

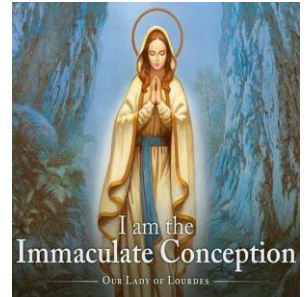
The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

On December 8, we honor Mary, our Mother.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Catholic feast celebrating Mary's conception without sin. Even though this feast day occurs in the liturgical season of Advent, which prepares for the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne and is celebrated 9 months December, nine months before the Nativity of Mary, which is celebrated on 8 September.

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception asserts that, "from the first moment of her conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary was, by the singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of Mankind, kept free from all stain of original sin."

The observance of this feast began with a Papal encyclical by Pope Pius IX, when he formally defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, *INEFFABILIS DEUS*, on December 8, 1854. Several years later, in 1858, the Blessed Mother gave her name to St. Bernadette at Lourdes stating, "I am the Immaculate Conception."



PLEASE JOIN US ON THE 9 DAY

NOVENA TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

First, recite the Prayer to the Immaculate Conception. Then, recite the appropriate prayer of each of the nine days.

MARY 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 to you.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Day One - 29th November (Monday)

O most Holy Virgin, who was pleasing to the Lord and became His mother, immaculate in body and spirit, in faith and in love, look kindly on me as I implore your powerful intercession. O most Holy Mother, who by your blessed Immaculate Conception, from the first moment of your conception did crush the head of the enemy, receive our prayers as we implore you to present at the throne of God the favor we now request *(Pause for personal intention...)*

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. O Virgin Mother of God, Mary Immaculate, Mother of Our Savior, keep us close to you every moment of our lives. Amen.

Day Two - 30th November (Tuesday)

O Mary ever blessed Virgin, Mother of God, Queen of angels and of saints, we salute you with the most profound veneration and filial devotion as we contemplate your holy Immaculate Conception. We thank you for your maternal protection and for the many blessings that we have received through your wondrous mercy and most powerful intercession. In all our necessities we have recourse to you with unbounded confidence. O Mother of Mercy, we beseech you now to hear our prayer and to obtain for us of your Divine Son the favor that we so earnestly request in this novena... *(Pause for personal intention...)*

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. O Virgin Mother of God, Mary Immaculate, Mother of Our Savior, keep us close to you every moment of our lives. Amen.

Day Three - 1st December (Wednesday)

O Blessed Virgin Mary, glory of the Christian people, joy of the universal Church and Mother of Our Lord, speak for us to the Heart of Jesus, who is your Son and our brother. O Mary, who by your holy Immaculate Conception did enter the world free from stain, in your mercy obtain for us from Jesus the special favor which we now so earnestly seek... (Pause for personal intention...)

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. O Virgin Mother of God, Mary Immaculate, Mother of Our Savior, keep us close to you every moment of our lives. Amen.

Day Four - 2nd December (Thursday)

O Mary, Mother of God, endowed in your glorious Immaculate Conception with the fullness of grace; unique among women in that you are both mother and virgin; Mother of Christ and Virgin of Christ, we ask you to look down with a tender heart from your throne and listen to our prayers as we earnestly ask that you obtain for us the favor for which we now plead... (Pause for personal intention...)

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. O Virgin Mother of God, Mary Immaculate, Mother of Our Savior, keep us close to you every moment of our lives. Amen.

Day Five - 3rd December (Friday)

O Lord, who, by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, did prepare a fitting dwelling for your Son, we beseech you that as by the foreseen death of your Son, you did preserve her from all stain of sin, grant that through her intercession, we may be favored with the granting of the grace that we seek for at this time... (Pause for personal intention...)

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. O Virgin Mother of God, Mary Immaculate, Mother of Our Savior, keep us close to you every moment of our lives. Amen.

Day Six - 4th December (Saturday)

Glorious and immortal Queen of Heaven, we profess our firm belief in your Immaculate Conception preordained for you in the merits of your Divine Son. We rejoice with you in your Immaculate Conception. To the one ever-reigning God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in Person, one in nature, we offer thanks for your blessed Immaculate Conception. O Mother of the Word made Flesh; listen to our petition as we ask this special grace during this novena... (Pause for personal intention...)

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. O Virgin Mother of God, Mary Immaculate, Mother of Our Savior, keep us close to you every moment of our lives. Amen.

Day Seven - 5th December (Sunday)

O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God, and my mother, from the sublime heights of your dignity turn your merciful eyes upon me while I, full of confidence in your bounty and keeping in mind your Immaculate conception and fully conscious of your power, beg of you to come to our aid and ask your Divine Son to grant the favor we earnestly seek in this novena... if it be beneficial for our immortal souls and the souls for whom we pray... (Pause for personal intention...)

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. O Virgin Mother of God, Mary Immaculate, Mother of Our Savior, keep us close to you every moment of our lives. Amen.

Day Eight - 6th December (Monday)

O Most gracious Virgin Mary, beloved Mother of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, intercede with him for us that we be granted the favor which we petition for so earnestly in this novena... O Mother of the Word Incarnate, we feel animated with confidence that your prayers in our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. O Glorious Mother of God, in memory of your joyous Immaculate Conception, hear our prayers and obtain for us our petitions... (Pause for personal intention...)

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. O Virgin Mother of God, Mary Immaculate, Mother of Our Savior, keep us close to you every moment of our lives. Amen.

Day Nine - 7th December (Tuesday)

O Mother of the King of the Universe, most perfect member of the human race, "our tainted nature's solitary boast," we turn to you as mother, advocate, and mediatrix. O Holy Mary, assist us in our present necessity. By your Immaculate Conception, O Mary conceived without sin, we humbly beseech you from the bottom of our heart to intercede for us with your Divine Son and ask that we be granted the favor for which we now plead... (Pause for personal intention...)

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. O Virgin Mother of God, Mary Immaculate, Mother of Our Savior, keep us close to you every moment of our lives. Amen.



Miraculous
Medal