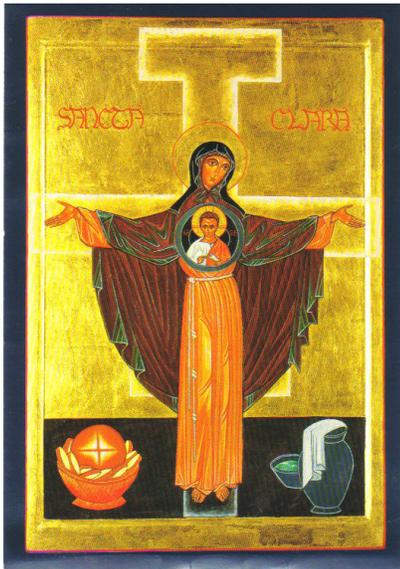




# *Novena*

*to prepare for the feast  
of St. Clare of Assisi*



# Novena

## To prepare for the feast of St. Clare of Assisi

### August 2: WE PRAY FOR THE GRACE OF ONGOING CONVERSION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Happy, indeed is she to whom it is given to share this sacred banquet, to cling with all her heart to Him

**ALL: Whose beauty all the heavenly hosts admire  
unceasingly.**

**Reader:**

*A reading from the third letter of St. Clare:*

*Since you have cast aside all those things which, in this deceitful and turbulent world, ensnares their blind lovers, love him totally Who gave Himself totally for Your love. His beauty the sun and moon admire; and of his gifts there is no limit in abundance, preciousness, and magnitude. I am speaking of Him Who is the Son of the Most High, Whom the Virgin brought to birth and remained a virgin after His birth. ... For the heavens with the rest of creation cannot contain their Creator. Only the faithful soul is His dwelling place and His throne, and this is possible only through the charity which the wicked do not have. He Who is the Truth has said: Whoever loves me will be loved by My Father, and I too shall love Him, and We shall come to him and make our dwelling place with him. (13-17,22-23)*  
*The end of the reading.*

**ALL: Thanks be to God! (Meditative Pause or Reflection)**

Leader:

Let us pray:

All praise be yours, Lord Jesus Christ.  
Your mercy endures forever,  
You are clothed in beauty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe.

**ALL:**

**Through the intercession of St. Clare,  
and after her example,  
give us a daily change of heart  
that we may experience the beauty of your mercy,  
express our praise and thanks for your great love,  
and pursue with an unswerving spirit a life of holiness.  
We ask this of you who live and reign  
With the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Leader:

Pray for us, holy mother, St. Clare,

**ALL:**

**That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.**



# Novena

## To prepare for the feast of St. Clare of Assisi

**August 3: WE PRAY FOR THE GRACE OF LOVE**

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Happy, indeed is she to whom it is given to share this sacred banquet, to cling with all her heart to Him

**ALL: Whose love inflames our love.**

**Reader:** *A reading from the first letter of St. Clare:  
When you have loved Him, you will be chaste.  
When you have touched Him, you shall become pure.  
When you have accepted Him, you shall be a virgin.  
He, whose power is stronger,  
Whose generosity is more abundant,  
Whose appearance is more beautiful,  
Whose love more tender,  
Whose courtesy more gracious.  
In Whose embrace you are already caught up,  
Who has adorned your breast with precious stones  
and has placed priceless pearls in your ears  
and has surrounded you with sparkling gems though blossoms of  
springtime and placed on your head “a golden crown as a sign to all  
of your holiness.” (8-14)*

*The end of the reading.*

**ALL:** Thanks be to God! (*Meditative Pause or Reflection*)

Leader: Let us pray:  
All praise be yours, Lord Jesus Christ.  
You love us with an everlasting love.  
You lay down your life for us out of love,  
and command us to love one another.

