PRAYERS

PRAYER of GRATITUDE
adapted from: CONCLUDING DAY OF THE NOVENA: THE DAY OF GRATITUDE

Lord Jesus how can we express our gratitude to You for having heard our prayers. We can only try to thank You by satisfying the deepest yearning of Your heart.

You said to Your disciples before offering Your life for us: *"I will be with You for a short time. Love one another as I have loved You. In this all will know that You are my disciples, if You have love for one another.”*

When Guruji was facing the end of life, he said the very same thing: *"I may only be with You for a short time, Love one another. We have to love each other as brothers and sisters. We have to find that love within us, with each other, here, and then automatically, it will be projected to other people, it will touch them without them even knowing.*He taught us and gave his example of unconditional love.

Yes, Lord Jesus and Guruji, we will love each other and our neighbors, especially those who suffer most.  We will help them and comfort them; this will be our task. We are certain that no other gift could be more pleasing to You and to St Rita, who can well be called the saint of fraternal love, caring for us in our sorrows and difficulties.

Saint Rita, sweet messenger of the Divine Mercy, we offer praise to our heavenly Father in Your and in Guruji’s honor.

NOVENA TO ST. RITA OF CASCIA ( Version I)

FIRST DAY OF THE NOVENA: THE DAY OF FAITH

INVOCATION
*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.*

Lord Jesus, to the man of the Gospel who asked a great favor of You, You said: *"All things are possible to one who believes."*

My faith is weak, Lord and too often it falters in the course of life's daily events. But encouraged by the example and the intercession of Your servant, Saint Rita, I make the words of the Apostle Paul my own: *"I know in Whom I have placed my faith and I remain firm".*

You, Saint Rita, have suffered greatly, but have always believed in the Lord no matter what life brought you. I, too Lord, believe in You, Son of our all-powerful Father.

I believe firmly that You never deceive anyone who calls on You with a sincere heart, entrusting all to Your wisdom and love. I believe that You order all the joy and suffering of our lives solely for our good. And so I believe that You will grant me the favor I ardently seek, if it will be for my greater good.

O Lord, I will strive to live a life more consistent with faith in You and inspired by the teaching of the gospel.

*‘I believe, Lord: help Thou my unbelief.’*

REFLECTION ( A time of silent prayer )

LITANY

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

Christ have mercy. Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

God our Father in Heaven, Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Have mercy on us.

Redeemer of the world, Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, One God, Have mercy on us.

Mary Immaculate, Mother of God, pray for us

Mary, Mother of Grace, pray for us

Mary, Protectress from All Harm, pray for us

Mary, Our Body’s Healing, pray for us

Mary, Our Soul’s Saving, pray for us

Mary, Morning Star, pray for us.

Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, pray for us.

Saint Rita, most powerful advocate, pray for us.

Gift of heaven…

Robed in the glory of paradise…

Garden of every virtue…

Fruitful in winter…

Fragrant of roses…

Lover of solitude…

Model of purity …

Example of lovableness…

Ideal daughter…

Ideal spouse and mother…

Rock of strength…

Loving of neighbor, especially the poor…

Peacemaker…

Burning for the divine vocation…

Model of cloistered life…

Perfect in humble obedience…

Of unconquerable good will…

Untiring in forgiveness…

Constant in discipline…

Heroic in penance…

Lover of god…

Persevering in prayer…

Heroic in suffering…

Filled with compassion for the Crucified One…

Pierced by a thorn from the crown of Jesus…

Subsisting on the Eucharist…

Handmaiden of Christ…

Incorrupt…

Beneficent star of the errant…

Refuge in danger…

Helper of the helpless…

Comfort of the afflicted…

Hope of the despairing…

Saint Rita, Saint of the impossible, Pray for Us.

