit, emanated from the Father and the Son from eternity, You are the giver of life, sanctifier, and reviver. You made from the womb of Virgin Mary your throne, and You became her divine bridegroom in order to give us the Incarnate Word. You are the one who probes the depth of our hearts, and encourages us to search for the truth and reality, like St. Joseph, while we are at the heart of the ordeal of faith and the struggle of the spirit. Just as You were hovering over the waters at the beginning of creation, after His arrangement, here You come to remove fear and doubt from Joseph's heart, when facing the responsibility, strengthening him with your grace, so that he remains bold and victorious in You.

(Brief silence)

Let us thank God the Holy Spirit, for the grace of the spiritual struggle where we are prepared for the spiritual birth, in which we discover ourselves and God's bountiful grace upon us.

Let us ask God the Holy Spirit, for the grace of wisdom and

patience during tribulations, experiences, and doubts.

Heart prayer:

O Living and Holy Spirit of God, breathe into me (us) your strength, so that your grace, through me (us), will triumph.
(3 times)

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in its ways to go.**

Chorus:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Prayer of the Third Day (Page 37).



4- The Obedience of St. Joseph

Priest: The fourth stage: Let us contemplate the obedience of St. Joseph to the divine will, after he understood the purpose of the holy God's planning.

"We exalt you, we praise you..."

(Prostration)

Priest:

But when he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take to yourself Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She shall give birth to a son. You shall name him Jesus, for it is he who shall save his people from their sins." Now all this has happened that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall give birth to a son. They shall call his name Immanuel," which is, being interpreted, "God with us." Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took his wife to himself; and didn't know her sexually until she had given birth to her firstborn son. He named him Jesus. (Matthew 1: 20 - 25)

Reader: O God of the covenant, from the beginning you are the God of the fathers, the prophets, the righteous, and the martyrs. You are the father of lights, who said to King David: "From your Own offspring, I will build a house". And when the time had fully come, You fulfilled your promises to Joseph, Mary's husband, who emerged from the tribe of Jesse. You taught St. Joseph in his ordeal: listening to faith, contemplating the truth, humility of meekness and obedience of love, so he is ready to serve You with honesty, sincerity, and joy, while taking care of Virgin Mary and your eternal Son who will come out of her, to be "Emmanuel" which means "God with us" and He is the one who will save us from the burden of our sins.

(Brief silence)

Let us thank God the Father, for the blessing of steadfastness in knowing Him through the experience that generates in us steadfastness to live the virtues.

Let us ask God our Father, for the grace of steadfastness in the sincere prayer that leads to good intentions and deeds.
Heart prayer:

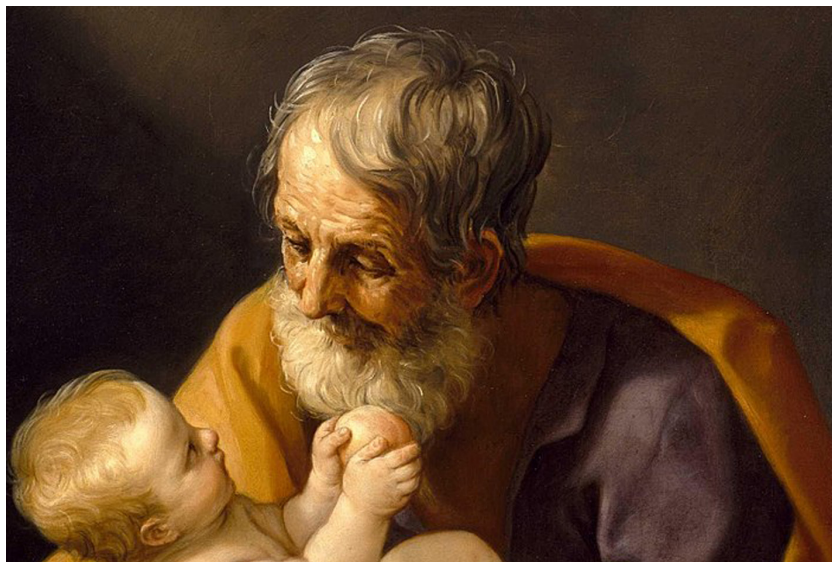
O Jesus, son of David, You are “Emmanuel”, by the power of your name consecrate me (us) to serve You. (3 times)

**O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.**

Chorus:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Prayer of the Fourth Day (Page 38).



