

DAY 7 THE HOLY FAMILY MODELS TRUE COMMUNITY LIFE

The Holy Family was not a group of isolated individuals who just happen to live in the same house. They sought each other's good, ate together, prayed together, went on pilgrimages together, suffered together. Lord, help us make time to be together. May we sacrifice other things in order to spend time together instead of sacrificing time together for the sake of less important things.

DAY 8 THE HOLY FAMILY MODELS LOVE

For families, there is not a more perfect example of unselfish charity than the Holy Family. Lord, help us to always love each other as You love us. In our human weakness we may fail but let forgiveness and peace reign in our home. May our kindness and patience towards each other strengthen our bond of love.

DAY 9 THE HOLY FAMILY MODELS JOY

The good news of great joy proclaimed to the shepherds at the birth of Jesus was made possible through the participation of Mary and Joseph. Lord, we pray that our family cooperates with God's plan to bring the joy of Christ more deeply into our family and then to the world around us.

HOLY FAMILY PRAYER

Dear Jesus, you came to this world as a child and blessed all peoples. We ask that you bless all the children in our family. Send us special graces to bless those we meet as we strive to do Your Will.

Dear Mary, you care for and nourished Jesus. We ask you to care for and nourish our family in faith and love as we strive to do God's Will.

Dear St. Joseph, you guarded and protected Mary and Jesus. Please keep our family safe from harm and be with us in times of trouble. Please send us strength and courage as we strive to do God's Will. Amen.

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HOLY FAMILY NOVENA

*The Holy Family is the
beginning of countless other
holy families.*

A novena, in short, is a nine day period of a more intentional focused prayer.

As your family prepares for the celebration of Baptism, you are encouraged to focus more intensely on the Holy Family as a model of holiness for your own family.

Each day will have a small meditation centered on some aspect of the Holy Family. After reading the daily meditation, recite as a family an Our Father, Hail Mary and the Holy Family Prayer (which can be found on the back page).



DAY 1 - DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FAMILY

God chose to come into the world as a child born into a family. This shows the sacred character of the family. May we cooperate with God's grace in making our home a place of holiness, prayer, gentleness and charity. Lord, help families that are fragile, broken, or wounded that through Your grace they may become a reflection of God's love in the world.

DAY 2 THE HOLY FAMILY DOES GOD'S WILL

Mary said "yes" to be the Mother of Jesus. Joseph said "yes" to protecting and leading his family. Jesus spent his entire life saying "yes" to God, His Father. However, saying "yes" to God's Will requires sacrifice. Lord, help us each individually and as a family say "yes" to Your call. Give us the grace to sacrifice for each other, bear each other's burdens, forgive each other, and help each other out.

DAY 3 THE HOLY FAMILY MODELS HUMILITY

God chose to become human in the most humblest of beings...a defenseless baby dependent on his parents. Mary and Joseph then welcomed Him into this world while in a barn and laid him in a manger. These are very humble beginnings indeed, yet full of joy! Lord, help us to be humble and accept our state in life. Teach us to be grateful, to admit our mistakes, to praise others for their success, and to happily serve others.

DAY 4 THE HOLY FAMILY AND PRAYER

In Scripture we see the Holy Family participating in prayer and religious customs. Lord, help us be devout in our practice of prayer and the sacramental life. Teach us as your children, to run to you continuously; when we rise and before bed, at meal time, whether at play or work, in joy or sorrow. May we habitually find ourselves at the feet of Jesus.

DAY 5 THE HOLY FAMILY MODELS PURITY OF HEART

Mary is the Blessed Virgin, the Immaculate Mary. St. Joseph is her most chaste spouse and Jesus is God. May the Holy Family's example of sanctitude inspire us to desire only that which God desires for us. Lord, give us the courage and strength to rid our family of anything that hinders unity with You. Purify our thoughts, words, and actions so our will conforms to Yours.

DAY 6 THE HOLY FAMILY MODELS OBEDIENCE

Each member of the Holy Family did the Will of God, even though at times, those acts of obedience brought uncertainty or suffering (fleeing to Egypt to escape Herod or Christ's passion and death). Lord, help us be obedient to Your call while also encouraging each other to obey God's command. May we be of special assistance to each other when following Your Will is difficult.