In all our temptations Pray for us

In all dangers,, Pray for us

In all trials, Pray for us

In all sorrows, Pray for us

In the hour of death, Pray for us

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

**Pray for us, saint Rita of Cascia that we may become worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Father in Heaven, You granted to St. Rita a share in the passion of Your Son. Give us courage and strength in time of trial, so that by our patient endurance we may enter more deeply into the paschal mystery of Your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

O powerful Saint Rita, you are called Saint of the Impossible. In this time of need, we come to you with confidence. You know our trials, for you yourself were many times burdened in this life. Come to our help, pray with us, intercede on our behalf before the Father. We know that God has a most generous heart and that He is most loving Father. Join your prayer to ours and obtain for us the grace we desire. (HERE MENTION YOUR REQUEST)

**I** promise to use this favor when granted to better **my** life, to proclaim God's mercy, and to make you widely known and loved. Amen

SAINT RITA OF CASCIA............................PRAY FOR US

SECOND DAY OF THE NOVENA: THE DAY OF HOPE

INVOCATION
*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

Scripture tells us*, "Abraham believed hoping against all hope."* And God performed a miracle. Lord Jesus, how seldom I have practiced the virtue of hope in my life. I am so short-sighted. I place confidence in created things and in a world which will pass away and rarely hope in those greater goods which never pass away; in You, in Your grace and in Your promise of never-ending life.

I am so proud, Lord, that I entrust myself to Your great power only when my own weak and helpless natural powers fail me. But now, Lord, the disappointing experience of misunderstanding and injustice, the impotence and the limits of our human resources have robbed me of all hope. Nonetheless, like Abraham, our father in faith, I want to hope. Since I hope in You, O Lord, You will hear me, O Lord, my God.

Saint Rita, you teach me the way of hope and so I entrust to your powerful intercession the favor which is so close to my heart. You teach me by the example of your entire life to count on God alone, since He is the great hope of our people and above every other good.

REFLECTION (A time of silent prayer )
LITANY (turn to page 1.)

THIRD DAY OF THE NOVENA: THE DAY OF LOVE

INVOCATION
*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

*“God is Love.”* Lord Jesus, may my heart discover in these words the most valuable lesson of life, which invites us to a life of trust in You and which is expressed in gratitude: because of love, You, O God, have wished to know our sorrow. God is love. Therefore I too created in Your image and likeness, ought to be a reflection of Your love, Your mercy and Your goodness, in the world and for the world.

Saint Rita was this, Lord. She was a true Christian, self-giving, generous toward all, even her enemies, both spiritually and materially.

I have not always been this way, and yet many times I have tried to be heard by You Who have told me: love one another as I have loved You.

Saint Rita, example of love in suffering, teach me to love God and my brothers and sisters with true Christian love. And since on account of my selfishness I do not deserve to be heard, join your ardent love with my desire to grow in love and offer it to the God of goodness for the favor I so greatly desire.

REFLECTION (A time of silent prayer )
LITANY (turn to page 1.)

FOURTH DAY OF THE NOVENA: THE DAY OF PRAYER

INVOCATION
*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

Saint James writes: Is there someone among You who is suffering? Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, I do not have the courage to pray to You. How can You hear the prayers of someone who turns to You in time of need but afterwards, in the normal events of life is so often far from You?

Lord, the only prayer which can truly reach You is that of a life lived as You wish: in love, in truth, in fidelity to Your law. It is impossible for You not to hear anyone who lives with You and for You and who serves You with a sincere heart.

I am not capable of offering You such a prayer. But Saint Rita is. And so I offer You her holiness, her faithfulness together with my sincere and firm will to imitate her every day. Hear me Lord!

Saint Rita, teach me the prayer which can change my heart, the dialogue with God which opens me to accepting his will and to making myself available to my brothers and sisters. I commend to Your intercession the favor which I seek with all my heart. Ask it of our good God, if it be His will.

REFLECTION (A time of silent prayer )
LITANY (turn to page 1.)

FIFTH DAY OF THE NOVENA: THE DAY OF PATIENCE

INVOCATION
*Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

Lord Jesus, I can sometimes hear the words of Your servant Job on my own lips: *Where will I find strength to hope again, and when will the end which I have always awaited finally come to me?*

I know, Lord, that the faith of the true Christian is measured by patience, but I become impatient precisely because faith is not deeply rooted in my heart. You, in Your love though, have clothed Yourself with our weak human nature and You know its limits. Now, please clothe me with Your mercy and grant me the gift of patience.

Saint Rita, you were spared nothing in this world: neither sorrow, nor humiliation nor deprivation; but God was your patience, God and his Word. Your whole life gives evidence of this. Today you offer me the word of Scripture to share with me the secret of your patience: *"Happy the person who bears trials patiently because, once having been tried, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him".*

Thank you, Saint Rita, or having shown me the light which does not deceive and the comfort of God's word. With greater tranquility and peace, I commit myself to the intercession of your heroic patience, to obtain the favor which I greatly desire, uniting to it the gift of patient waiting.