5- To Bethlehem

Priest: The Fifth Stage: Let us contemplate the sufferings of the Holy Family's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

“We exalt you, we praise you...”

(Prostration)

Priest:

Now in those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to enroll themselves, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to David's city, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to enroll himself with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him as wife, being pregnant. (Luke 2: 1 – 5)

Reader: You are the one without whom nothing would have been. The Divine Word, whom You wanted by your incarnation to be our way to heaven. Your mother and father had to travel with You when You were a fetus to Bethlehem, whose name means the House of Bread, and which is the city of King David. You wanted from the beginning to be the bread of the holy offering, and from the beginning You entered into the heart of the suffering of our humanity. You submitted to the rule of Caesar though You are the Lord. Your name “Jesus” was written in the History of our humanity, so that it remains for us a pledge to our eternal life, where our names will be engraved on your book in front of your eternal throne.

(Brief silence)

Let us thank God the Son, who, through his incarnation, has become for us the way to the Father, by living our humanity following his example.

Let us ask God the Son, for the grace of courage to persevere in our struggle of faith to follow the inspirations of the Holy Spirit.

Heart prayer:

My (Our) Lord Jesus, my (our) way to the Father, for the sake of your incarnation, take me (us) from my (our) paths to You.
(3 times)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.**

Chorus:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Prayer of the Fifth Day (Page 38).



6- They Have No Room for Him in the Inn

Priest: The Sixth stage: Let us contemplate the arrival of the Nazareth family to the City of David - Bethlehem, and the rejection they got.

“We exalt you, we praise you...”

(Prostration)

Priest:

While they were there, the day had come for her to give birth. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a feeding trough, because there was no room for them in the inn. (...) When eight days were fulfilled for the circumcision of the child, his name was called Jesus, which was given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (Luke 2: 6 – 7, 21)

Reader: When Virgin Mary was about to give birth to her son Jesus, she did not find a room for them in the inn, and since that time the features of the cross walls have been drawn outside the city. “He came to his own, and his own did not receive him,” he also told us: “Foxes have dens and birds of the air have nests but the Son of man has no place to lay his head.” He was born as a stranger, lived as a stranger among us and despite that He loved us with great love to the extreme. In order to know Him, He gave us his Holy Spirit, so that we realize that we are with him in the world, we are not of it, by our alienation with Him, and like Him we become poor in spirit and free to sing the hymn of life.

(Brief silence)

Let us thank God the Holy Spirit, who makes us realize his talents in us, which free us from the control of matter, so we seek heaven.

Let us ask God the Holy Spirit, for the grace of belonging to our Lord Jesus, so that we may live our alienation like him, with the soul of brotherhood and love.

Heart prayer:

Dear Jesus, for the sake of your poverty and alienation,
increase the love of your humanity in me (us). (3 times)

**O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night,
and turn our darkness into light.**

Chorus:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Prayer of the Sixth Day (Page39).



7- The Birth of a Child in Bethlehem

Priest: The Seventh Stage: Let us contemplate with joy the birth of the Lord Jesus from Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.

“We exalt you, we praise you...”

(Prostration)

Priest:

When King Herod heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he asked them where the Christ would be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is written through the prophet, ‘You Bethlehem, land of Judah, are in no way least among the princes of Judah; for out of you shall come a governor who shall shepherd my people, Israel.’ ” (Matthew 2: 3 - 6)

Reader: O You who sent us from Yourself, your only-begotten Son, the Eternal Word, hurry to us. When Mary accepted him in the prison of her small womb, the fragrance of his holiness spread throughout the universe after her soul was troubled when she had heard the joyful news. When Herod heard about the birth of the true king, he and all of Jerusalem were troubled by fear. Mary’s confusion meant goodness, truth and love, whereas Herod’s confusion meant evil, falsehood, and fear. Great are You, Most High, for You made the birth of your son in the flesh a balance and a standard of human life on earth, that in him, through him, and with him You exalted the humble.

