

NOVENA TO THE LITTLE FLOWER OF JESUS

OPENING SONG

HYMN TO SAINT THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

Dear Little Flower of Jesus
List to our humble prayer
Send us from realms eternal
Rose petals rich and rare.

REFRAIN

Sweet blessed Saint we greet thee.
Hail Flower of Jesus, hail!
Our loving souls entreat thee,
Dear Little Flower, all hail!

Let fall a shower of roses,
Send down a rain of grace.
Make us look up to Jesus
Adoring His Holy Face. **Refrain.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS

GREETING

LITANY OF ST. THERESE

L: Lord have mercy.	R: Lord have mercy.
L: Lord, have mercy. Christ hear us.	R: Christ graciously hear us.
L: God the Father of Heaven.	R: Have mercy on us.
L: God the Son Redeemer of the world,	R: Have mercy on us.
L: God the Holy Spirit,	R: Have mercy on us.
L: Holy Trinity, one God,	R: Have mercy on us.
L: Holy Mary,	R: Pray for us.

Our Lady of Victory.....
Saint Therese, servant of God.....
Saint Therese, spouse of Jesus.....
Saint Therese, example of obedience.....
Saint Therese, Lover of peace.....
Saint Therese, Lover of gentleness.....
Saint Therese, heroic in sacrifices.....
Saint Therese, generous in forgiving.....
Saint Therese, benefactress of the needy.....
Saint Therese, devoted to the Holy Face of Jesus...

Saint Therese, consumed with love for God.....
Saint Therese, advocate of extreme cases.....
Saint Therese, persevering in prayer.....
Saint Therese, showering roses.....
Saint Therese, doing good upon earth.....
Saint Therese, lover of holy chastity.....
Saint Therese, lover of voluntary poverty.....
Saint Therese, perfect in simplicity.....
Saint Therese, so remarkable for trust in God.....
Saint Therese, gifted with unusual intelligence.....
Saint Therese, teaching us the sure way.....

L: Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
R: Spare us O Lord.

L: Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
R: Graciously hear us O Lord.

L: Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
R: Have mercy on us.

L: Saint Therese, the Little Flower of Jesus, **R:** Pray for us.

Presider: O Lord, you have said: Unless you become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven, give us the grace to follow the footsteps of blessed Therese, virgin, in lowliness and simplicity of heart, that we may gain everlasting rewards. Who live and reigns.....

All: Amen

READING

NOVENA PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Appropriate daily prayer to be said in common by all)

DAY ONE: O Glorious Carmelite, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, you did write "that deeds, even the most brilliant, without love count as nothing," and "that true love is nourished by sacrifice". Obtain for us, from the Lord Jesus, faith strong enough to raise us above all earthly things, love without bounds or limits, and grace to do God's will. Let no trial or suffering ever separate us from Jesus. We also ask you intercede for us to obtain the particular favors we ask during this Novena, especially for the honor and glory of God, the salvation of souls, and the welfare of those for whom we pray.

DAY TWO: O Little Flower of Jesus, who did write, "As I grew older, I loved the good God more and more, and offered Him my heart. I begged of Jesus to draw me into the flames of His love, to unite me closely to Himself that He might live and act in me." We ask you, Saint Therese, to pray for us, that we might follow in your footsteps of prayer and self-surrender so at the end of our lives we might be crowned in eternal glory. We also ask you to intercede for us to obtain the particular favors we ask during this Novena, especially for the honor and glory of God, the salvation of souls, and the welfare of those for whom we pray.

DAY THREE: O beloved Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, who by your continual prayer and self-sacrifice "did become entirely filled with the will of Jesus, did see only the present, and did take care not to anticipate the future". We ask you to pray that we may obtain the grace to put our wills, and all that concerns us into God's Holy hands to dispose of as he wills. We also ask you to intercede for us to obtain the particular favors we ask during this Novena, especially for the honor and glory of God, the salvation of souls, and the welfare of those for whom we pray.

DAY FOUR: O Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, who wrote, "that to keep the words of Jesus is the sole condition of our happiness," pray for us that we may abandon the past to the mercy of God, that in the present we may deliver our wills over to Him completely, and that we may leave the future to His tender love. We also ask you to intercede for us to obtain the particular favors we ask during this Novena, especially for the honor and glory of God, the salvation of souls, and the welfare of those for whom we pray.

DAY FIVE: O Little Flower of Jesus, who did say: "Because I was little and weak You stooped down to me and tenderly instructed me in the secrets of Your love. Jesus made me understand that the true, the only glory is that which will last forever; in order to attain it, we need not perform wonderful deeds, but rather those hidden from the eyes of others and from self, so that the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing; it appears to me that humility is the truth." Pray for us, Saint Therese, that we may be humble. We also ask you to intercede for us to obtain the particular favors we ask during this Novena, especially for the honor and glory of God, the salvation of souls, and the welfare of those for whom we pray.