REFLECTION (A time of silent prayer)
LITANY (turn to page 1.)

SIXTH DAY OF THE NOVENA: THE DAY OF STRENGTH

INVOCATION
*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

Lord Jesus, You know how much strength I need in these days of trial. I have been frequently tempted against confidence and fearing that You would no longer hear my prayers, I have become more and more filled with anguish. The first day of this novena to Saint Rita has helped me understand, however, that faith is the secret to strength- provided it is a living faith, nourished by prayer.

I believe Lord, that by virtue of my baptism I am a temple of God who is a Tower of Strength. He lives within me; therefore I live night and day within this tower. Yes, Lord, You are my Rock and my Strength.

Saint Rita, this truth was your strength in the trials of your life. But your strength joined with such heroism as to deserve to share, through the gift of a thorn, the redemptive suffering of our Savior. This special gift encourages me to place my trust in you.

I am certain that in my life, too, the cross must put my faith to the test; and I am happy to be able to say to the Lord that I believe in his love in these days of sorrow. If it pleases him, I pray to obtain through Your intercession the favor which I earnestly seek.

REFLECTION (A time of silent prayer )
LITANY (turn to page 1.)

SEVENTH DAY OF THE NOVENA: THE DAY OF ABANDONMENT

INVOCATION
*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

Lord Jesus, the thoughts and the insights of these days of prayer have led me to place my complete trust in You. The closeness of Your chosen one, Saint Rita, whose heroic virtues I have considered and, though only lightly, have tried to imitate, has revealed to me the absolute surety of Your paternal and divine attentiveness and Your immense love for us.

Now I am certain that, if it will be for my good and for the good of all those who are dear to me, You will grant the request I make of You to obtain this favor which is so important to me. If You should answer my prayer, I with my whole heart, will praise Your greatness which is full of mercy and I will speak of you, Saint Rita, and of your sweet, protective intercession on behalf of all who like me are burdened with sorrow.

Forever, Lord, I will praise the works of Your divine Wisdom. With the psalmist I will say: *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me.”*

REFLECTION (A time of silent prayer)
LITANY (turn to page 1.)

EIGHTH DAY OF THE NOVENA: THE DAY OF FORGIVENESS

INVOCATION
*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Lord Jesus, it is impossible to approach You and Your servant Rita without learning the way of forgiveness. No Prayer would ever be acceptable to You if it did not come from a heart free of all resentment and full of love. You have said: *" Whatever You ask for in prayer, believe that You have received it, and it will be Yours. And when You pray, if You hold anything against anyone, forgive them.”* This is the condition You place before us.

You, Saint Rita, when your husband was murdered, quietly hid his bloodied clothing so that your sons would not be moved to seek revenge. Teach me the strength, the joy and the peace that are found in forgiving.

I want to give my brothers and sisters true Christian example, for without this my faith would be poor and pharisaical and all my offerings in vain. I do not want to be rejected by the God of mercy and love to whom I confidently offer today a willing heart and from whom, through your intercession, O great example of forgiveness, I await the favor I seek.

REFLECTION (A time of silent prayer)
LITANY (turn to page 1.)

NINTH DAY OF THE NOVENA: THE DAY OF GOOD WILL

INVOCATION
*Blessed are You when people insult You, persecute You and falsely say all kinds of evil against You because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is Your reward in heaven.*

Lord Jesus, I want to offer You today my good will. Praying to You throughout these days I have become aware of my spiritual poverty. I have come to understand how unworthy I am to be heard by You, for I have served You and loved You so poorly.

Saint Rita, let me share in your great love and your Christian zeal and I will offer these to our God of goodness as a precious gift to intercede on my behalf. He cannot but hear you. With my whole heart I pray you to enrich my humble prayer with your own ardent, confident and selfless prayer. Tell the Lord that from this day forward I too will render him more courageous and clearer witness. I wish to be a Christian in deed, a Christian who transmits to others the light of faith, hope and love.
O Lord, hear my prayer.

REFLECTION (A time of silent prayer)
LITANY (turn to page 1.)