(Brief silence)

Let us thank God the Father, because He showed us his infinite love when his only begotten Son Jesus took our humanity out of his love for us and in order to save us.

Let us ask God our Father, for the grace of thanking and praising Him and for missing us through the incarnation of Jesus, so that we glorify Him with our humanity.

Heart prayer:

Lord Jesus, by your incarnation, make my (our) humanity united with your holy humanity. (3 times)

**O come, O King of nations,
bind in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease,
and be yourself our King of Peace.**

Chorus:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Prayer of the Seventh Day (Page 39).



8- Angels and Shepherds

Priest: The Eighth stage: Let us contemplate the angel's invitation to the marginalized shepherds to get to know the Child Jesus, the Savior of the world.

"We exalt you, we praise you..."

(Prostration)

Priest:

There were shepherds in the same country staying in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. Behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all the people. For there is born to you today, in David's city, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This is the sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a feeding trough." Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army praising God and saying, (...) They came with haste and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby was lying in the feeding trough. When they saw it, they publicized widely the saying which was spoken to them about this child. (Luke 2: 8 - 13, 16 - 17)

Reader: O You, whose light shone in our night and dispelled the darkness, You poured out your lights on the awake shepherds in the night when You were still in the manger surrounded by your mother Mary and by Joseph, and your eyes have not yet seen anything from our world. So, your word was good news to them on the lips of the angel and thus You opened their eyes to the truth of your love, so they came rushing to You, and when they saw You, You the God, a poor child feeling cold lying in a manger, they realized that You are the good shepherd who brought them from the misguidance of their wilderness, where they were marginalized by all people, to be in your herd the first heralds of your incarnation.

(Brief silence)

Let us thank God the Son, because He takes advantage of all the circumstances of our lives in order to call us into Him, so that we realize their meaning by returning to Him.

Let us ask God the Son, for the grace of the spiritual vigilance, which, with the spirit of evangelical simplicity, enables us to accept his call.

Heart prayer:

Take me (us), O Jesus, from the wilderness of my delusion, and bring me (us) to You, to the house of the sacrifice. (3 times)

**O Come, O come, Shepherd of Israel,
shine your light on us, merciful;
We heard the voice of your angels,
to declare your faithful love.**

Chorus:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Prayer of the Eighth Day (Page 40).



9- The Magi of the East

Priest: The Ninth stage: Let us contemplate the divine child when the Magi came from the East and presented him with gold, incense, and myrrh.

“We exalt you, we praise you...”

(Prostration)

Priest:

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who is born King of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east, and have come to worship him.” (...) They, having heard the king, went their way; and behold, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them until it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. They came into the house and saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Opening their treasures, they offered to him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country another way. (Matthew 2: 1 - 2, 9 - 12)

Reader: He who really loves needs to search, seek, and strive. He who really loves must take risks driven by faith to the heights and depths. He who really loves, asks and he will receive; seeks and he will find; knocks and the door will be opened to him, and then he gives out of what he has been given in spirit. He who loves prostrates and worships with body and spirit, in deed and word. This is the summary of the Magi's journey, those who followed the guiding star, which means the Holy Spirit, beyond whom a reasonable person cannot declare that Jesus the man is truly God and God's son. With him we go forward to the Child Jesus to proclaim that He is the King of Heaven and Earth, the High Priest who is close and brought close, and the

Prophet who knew our pains, endured our sorrows and who through his wound heals us. Let us not stray from Him.

(Brief silence)

Let us thank God the Holy Spirit, for the grace of the signs He sends us so that we will be led with determination to meet the Lord Jesus.

Let us ask God the Holy Spirit, for the grace of prostration and true worship of Jesus present in the Eucharist.

Heart prayer:

I (We) prostrate myself before You, Jesus, for Your incarnation, declaring that You are my (our) God, King, and Savior. (3 times)

**O Come, O come, savior of the world,
you are the good King, the true Word;
As the Magi have adored You,
we are happy to adore You.**

Chorus:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Prayer of the Ninth Day (Page 40).





