

# Twenty-five Days Preparation for the Nativity, After the Example of St. Catherine of Bologna

## I. Opening Prayers

### Prayer for All Days

In lowly reverence at thy feet we kneel, great Mother of our God, most holy Mary, advocate of sinners; humbly praying thee, by the merits of the Precious Blood of thy Divine Son, shed for us sinners, and by the intercession of thy well-beloved servant, Catharine, to gain for us by thy prayers true fervour of spirit in this holy exercise, and the grace to walk in the way of all thy virtues, after the example of St Catharine, to the honour and glory of Jesus Christ, thine only Son our Saviour. Forget our monstrous ingratitude, look not upon our sins, but rather find for us a refuge in the depths of thy loving kindness; and having regard to that love wherewith thou didst ever love thy faithful servant Catharine, obtain for us the remission of our sins, so that we may confidently hope to attain all that we desire for our spiritual wants. Amen.

### Additional Prayer for November 29

In imitation of St Catharine, we purpose now to praise the great Mother of our God, honouring her Sacred Delivery, and saying to her forty Angelic Salutations and forty Benedictions, thereby to obtain her powerful aid at the hour of our death, and a true contrition for our sins, that so we may pass from this land of our pilgrimage to eternal joys.

### Additional Prayer for November 30 - December 22

In imitation of St Catharine, let us continue to praise the great Mother of our God, honouring her Sacred Delivery with forty Angelic Salutations and forty Benedictions, to obtain thereby her powerful aid at the hour of our death, and true contrition for our sins, that so we may pass from this land of our pilgrimage to eternal joys.

### Additional Prayer for December 23

In imitation of St Catharine, today we end this exercise praising the great Mother of our God, and honouring her Sacred Delivery, with forty Angelic Salutations and forty Benedictions, to obtain thereby her powerful aid at the hour of our death, and true contrition for our sins, that so we may pass from this land of our pilgrimage to eternal joys.

## **II. The Forty Aves**

### **First Decade**

Whilst praying the ten Aves and the concluding benediction for each decade, meditate on the ineffable mystery of the Incarnation of the Eternal Word, and the great dignity of the Virgin who was elected to be the Mother of the Most High. Pray the following ten times:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Blessed be the hour, Mary, when thou didst become Mother of Jesus, Son of God.

### **Second Decade**

Whilst praying the ten Aves and the concluding benediction for each decade, meditate on the humility of the King of heaven, who chose for his birthplace a poor stable, and on the joy of Mary when she first saw the Only-begotten of the Father, the Fruit of her womb. Pray the following ten times:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Blessed be the hour, Mary, when thou didst bring forth Jesus, the Son of God.

### **Third Decade**

Whilst praying the ten Aves and the concluding benediction for each decade, contemplate the exact carefulness of Mary, as she fulfilled perfectly the parts both of Martha and of Magdalen, contemplating her Son as her Redeemer, and at the same time ministering to Him as her Child. Pray the following ten times:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Blessed be the hour, Mary, when thou didst nourish at thy breast Jesus, Son of God.

### **Fourth Decade**

Whilst praying the ten Aves and the concluding benediction for each decade, meditate upon the great reverence with which Mary embraced and pressed to her very heart rather than to her bosom, kissed, and adored her God and ours, incarnate for love of us; and moved thereby with profound reverence and devout affection we say, Ave Maria ten times, and after each Ave, "Blessed be that hour, Mary, when thou didst embrace Jesus, Son of God." Pray the following ten times:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Blessed be that hour, Mary, when thou didst embrace Jesus, Son of God.