CONCLUDING DAY OF THE NOVENA: THE DAY OF GRATITUDE

Lord Jesus how can I express my gratitude to You for having heard the prayer of Your servant Rita who had recourse to Your great power and love on my behalf. Lord, You have granted my request, and I can only try to thank You by satisfying the deepest yearning of Your heart.

You said to Your disciples before offering Your life for us: *"I will be with You for a short time. Love one another as I have loved You. In this all will know that You are my disciples, if You have love for one another.”*

Yes, Lord Jesus, I will love my neighbor, especially my most needy brothers and sisters and those who suffer most. I will help them and comfort them; this will be my task. I am certain that no other gift of mine could be more pleasing to Your servant and my dear patroness Saint Rita, who can well be called the saint of fraternal love. For her, earthly life was not sufficient in giving herself in love. She now spends her life with You caring for us in our sorrows and difficulties.

Saint Rita, sweet messenger of the Divine Mercy, I offer praise to our heavenly Father in Your honor.

Saint Rita of Cascia...pray for us.

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NOVENA TO ST. RITA OF CASCIA (Version II)

Dear Saint Rita, during your entire life on earth you found your happiness by following the will of our Heavenly Father. Help me to be as trusting of God as you were, in all His designs for me. Help me this day to give myself to Him as you did, without limit, without fear, without counting the cost. Help me to be generous in serving the needs of others, patient in all difficulties, forgiving towards all who injure me. Blessed St Rita, bright mirror of God’s grace, in forgiveness, obedience, peace-making, patience, and courageous perseverance you are a model to all of us.

During His Passion our Saviour Jesus Christ, bore, for our sins, the Crown of Thorns, and you, St. Rita, with tender devotion, did accept, honour, bear, and cherish a remnant of that burden.

O Holy Patroness of those in greatest need, you shine as a star of hope in the midst of darkness.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are close to the brokenhearted; You save those whose spirit is crushed.

St Rita, Holy Advocate, through your intercession and the merits of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, I ask you to obtain my earnest petition, in this hour of deepest need: *(Share your request …)*

Yet, like you, I submit my will to the will of our Heavenly Father, through union with the sufferings of our Lord: “*Be it done, Lord, according to Thy will.”*

St Rita, advocate of the impossible: Pray for Us.

St Rita, advocate of the helpless: Pray for Us

Prayers: Our Father … Hail Mary … Glory be … (3 times)

… St Rita of Cascia, Pray for Us …

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NOVENA TO ST. RITA OF CASCIA (Version III)

*This*[*Solemn Novena*](https://www.saintritashrine.org/solemn-novena-and-feast)*Is Celebrated May 13 - May 22*

Invocation

**Leader:** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.  Send forth Your Spirit and our hearts will be renewed.

**All: *And you will renew the face of the earth.***

**Leader:** O God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit, instructed the hearts of the faithful; grant us, by the same Holy Spirit, a love and desire for what is right and just, and the constant enjoyment of His consolation,  through Christ our Lord. **All:*Amen.***

Litany of Saint Rita

**Leader:**Lord, have mercy on us.
**All:** ***Christ, have mercy on us*.
Leader:**Lord, have mercy on us, Christ hear us.
**All: *Christ, graciously hear us.***
**Leader:**God, the Father of heaven,
**All:** ***Have mercy on us.*
Leader:**God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,
**All: *Have mercy on us.***
**Leader:**God, the Holy Spirit,
**All: *Have mercy on us*.
Leader:**Holy Trinity, one God,**All:*Have mercy on us.***Immaculate Mary, Mother of God, ***Pray for us.***
Holy Mary, Mother of pure love, ***Pray for us.***
Holy Mary, Comforter of the afflicted, ***Pray for us.***
Holy Mary, Queen of all the saints, ***Pray for us.***
Holy Mary, Model of life for Saint Rita, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, our advocate and protectress, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, beloved by the Lord, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, given special grace from heaven, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, remarkable in childhood, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, model of obedience to God’s Will, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, of untiring patience, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, model of Christian mothers, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, mirror for Christian spouses, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, heroic in sacrifice, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, generous in forgiving, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, martyr in penitence, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, embracing humility & poverty, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, exemplary as a widow, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, prompt to answer the divine call, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, patient in suffering, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, mirror of religious observance, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, mystical rose of every virtue, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, enamored of the Passion of Christ, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, pierced with a thorn, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, in ecstasy before the Blessed Sacrament, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, consumed with Divine Love, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, received into heaven with joy, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, incorrupt in your chaste body, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, advocate of impossible cases, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, persevering in prayer, ***Pray for us.***
St. Rita, help of those in need, ***Pray for us.***