You are the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever

- You are the eternal beginning that has no beginning. Through your incarnation, You became a door to the eternity of our humanity in You. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are The Word, through your Lordship You created and named all beings. Through your incarnation, You placed the power of your love in our humanity. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the Holy One who was formed in the womb of Virgin Mary. Through your incarnation, You sanctified our body from the first moment of our conception. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the Alpha and the Omega. Through your incarnation, You became the only mediator between earth and heaven, as well as between God and human, because You are the human-God. **Kyrie Eleison**

- You are the light that can neither be obscured nor fathomed. Through your incarnation, You shone in our darkness grace upon grace. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the truth that no reason can limit. Through your incarnation, You made your truth a secret accepted by faith and love. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the life that has no beginning and no end. Through your incarnation, we recognized it as the Sonship of God the Father through the Holy Spirit. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the fountain that never runs dry. Through your incarnation, You became the refuge of the thirsty for righteousness. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the Son of the Most High. Through your incarnation You made the glory of the Most High in our midst peace, joy and sure salvation. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the mirror of the Father and the image of his essence. Through your incarnation, You proved to us that You created us in your image, as your example, so that we may live in love. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the one who sits at the right hand of God. Through your incarnation, there was no room for You in the inn, and those who are yours did not accept You until You were exalted in glory. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the strong one, whom the angel preached about, the Baptist indicated to You glory and You were wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the rich one who became poor for our sake. Through your incarnation, You gave the blessing and glory of heaven

to the poor and the persecuted. **Kyrie Eleison**

- You are the new Adam. Through your incarnation, our reconciliation with the Father happened through your holy obedience, so that we will live in love, not fear. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the Lamb of God, who lifted the sin of the world. Through your incarnation, You confirmed the hope of our salvation, by the highness of your love and mercy over our transgressions and iniquities. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the “way” that has parted in the sea and the desert. Through your incarnation, You directed our path in You to heaven. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the good shepherd, who manages everything seen and unseen. Through your incarnation, You showed your special care for us. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the Bread of Life. You were born in Bethlehem, the House of Bread and You have become our salvation in the Eucharist. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the living water that gushed from Virgin Mary’s womb, making her like the rock that was struck in the wilderness, a fountain of eternal blessings. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the true vine. Through your incarnation, You adorned the vineyard of creation with the branches of your good deeds, and You poured out yourself for us as the wine of the eternal new covenant. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the grain of wheat planted in the womb of Virgin Mary. Through your birth, You became the bread of the holy offering so whoever eats you will never go hungry. **Kyrie Eleison**

- You are the root that sprang up from Jesse. Through your incarnation You brought us out of our racism, so that we may all be in You sanctified people to God. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the son of David. Through your incarnation, You showed your belonging to the History of our sinful humanity though You are the king whose kingdom does not fade away. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the King of the Jews. Through your incarnation, the Magi worshiped You and gifts were presented to You. As for Herod, he feared You and was perplexed. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the Christ, the living Son of God. Through your incarnation, all promises and prophecies were fulfilled, remembering God's covenant of mercy. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the eternal unbreakable structure. Through your incarnation, You repaired our humanity to be the throne and the place of God. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the door to the father's sanctuary. Through your incarnation, You enacted your love and mercy for us, so that we will enter as children. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are Emmanuel. Through your incarnation, You set up your tent in our midst to stay with us till the end of time, and You are veiled in the sacrament of the Eucharist. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the Son of Man. Through your incarnation, You called the outcast and marginalized shepherds to the heavenly joy, because gave them equality. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the son of Mary. Through your incarnation, You took our mortal nature in order to give us your immortal one so that we will be deified. **Kyrie Eleison**

- You are the son of Joseph, the carpenter. Through your incarnation, You accepted the limits of our human nature, healing our shortcomings through your love for us.

Kyrie Eleison

- You are Jesus of Nazareth. Through your incarnation, You extolled human dignity, raising it to the ranks of the glory of divinity. **Kyrie Eleison**

- You are the Savior of the world. Through your incarnation, You showed your father's love for him, as he gave us You, his one and only son, so that everyone who believes in You would not perish. **Kyrie Eleison**

- You are the meek and humble heart. Through your incarnation, we recognized You as a bruised reed that would never break..... Rather, you revealed the truth through love.

