

FIRST COMMUNION NOVENA

Dear Parents, Use this prayer to prepare your child for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Begin ten days before First Communion, and pray it with your family for the next nine days. Each reflection prepares you and your child for the next day. God bless you!



DAY 1: LOVE

Parent: Jesus said, "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)

Child: God our Father, help me be ready to receive Jesus, your Son.

Parent: Jesus, you were always kind and loving to others. Please help us to follow your example.

Family Practice: Tomorrow we will remember to tell Jesus often how much we love him and to show how much we love by being kind to everyone we meet.

DAY 2: SACRIFICE

Parent: God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Child: God our Father, help me be ready to receive Jesus, your Son.

Parent: Be with us tonight, Jesus, as we remember the gift you gave us at the Last Supper ... the gift of yourself.

Family Practice: Tomorrow all day we will cheerfully offer little sacrifices (gifts of love to God) to be like Jesus.

DAY 3: PRAY

Parent: At the Last Supper, Jesus said, "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours. (John 17:9)

Child: God our Father, help me be ready to receive Jesus, your Son.

Parent: Jesus, we remember your hours of prayer at the Last Supper, in the garden, and on the cross. We unite ourselves with you in silent prayer. My Lord and my God!

Family Practice: Tomorrow we will pray for ourselves and others that we may be more like Jesus.

DAY 4: JOY

Parent: This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. (Psalm 118:24)

Child: God our Father, help me be ready to receive Jesus, your Son.

Parent: Happy are those who are called to his supper. Jesus, your smile touched the hearts of many people.

Family Practice: Tomorrow we will try to bring happiness to others by smiling and doing things cheerfully.

DAY 5: PRAISE

Parent: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." (John 11:25)

Child: God our Father, help me be ready to receive Jesus, your Son.

Parent: We celebrated your resurrection, Lord. Give us a peaceful night so that tomorrow we will rise again to praise you with joy.

Family Practice: Tomorrow we will offer prayers of praise to our risen Savior and ask for our faith in Jesus to be strengthened.

DAY 6: HELP

Parent: Jesus said, “Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” (Matthew 5:16)

Child: God our Father, help me be ready to receive Jesus, your Son.

Parent: Jesus, we read in the Gospels of the many ways you helped others, either by your words or your actions. Help us do the same.

Family Practice: Tomorrow we will imitate the example of Jesus by giving a helping hand to someone in need.

DAY 7: SERVE

Parent: God our Father sent Jesus to show us the way of service. He showed his love every minute of the day

Child: God our Father, help me be ready to receive Jesus, your Son.

Parent: Jesus, you are gentle and humble of heart. Accept the works and prayers of this day and grant us the rest we need to serve you better tomorrow.

Family Practice: Tomorrow we will be attentive to the needs of each member of our family and try to help others before being asked.

DAY 8: GIVE

Parent: What can I give, as poor as I am? I can give Jesus my heart.

Child: God our Father, help me be ready to receive Jesus, your Son.

Parent: Jesus, you gave of your time, your heart, and yourself always and everywhere. Please help us to be more aware of the times we could be more giving. May we always love and serve you.

Family Practice: Tomorrow we will give our hearts in loving, give our time in doing, give of ourselves in being happy children of the risen Lord.

DAY 9: THANK

Parent: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his kindness endures forever. (1 Chronicles 16:34)

Child: God our Father, help me be ready to receive Jesus, your Son.

Parent: Jesus, we thank you for calling us together and forming us into a family. There is no other family exactly like ours. No other family can give you what you expect from us. Help us show by our lives our thankfulness. We praise you, we bless you, and we thank you!

Family Practice: Tomorrow we will say words of thankfulness to God and all who have helped us.

THE EVENING BEFORE FIRST COMMUNION

Parent: Taste and see how good the Lord is (Psalm 34:9)

Child: Jesus, the day we have been waiting for is here.
We say, “Come, Lord Jesus, come.”

Parent: Lord, please grant your special graces and blessing to our child [Name] this night, tomorrow, and always. (You may make the Sign of the Cross on your child’s forehead in blessing.)

All: Come, Lord Jesus, make your home in my heart!