### III. Prayers

November 29

Praise be to our God, because in imitation of St. Catherine, we have begun. We beseech the Queen of Angels that for these our thousand Angelic Salutations and thousand Benedictions which we are saying Mother may obtain of the Infant which is born of her these two special blessings, viz., the first, in life, grace truly to repent of our sins; the second, in death, certainty of salvation. Wherefore let everyone here present say heartily with St Catharine: Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us ; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed Fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

November 29 - December 22

Praise be to our God, because in imitation of St. Catherine, we are continuing. We beseech the Queen of Angels that for these our thousand Angelic Salutations and thousand Benedictions which we are saying Mother may obtain of the Infant which is born of her these two special blessings, viz., the first, in life, grace truly to repent of our sins; the second, in death, certainty of salvation. Wherefore let everyone here present say heartily with St Catharine: Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed Fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

December 23

Praise be to our God, because in imitation of St. Catherine, we are have ended. We beseech the Queen of Angels that for these our thousand Angelic Salutations and thousand Benedictions which we have said Mother may obtain of the Infant which is born of her these two special blessings, viz., the first, in life, grace truly to repent of our sins; the second, in death, certainty of salvation. Wherefore let everyone here present say heartily with St Catharine: Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed Fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

#### **IV Litany of Loreto**

Lord, *have mercy.*

Christ, *have mercy.*

Lord, *have mercy.*

Christ, *hear us.*

Christ, *graciously hear us.*

God, the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the World, *have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*

Holy Mother of God, *pray for us.*

Holy Virgin of Virgins, *pray for us.*

Mother of Christ, *pray for us.*

Mother of Divine Grace, *pray for us.*

Mother most Pure, *pray for us.*

Mother most Chaste, *pray for us.*

Mother Inviolable, *pray for us.*

Mother undefiled, *pray for us.*

Mother most Amiable, *pray for us.*

Mother most Admirable, *pray for us.*

Mother of good Counsel, *pray for us.*

Mother of our Creator, *pray for us.*

Mother of our Savior, *pray for us.*

Virgin most Prudent, *pray for us.*

Virgin most Venerable, *pray for us.*

Virgin most Renowned, *pray for us.*

Virgin most Powerful, *pray for us.*

Virgin most Merciful, *pray for us.*

Virgin most Faithful, *pray for us.*

Mirror of Justice, *pray for us.*

Seat of Wisdom, *pray for us.*

Cause of our Joy, *pray for us.*

Spiritual Vessel, *pray for us.*

Vessel of Honor, *pray for us.*

Singular Vessel of Devotion, *pray for us.*

Mystical Rose, *pray for us.*

Tower of David, *pray for us.*

Tower of Ivory, *pray for us.*

House of Gold, *pray for us.*  
Ark of the Covenant, *pray for us.*  
Gate of Heaven, *pray for us.*  
Morning Star, *pray for us.*  
Health of the Sick, *pray for us.*  
Refuge of Sinners, *pray for us.*  
Comforter of the Afflicted, *pray for us.*  
Help of Christians, *pray for us.*  
Queen of Angels, *pray for us.*  
Queen of Patriarchs, *pray for us.*  
Queen of Prophets, *pray for us.*  
Queen of Apostles, *pray for us.*  
Queen of Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
Queen of Confessors, *pray for us.*  
Queen of Virgins, *pray for us.*  
Queen of all Saints, *pray for us.*  
Queen conceived without Original Sin, *pray for us.*  
Queen assumed into Heaven, *pray for us.*  
Queen of the most Holy Rosary, *pray for us.*  
Queen of the Family, *pray for us.*  
Queen of Peace, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, *spare us, O Lord!*  
Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, *graciously hear us, O Lord!*  
Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, *have mercy on us. .*

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.  
R. *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Let us pray. Grant, we beg Thee, O Lord God, that we Thy servants, may enjoy lasting health of mind and body, and by the glorious intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, be delivered from present sorrow and enter into the joy of eternal happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

R. *Amen.*

## **V. Concluding Prayer**

V. Make me worthy to praise thee, Virgin ever blessed.  
R. Give me strength against thine enemies.

Let us pray. God, who by the message of an angel didst will that thy Divine Word should take to Himself

human flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary; grant unto us thy suppliants that we, who believe her to be verily and indeed Mother of God, may be aided by her intercession with Thee. Visit us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, and purify our hearts; that our Lord Jesus Christ thy Son may, when He comes with all his saints, find a dwelling-place prepared for Himself within us. Who with Thee liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. Amen.