Kyrie Eleison

- You are the Lord and the Teacher. Through your incarnation, You taught us the loftiness of humility and smallness. You, the Word, became flesh so that we may become your students in living the fullness of our humanity. **Kyrie Eleison**

- You are “the stone the builders rejected that has become the capstone.” Through your incarnation the children of Bethlehem were martyred; and because You are the head of the corner, they built the righteous in heaven. **Kyrie Eleison**

- You are the resurrection. Through your incarnation You enabled those who believed in You to become children of God, treading death with the power of hope. **Kyrie Eleison**

- You are the blessed one who comes in the name of the Lord. Through your incarnation, You entered our world to the sound of the angels' hymn, while your mother contemplated

your secret in her heart. **Kyrie Eleison**

- You are the faithful and true witness. Through your incarnation, You showed us the face of God's love and wanted us to know that by your deeds You are the God of the covenant. **Kyrie Eleison**
- You are the bridegroom that all generations have waited for. Through your incarnation, to the shout of glory, "Maranatha", so the watchers hastened overjoyed to meet You.
Kyrie Eleison

**Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One,
Have Mercy on Us and the Whole World. (3 times)**



Closing Prayer of the Novena and the Way to Christmas

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men”

Behold, we glorify You, the Holy Father and the Righteous, we chant your name with your holy angels because You are the righteousness and the highest righteousness; because You are the awesome and the great in your own self. You are the one who from eternity wanted to show us His love, and when the fullness of time had come, You sent us from You your “infinite love” your only begotten Son, in whom everything was created, our Lord Jesus Christ,

So, He incarnated from Virgin Mary to save and redeem us.

Blessed are You, the “Eternal Word” because your will was to dwell in our midst, and You wanted us to see and touch You.

You are great, O Jesus, because out of your love to us, You united your divinity with our human nature, so that we may become sanctified by You.

To You, O Lord, we prostrate and your awesome name we worship,

in spirit and truth, we believe in You,

in spirit and truth, we love You,

in the Holy Spirit we have become holy temples for You, so come, come to us now with a small piece of bread and make our hearts an eternal dwelling place for You.

To You, belong glory, honor, prostration, and sincerity, O Trinity and Unity, because You first loved us with an unfailing love

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Appendix to the Novena Prayers to Ask for Blessings

Prayer of the First day: (Day 1-) Faith comes from listening

O Eternal God, Creator of visible and invisible things, material and spiritual, with the incarnation of your only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You wanted to reveal to us the base and principle of our life as well as the purpose of our existence. With the annunciation for Virgin Mary whom she believed in what she heard from the angel Gabriel, and through her experience and the example she follows, You wanted us to live the fellowship and spiritual relationship with You, by an act of firm faith, overwhelming hope of joy, and love rooted in your Son Jesus, who became our Christ, Lord and Savior. I ask You by his incarnation, He who makes us hear the peace of his Holy Spirit in the depth of our hearts (mention your request here ...). May my request and prayer be according to your Holy and righteous will, Amen.

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory Be...

Prayer of the Second day: (Day 2-) The faith of the Virgin has become an incarnation

O Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Eternal Word who favored the womb of your mother Virgin Mary over the glory of your heavenly throne, and through your incarnation You dwelt in it in a way that transcends reason and comprehension, to make of it the tent of your holy travels. O You who shook the foundations of the heavens' doors, when she freely accepted to be your mother with pride and glory, and she said: "I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me as You have said," so she embodied her faith by devoting herself to You, I ask You with the power of her intercession and her relation to You (mention your request here). May my request and prayer be according to the will of your Holy and righteous Father, Amen

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory Be...

Prayer of the Third day: (Day 3-) The labor of the spiritual life

O Holy Spirit, without whom the human being can neither

know God the Father, nor the incarnate Son, and nor know his true self that was created by your power in the image of the incarnate Word, Jesus. You are the one who gives the human being a new birth by the grace of repentance, which is a deepening in the knowledge of the will of the Father and this is what You have truly done with saint Joseph, son of David, as he knew the throes of the spiritual struggle because of his knowledge of the divine conception of Virgin Mary. I ask You, O heavenly bridegroom, to have victory in all my spiritual struggles and to give me (mention your request here.....). May my request and prayer be according to the will of the Holy and righteous Father, Amen.

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory Be...

