



NOVENA

in Preparation for your Wedding Day

In preparation for your wedding day, we invite you to pray a nine-day novena using decades of the Rosary and reflections for reading.

The goals of the novena are:

1. To prepare spiritually as a couple,
2. To pray for all those who are going to attend the wedding, that they may also experience the power and presence of Jesus.

We suggest you pray two decades of the Rosary per day, but feel free to pray the entire Rosary if you are ready. Each day is offered for a specific intention.

Day 1 **Forgiveness and Purification**

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

READ

It is true that in matrimonial life there are many difficulties, many: work, lack of money, children having problems—so many difficulties. And so often the husband and wife become a bit nervous and quarrel between themselves. They quarrel—it is always so in marriage—sometimes even plates fly. However, we must not become sad because of this; the human condition is like this. And the secret is that love is stronger from the moment there is quarreling, so I always advise spouses: Never end the day when you quarreled without making peace. Always! And it is not necessary to call the United Nations to come to one's home to make peace. A small gesture, a caress, a hello is sufficient! And until tomorrow—and tomorrow one begins again. And this is life; it must be carried forward thus,

carried forward with the courage of wanting to live it together. And this is great, it is beautiful! Married life is a most beautiful thing and we must guard it always, protect the children.

At other times I have said in this square something that helps marital life a lot. They are three words that must always be said, three words that must be in the home: please, thank you, sorry [permesso, grazie, scusa]—three magical words.

Please, so as not to be invasive in the life of the spouse. Please, but what does this seem to you? Please, allow me.

Thank you: to thank one's spouse: thank you for what you did for me, thank you for this. The beauty of rendering thanks!

And as we all make mistakes, the other word which is a bit difficult to say, but which must be said: sorry.

Please, thank you, sorry. With these three words, with the prayer of the husband for his wife and vice versa, with making peace always before the day ends, the marriage will go forward—the three magical words, prayer and always making peace. —Pope Francis

DISCUSS

In the relationship between the two of you, is there anything you want to ask for forgiveness to your future spouse for, or apologize for?

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

Day 2 Words of Affirmation

Love expresses itself in words. It's important in your relationship to affirm the goodness of your spouse.

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

REFLECT

What are 3 things I like the most about my spouse?

SHARE

Three things you like about one another. Affirm one another with your words.

PRAY two decades of the Rosary

Day 3 Marriage Vows

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

READ

The marriage vows you are going to recite during your wedding are some of the most important words you are going to say in your life, and they will create the marriage bond. Consent makes marriage:

CCC 2364 *The married couple forms “the intimate partnership of life and love established by the Creator and governed by his laws; it is rooted in the conjugal covenant, that is, in their irrevocable personal consent.” Both give themselves definitively and totally to one another. They are no longer two; from now on they form one flesh. the covenant they freely contracted imposes on the spouses the obligation to preserve it as unique and indissoluble. “What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder.”*

Read the marriage vows:

I, N., take you, N., to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

SHARE

What part of the marriage vow do you like most?

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

Day 4 The Mystery of Marriage

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

READ

In the Letter to the Ephesians, Saint Paul highlights the fact that a very great mystery is reflected in Christian spouses: the relationship established by Christ with the Church, a nuptial relationship (cf. Ephesians 5:21-33). The Church is the Bride of Christ. This is the relationship. This means that Marriage responds to a specific vocation and must be considered as a consecration (cf. Gaudium et spes, 48; Familiaris consortio, 56). It is a consecration: the man and the woman are consecrated in their love. By virtue of the Sacrament, the spouses are invested in fact in a true and proper mission, so that they can render visible, from simple ordinary things, the love with which Christ loves his Church, continuing to give his life for her, in fidelity and in service. —Pope Francis

READ

Ephesians 5 21-33

SHARE

What do you like about this reading?

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

Day 5 Openness to Life

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

READ

CCC 2366 *Fecundity is a gift, an end of marriage, for conjugal love naturally tends to be fruitful. A child does not come from outside as something added on to the mutual love of the spouses, but springs from the very heart of that mutual giving, as its fruit and fulfillment. So, the Church, which “is on the side of life” teaches that “each*

and every marriage act must remain open 'per se' to the transmission of life." "This particular doctrine, expounded on numerous occasions by the Magisterium, is based on the inseparable connection, established by God, which man on his own initiative may not break, between the unitive significance and the procreative significance which are both inherent to the marriage act."

2367 Called to give life, spouses share in the creative power and fatherhood of God. "Married couples should regard it as their proper mission to transmit human life and to educate their children; they should realize that they are thereby cooperating with the love of God the Creator and are, in a certain sense, its interpreters. They will fulfill this duty with a sense of human and Christian responsibility."

SHARE

Parts of the texts you like the most

PRAY one decade of the Rosary for your future children

Day 6 Prayer: Family as Ecclesia Domestica

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

READ

CCC 2204 "The Christian Family constitutes a specific revelation and realization of ecclesial communion, and for this reason it can and should be called a domestic Church." It is a community of faith, hope, and charity..."

The family that prays together stays together.

SHARE

Two ways of praying together that you can do once you are married. Develop a plan of prayer as a family.

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

Day 7 Dialogue

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

SHARE

An important aspect of family life is dialogue, sharing how you are doing. Share with your future spouse something that is important for you.

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

Day 8 Mission Statement

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

SHARE

You get together for a reason, for a purpose, for a goal, to make it to heaven. Now you will be a team. Work together to develop a MISSION STATEMENT. Pray about your do's and don'ts, and the things you want to accomplish once you are married. Share ideas about your mission as a family. Write down your mission statement.

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

Day 9 Pray for Your Wedding Day

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

READ

John 2:1-12, the Wedding at Cana. "The Mother of Jesus was there." The Mother of Jesus will be at your wedding. Consecrate your future life to Mary. Pray for the spiritual fruits of the wedding celebration, in your own life, and in the lives of each person who will be present. Give your heart to Her.

PRAY one decade of the Rosary

In addition to this novena:

Prepare for your wedding day by making a good confession.

Read the article of Mother Angelica, "The Sacrament of Marriage."