DAY SIX: Saint Therese of the Child Jesus who was favored by God to win and convert souls to a love for Him; and who did write, "In heaven the good God will do all I wish, because I have never done my own will upon earth...yes, the Lord will work wonders for me which will surpass infinitely my immeasurable desire". We ask you, Saint Therese, to pray for us that we may "so love the Blessed Jesus as He never yet has been loved; to love Him, to do His will and make Him loved, yes loved without bound or limit." We also ask you to intercede for us to obtain the particular favors we ask during this Novena, especially for the honor and glory of God, the salvation of souls, and the welfare of those for whom we pray.

DAY SEVEN: O Saint Therese, Little Flower of Jesus, who said, "Never could I have believed it possible to suffer so much; suffering held out its arms to me from my very entrance into Carmel; I entered in order to save souls, especially to pray for priests--Jesus made me understand that He would give souls by means of the cross." We ask you to pray for us, Saint Therese, so that we may obtain the grace to bear with joy and thanksgiving any cross that may come to us. We also ask you to intercede for us to obtain the particular favors we ask during this Novena, especially for the honor and glory of God, the salvation of souls, and the welfare of those for whom we pray.

DAY EIGHT: O Saint Therese, rightly called the Little Flower of Jesus, pray for us to obtain true humility of heart, and the grace to see in every experience that comes our way, proof of divine mercy and love. Help us to say from the bottom of our hearts with you: "Whatever God has given me has always pleased me, even the gifts which have appeared to be less good than those received by others." We also ask you to intercede for us to obtain the particular favors we ask during this Novena, especially for the honor and glory of God, the salvation of souls, and the welfare of those for whom we pray.

DAY NINE: O Dear Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, who prayed to have your heart entirely filled with the will of Jesus, pray for us, that we may attain the same spirit of self-abandonment to God's holy will. We also ask you to intercede for us to obtain the particular favors we ask during this Novena, especially for the honor and glory of God, the salvation of souls, and the welfare of those for whom we pray.

COMMON PRAYER

All: O Little Therese of the Child Jesus, who during your short life on earth became a mirror of angelic purity, of love strong as death, and of wholehearted abandonment to God, now that you are rejoicing in the reward of your virtues, cast a glance on us as we leave all things in your hands. Make our troubles your own--speak a word for us to our Lady Immaculate, whose flower of special love you were--to that Queen of heaven "who smiled on you at the dawn of life." Beg her as Queen of the heart of Jesus, to obtain for us by her powerful intercession, the graces we yearn for so ardently at this moment, and that she join with it a blessing that may strengthen us during life, defend us at the hour of death, and lead us straight on to a happy eternity. And now Saint Therese, standing at the divine altar, ministering with the angels to the Most Holy Trinity, remember us all. Pray for the remission of sins that we may enter into the everlasting kingdom through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

AFTER THE COMMON PRAYER:

(Pray nine times)

Presider: Saint Therese, the Little Flower of Jesus.

All: Hear our prayer and help us in our need.

O GLORIOUS SAINT

O Glorious Saint Thy praise we sing,
For Thou art with Thy Lord and King.
As this world's holy Little Flower
Before God's throne thou hast great power
Oh, Saint Therese, hear thou our plea
And bless the trust we place in thee.
And bless the trust we place in thee.

A shower of Roses, Virtues strong
Thou dost obtain at Jesus' throne.
Sweet Flower of Jesus hear our pleading
And listen to our interceding.
Teach us to follow thy little way,
That in God's love we'll always stay.
That in God's love we'll always stay.

COMMUNION SERVICE

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: You have given them Bread from Heaven

All: Having all sweetness within it.

CLOSING SONG

HYMN FOR ST. THERESE (*Tune: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You*)

God of tenderness and mercy, choosing weak confounding strong,
Telling all of heaven's secrets, to the child that for you longs,
We give thanks for boundless kindness shown to this, Your little one,
Who in midst of earthly darkness, sought the radiance of Your Son.

For Therese, Your little flower, we lift up our song today.
In her life and in her teachings we are led the "little way."
From self-seeking to self-knowledge, that we all might serve in love.
Give us strength to thus surrender; shower graces from above.

From her hidden life in Carmel, You have raised her as a light,
In Your Church for all Your people, drawing us from sin's sad blight.
Into fellowship with Jesus, Image of the Father's face:
Grant us mission spirit fervent to preach You to every race.

Teach us by her great example how to treasure sacrifice;
Show us that small acts of loving are true gifts beyond all price;
As she did, so let us utter, "Jesus help me love You more!"
In our lack of might and power, let us praise You and adore.

God of mercy, love, and blessing, Father, Son, and Spirit great,
To Your Name we give the glory as Your coming we await.
Working here to spread Your Kingdom, lead us in Your little way
Till Therese and all Your faithful sing Your name in endless day.

*(Lyrics: Copyright 1999 J. Michael Thompson
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