

Novena to Saint Monica



Saint Augustin et Sainte Monique, 1858
Ary Scheffer (1795–1858)

Mother of Saint Augustine of Hippo

St. Monica was born into a Christian family in Tagaste, Algeria, across the Mediterranean Sea from Rome, in 332 AD. She married a pagan, a minor Roman government official named Patricius. Christians were few and far between in those days. The marriage was blessed with three children: the oldest and most famous was Augustine.

Patricius was not a model husband yet Monica prayed ceaselessly for his conversion. Her sweet piety, patience, and persistence paid off. One day, Patricius accepted baptism but he died a year after. Her son Augustine was a constant concern for Monica. Brilliant and likable, Augustine followed the example of his father. He refused to accept baptism and lived a passionate life with his mistress. For years Monica prayed, fasted, and cried silently for Augustine.

God was listening. He heard and finally answered these prayers of this faithful mother. Augustine, abandoning his sinful ways, accepted baptism from St. Ambrose of Milan, on Easter Sunday, 387 AD. Augustine's mother, St. Monica, died shortly after at the age of 55, secure in the knowledge that her son had heard God's call and her work on earth was finished.

In addition to lapsed Catholics, St. Monica is the patroness of troubled parents, battered wives, despondent mothers, widows, and alcoholics. Her feast is celebrated on August 27.

Praying the Novena

State the day's intention and then pray the Novena Prayers.

Intentions

Day One

Today we pray for all God's people currently absent from our Home. May the Holy Spirit open their ears and hearts so they may hear this invitation to come home. (Pray Novena Prayers)

Day Two

Today we pray for those who were baptized Catholic but were not blessed with families to guide them to spiritual maturity. May the Holy Spirit guide them back to our Catholic family. (Pray Novena Prayers)

Day Three

Today we pray for those who have been hurt by someone in the Church. May those of us in the Church today be a source of healing. (Pray Novena Prayers)

Day Four

Today we pray for those who take issue with the Church's teachings. May the Holy Spirit open their hearts and minds to the truth and wisdom of those teachings. (Pray Novena Prayers)

Day Five

Today we pray for those whose sins make them feel unworthy to come to God. May they feel the warm embrace of Our Father's loving forgiveness. (Pray Novena Prayers)

Day Six

Today we pray for all those who believe in their hearts but are fearful of judgment or institutions. May they find the support and joy of belonging to our Church community. (Pray Novena Prayers)

Day Seven

Today we pray for those who are resisting Your call due to pressures from friends and family members. May the Holy Spirit give them strength in their convictions and may the Holy Spirit fill the hearts of their friends and family with love and support. (Pray Novena Prayers)

Day Eight

Today we pray for those who feel abandoned by God. May they come to see God working in their lives, restore their faith in Him, and come home to His church. (Pray Novena Prayers)

Day Nine

Today we pray for those who are ready to come home and just need to be invited. May the Holy Spirit open our hearts and eyes to them that we may be the inviting and welcoming presence they seek. (Pray Novena Prayers)

Daily Novena Prayers

Exemplary mother of the Great Augustine, you perseveringly pursued your wayward son...not with wild threats but with prayerful cries to heaven. Intercede for all mothers in our day so that they may learn to draw their children to God.

Teach us to remain close to all God's children, even the prodigal sons and daughters who have sadly gone astray.

Dear St. Monica, troubled wife and mother, many sorrows pierced your heart during your lifetime. Yet, you never despaired or lost faith. With confidence, persistence, and profound faith, you prayed daily for the conversion of your beloved husband, Patricius and your beloved son, Augustine.

Grant me that same fortitude, patience, and trust in the Lord. Intercede for me, dear St. Monica, that God may favorably hear my plea for those for whom I am praying. Grant me the grace to accept His will in all things, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

*Hail Mary (3 times)
Glory Be (3 times)*

St. Monica, pray for us