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,***Spare us, O Lord.***
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, ***Graciously hear us, O Lord.***
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,***Have mercy on us.***

Lord, you have signed your servant Rita***with the marks of Your love and Passion.***

**Leader:**  Let us pray.  O God, Who bestowed on St. Rita such grace that she loved her enemies, and bore in her heart and on her forehead the mark of Your love and Passion, grant us, we beseech You, through her merits and intercession, a love for our enemies.  Through our contemplation of Your sufferings and Passion, may we merit the reward promised to the meek and the suffering.  You live and reign forever.
**All:*Amen.***

Prayer of Petition

***All:  Glorious St. Rita, patroness of those in need,
your intercession with our Lord is most powerful.
Through the favors obtained by your prayers
you have been called “Advocate of hopeless and even impossible cases.”
St. Rita, humble and pure; patient and compassionate lover of Christ Crucified!
We have confidence that everyone who has recourse to you, will find comfort and relief.
Listen******to our petitions and show your power with God in our behalf.
Obtain our petitions for us
if they are for the greater honor of God, and for our good.
We promise, if our petitions are granted,
to make known your favor, and to glorify God for His gift.
Relying on your power with the merciful Savior, we ask of you...***(mention your request in silence)

**Leader:**By the singular merits of your childhood, ***Obtain our request for us.***
By your perfect union with the Divine Will, ***Obtain our request for us.***
By your acceptance of troubles in your married life, ***Obtain our request for us.***
By the anguish felt at the murder of your husband, ***Obtain our request for us.***
By the surrender of your children, rather than have them offend God, ***Obtain our request for us.***
By your miraculous entrance into the convent, ***Obtain our request for us.***
By your daily penance and fasting, ***Obtain our request for us.***
By your courage and joy in bearing the mark of the Crucified Savior, ***Obtain our request for us.***
By the Divine Love which consumed your life, ***Obtain our request for us.***
By your devotion in receiving the Blessed Sacrament, ***Obtain our request for us.***
By the happiness you felt in leaving this life for union with Christ, ***Obtain our request for us.***
By the example you have given to people of every state of life, ***Obtain our request for us***
Pray for us, St. Rita,***That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.***

Closing

**Leader:**  Let us pray.

**All:*Heavenly Father! In Your infinite love and mercy, You heed the prayer of Your beloved servant, Rita. You graciously grant favors through her intercession, which are considered impossible to human skill and effort. Relying on her compassionate love, we ask You to assist us in our trials and difficulties. Let unbelievers know that you are the helper of the humble, the defender of the weak, and the strength of those who trust in You.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.***

**RESOURCES FOR ST. RITA**

For information on the **Sanctuary of St. Rita, in Cascia, Italy**, where she lived, and where Her incorrupt body is housed, please go to this website: <http://www.santaritadacascia.org/saintrita/> The frontispiece of the pamphlet on St. Rita published by the School of Life is a reproduction of a 5th century painting in the saint’s cell, at the sanctuary.

For information on the **National Shrine of St. Rita, in Philadephia, PA**, US, please visit this site: <https://www.saintritashrine.org/> The image of the Resurgent Christ used in the St. Rita pamphlet is taken from the Shrine.

For the Augustinian text widely used to perform the **15 Week Thursdays’ Devotional** **to St. Rita**, that begins in February leading up to her Feast Day, May 22, please visit this link: <http://www.santaritadacascia.org/documenti/quindici_giovedi_en.pdf>

For an inspiring, detailed life of the Saint, this book is a good choice: *St. Rita of Cascia: Saint of the Impossible (Wife, Mother, Widow, Nun)* by Rev. Fr. Joseph Sicardo, O.S.A, available here: <https://www.tanbooks.com/index.php/st-rita-of-cascia-saint-of-the-impossible-2964.html>

For a short, easy to read Life of the Saint this is a good introduction: The Precious Pearl: The Story of St. Rita of Cascia, by Fr. Michael Di Gregorio, OSA available here: <https://www.amazon.com/Precious-Pearl-Story-Saint-Cascia/dp/0818909404>

**PHOTOS**