Prayer of the Fourth day: (Day 4-) Obedience to freedom in love

O our heavenly Father, the fountain of truth and life, You who, with your expansive wisdom and knowledge, willed to create us in the image of your Son, the Incarnate Word, through whom we were created, and You wanted us to know the peace of the spirit, through freedom and love. As You freed St. Joseph from fears, whispers, and temptations when You sent him the angel in a dream, You also want us to know the true freedom, through our obedience to your will that You reveal to us through the Holy Spirit, the Church, and the Gospel in order to reach the service of love. I ask You by the incarnation of your only begotten Son (mention your request here....). May my request and prayer be according to your Holy and righteous will, Amen.

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory Be...

Prayer of the Fifth day: (Day 5-) The courage of love

O Divine Word-Jesus, who took our weak and fragile nature, and when You were a fetus in the womb of your mother, Virgin Mary, You suffered with her and with Saint Joseph the trouble of traveling from Nazareth to Bethlehem. After that, You yourself became “The Way” that leads us to the Heavenly Father. So, give us the courage of love, following the example of the family of Nazareth, so that we will reach the paths of

our hard reality and our life in your true way. We will reach the purpose for which You created us in order to find You alive and always present along our time path. I ask You, our way to the Father, by your incarnation (mention your request here.....). May my request and prayer be according to your Holy and righteous will, Amen.

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory Be...

Prayer of the Sixth day: (Day 6-) The Exile for the sake of the true homeland

O Comforting Soul, You who reveal to us our true identity, rooted and manifested in the face of Jesus, through our estrangement and loneliness in a world lacking justice, mercy, truth, and love, so we yearn to see his beauty, He who was born poor and laid in a manger, because there was no room for him in the inn. O Spirit of life that we knew through the birth of the Savior, grant us, following the example of the family of Nazareth, equanimity and patience in our exile, steadfast our faith in the care of our heavenly Father who will never leave us. I ask You through the poverty of Jesus who is our only richness (mention your request here.....). May my request and prayer be according to your Holy and righteous will, Amen.

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory Be...

Prayer of the Seventh day: (Day 7-) A light in the darkness

O You the Light that cannot be approached, O You who sent us your son as Light from Light, so He shone in our darkness which can never overpower him. On the day the Savior was born, the earth shook with joy at the visit of heaven, for the one who came out of the Virgin is the King Jesus, the son of David. Herod was afraid of His name and Jerusalem was terrified instead of rejoicing the coming of its true king, He who will enter it on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He is the meek and humble one who was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, and who returned to wrap us in His eternal light, overwhelming us with his forgiveness and wide mercy. I ask You by the incarnation of your son, Jesus, the Light of the world (mention your request here.....). May my request and

prayer be according to your Holy and righteous will, Amen.

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory Be...

Prayer of the Eighth day: (Day 8-) Simplicity of faith and fervor of love

O Eternal Son in essence, with your total orientation towards your heavenly Father, have placed us all in the same direction though You are all in all. As your light shone for the shepherds on the night of your birth, You shine with the lights of your words that have a spirit and life in the core of our consciences, so that we may know You with the simplicity of faith, peace of heart, warmth of love, and power of truth. You are the one who from the beginning became a human being, so that we may become in You gods through the love with which You united our humanity with Your Divinity. I ask You, O Lord, by your incarnation and by the power of your guiding lights, which You poured out as an anthem of glory to the shepherds, to grant me (mention your request here...). May my request and prayer be according to your Holy and righteous will, Amen.

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory Be...

Prayer of the Ninth day: (Day 9-) “What is yours, I present to You.”

O Holy Spirit, You are the one who led the Magi of the East first through their knowledge, worship, and awareness to search for truth, life, love, and for the true face of God and when they did not find their salvation in it, You secondly led them through your star Shining in their East, which was the conclusion of their praiseworthy and righteous experience in goodness. Because your goal is to bring all mankind to the knowledge of the incarnate Word, You led them to Bethlehem and they saw his holy face, so they offered him what befits him as a true God, King, and Priest. I ask You by the incarnation of the Lord Jesus (mention your request here.....). May my request and prayer be according to your Holy and righteous will, Amen.

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory Be...

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