



A Novena to Saint Benedict

THE FIRST DAY (*March 12*)

I SALUTE thee, O holy Father Saint Benedict, who wast so remarkably **poor in spirit**. How detached from earthly things was thy heart, that already in thy early youth, thou didst renounce all things transitory! Pray for me, O glorious conqueror of the world and its goods, that I may not be attached to this world and its riches, forgetting the eternal, only true riches, but be truly poor in spirit, serve God most faithfully, and attain to eternal glory and happiness in heaven. Amen.

ANTIPHON AND COLLECTS

To be repeated each day of the novena.

STANDING in the oratory, fortified with the Body and Blood of the Lord, his trembling frame supported by his disciples, Benedict, the beloved of the Lord, breathed forth his soul in words of prayer: then o'er a road strewn with carpets and shining with unnumbered lamps, he was seen ascending to heaven.

∇ Glorious didst thou appear in the eyes of the Lord.

℞ Therefore with beauty did the Lord clothe thee.

LET US PRAY.

O GOD, who with so many and such great privileges didst beautify the death of our holy Father Saint Benedict: grant, we beseech thee; that as we now celebrate his memory, so by his blessed presence our death may be safe from the snares of the enemy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Look kindly, we beseech thee, O God, upon this family of thine, for which Our Lord Jesus Christ did not hesitate to be betrayed into the hands of evildoers and to undergo the torments of the Cross. Amen.

Pray devoutly three Our Fathers and three Hail Marys.

THE SECOND DAY (March 13)

I SALUTE thee, O holy Father Saint Benedict, as a hero of Christian **meekness**. Thy most bitter enemies were not able to conquer the meekness of thy heart. As a worthy follower of thy Divine Master, thou wast so meek and humble of heart, that no offence could disturb the peace of thy soul. Obtain also for me the grace always to be meek, and thus to prove myself a disciple of the Lord, who “gave his cheek to him that struck him.” Amen. *Antiphon, &c. as above.*

THE THIRD DAY (March 14)

I SALUTE thee, O holy Father Saint Benedict, on account of the God-pleasing **mourning** with which thy soul was filled in this vale of tears. Thou didst weep in longing for heaven, and at the miseries of sinful man here below and his inability to love God worthily. In thy fervent love of God, thou didst bewail all the sins of the world as offences against thy Sovereign Good. Obtain for me the spirit of compunction, that in true sorrow I may mourn my own sins and those of my fellow-men, and render my Lord and God in the Most Blessed Sacrament worthy reparation and atonement. Amen. *Antiphon, &c. as above.*

THE FOURTH DAY (March 15)

I SALUTE thee, O holy Father Saint Benedict, on account of thy persevering **hunger and thirst after justice**. More, than sensual man desiring for food and drink, didst thou long for grace, to run like a giant in the way of justice. It was thy food to do the will of God in all things. With holy desire didst thou long for the Heavenly Food, the strengthening Bread of Angels. O glorious Saint Benedict, I beseech thee, obtain for me the grace never to be so unfortunate as to fall into lukewarmness, but always to nourish within me an efficacious desire for justice and an ardent longing to be united with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Amen. *Antiphon, &c. as above.*

THE FIFTH DAY (March 16)

I SALUTE thee, O holy Father Saint Benedict, as a mild and shining star of **mercy**. In the days of thy earthly pilgrimage, thou wast a loving father to the afflicted. As the widow of Sarepta, so didst thou sacrifice the last drop of oil, and like she, thou wast wonderfully rewarded. By this thy mercy, thou didst manifest how truly thou wert penetrated with the spirit of our Redeemer, “who went about doing good.” By this spirit, I likewise, must be animated. Perform, then, O beloved Saint, also an act of mercy towards me, and obtain for me the grace, always to be merciful to my fellow-men, and ever to perform my acts of mercy in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen. *Antiphon, &c. as above.*

THE SIXTH DAY (March 17)

I SALUTE thee, O holy Father Saint Benedict, lily of **chastity**. How pure must have been thy heart, which never gave way to an evil desire! But regardless of thy angelic purity, thou didst lead a life of severe penance, that the tender virtue of purity might blossom securely beneath the thorns of mortification. Yea, I behold thee rolling thyself in thorns, that by the pains of thy burning wounds, all unchaste desires might be extinguished. O heroic champion of Christ, by thy glorious victory over the spirit of impurity, I implore thee, obtain also for me so firm a resolution to preserve holy chastity according to my state in life. Amen. *Antiphon, &c. as above.*

THE SEVENTH DAY (March 18)

I SALUTE thee, O holy Father Saint Benedict, lover of holy **peace**. Thou didst maintain peace with God by faithfully doing His holy will, peace with thy fellow-men by meekness, love and paternal patience,—peace with thyself by governing every desire. O holy Father, obtain for me from the Lord Jesus Christ, that peace, which the world cannot give nor receive, that precious peace, which is the pledge of future glory, which has its source in the love of Jesus Christ and in the good will of our heart, that I may spend this short time of my life in peace with God, with my neighbor and with myself. Amen. *Antiphon, &c. as above.*

THE EIGHTH DAY (March 19)

I SALUTE thee, O holy Father Saint Benedict, unshaken rock in all **persecutions for justice's sake**. Not the malignity of thy enemies nor the exertions of the evil spirit, were capable of diverting thee from the service of God. To me also is applied the word of the apostle: "And all that live godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution." Therefore, I pray thee, glorious, holy Father, obtain also for me, thy weak foster-child, Christian fortitude, that I may bravely fight against the world and its allurements, against the flesh and its concupiscence, against the devil and his suggestions, to obtain the reward of those, who suffer persecution for virtue's sake. Amen. *Antiphon, &c. as above.*

THE NINTH DAY (March 20)

I SALUTE thee, O holy Father Saint Benedict, thou true lover of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who didst instruct thy children to prefer nothing to the love of Our Lord and Savior, and to render homage and adoration unceasingly to the ever Blessed Trinity, obtain for me the spirit of prayer, that my prayer may ascend to the throne of the triune God, and that I may love Jesus Christ with my whole heart, with my whole soul, and with all my strength. Amen. *Antiphon, &c. as above.*