**ALL:** **Through the intercession of St. Clare,  
and after her example,  
give us the insight and the energy  
to discover your love in every aspect of life,  
to demonstrate love by the commitment of chastity,  
and to share your love through every human encounter.  
We ask this of you who live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Leader: Pray for us, holy mother, St. Clare,

**ALL:** **That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.**



## Novena

To prepare for the feast  
of St. Clare of Assisi

**August 4: WE PRAY FOR THE GRACE OF  
CONTEMPLATION**

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Happy, indeed is she to whom it is given to share this sacred banquet,  
to cling with all her heart to Him

**ALL: Whose contemplation is our refreshment.**

*Reader: A reading from the third letter of St. Clare:  
Place your mind before the mirror of eternity!  
Place your soul in the brilliance of glory!  
Place your heart in the figure of the divine substance!  
And transform your entire being into the image  
of the Godhead itself through contemplation.  
So that you too may feel what His friends feel  
as they taste the hidden sweetness  
which God Himself has reserved from the beginning  
for those who love Him. (12-14).*

*The end of the reading.*

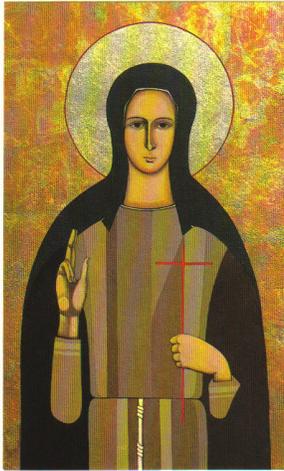
**ALL: Thanks be to God! (Meditative Pause or Reflection)**

Leader: Let us pray:  
All praise be yours, Lord Jesus Christ.  
You are the refulgence of the Father's glory,  
the very imprint of the Father's being.  
In you dwells the fullness of God in bodily form.

**ALL: Through the intercession of St. Clare,  
and after her example,  
give us that refreshment that comes from prayer.  
Let us see your face, and we shall be saved,  
for in you is the source of life  
and in your light we see light.  
We ask this of you who live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Leader: Pray for us, holy mother, St. Clare,

**ALL: That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.**



# Novena

## To prepare for the feast of St. Clare of Assisi

### August 5: WE PRAY FOR THE GRACE OF POVERTY

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Happy, indeed is she to whom it is given to share this sacred banquet,  
to cling with all her heart to Him

**ALL: Whose graciousness is our joy.**

*Reader: A reading from the first letter of St. Clare:  
O blessed poverty, who bestows eternal riches  
on those who love and embrace her!  
O holy poverty, to those who possess and desire you  
God promises the kingdom of heaven  
and offers, indeed, eternal glory and blessed life!  
O God-centered poverty, whom the Lord Jesus Christ  
who ruled and now rules heaven and earth,  
who spoke and things were made,  
condescended to embrace before all else! ...  
What a laudable exchange!  
to leave the things of time for those of eternity,  
to choose the things of heaven for the goods of earth,  
to receive the hundred-fold in place of one,  
and to possess a blessed and eternal life. (15-17,30)  
The end of the reading.*

**ALL: Thanks be to God! (Meditative Pause or Reflection)**

Leader: Let us pray:  
All praise be yours, Lord Jesus Christ.  
You became poor so that we may be rich.  
You humbled yourself and emptied yourself  
that we might have life in abundance.

**ALL: Through the intercession of St. Clare,  
and after her example,  
give us that precious gift  
to appropriate nothing to ourselves alone,  
even good deeds, successes, or talents,  
and to detach ourselves from those possessions  
of will and heart, of mind and material,  
that we may be totally free for you.  
We ask this of you who live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Leader: Pray for us, holy mother, St. Clare,

**ALL: That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.**



# Novena

## To prepare for the feast of St. Clare of Assisi

### August 6: WE PRAY FOR THE GRACE OF COMMUNITY

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Happy, indeed is she to whom it is given to share this sacred banquet, to cling with all her heart to Him

**ALL: Whose gentleness fills us to overflowing.**

*Reader: A reading from the Rule and the Testament of St. Clare:  
I admonish and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ that the sisters be on their guard against all pride, vainglory, envy, greed, worldly care and anxiety, detraction and murmuring, dissention and division. Let them be ever zealous to preserve among themselves the unity of mutual love, which is the bond of perfection. (RC 10:4-5)*

*Loving one another with the charity of Christ, let the love you have in your hearts be shown outwardly in your deeds so that, compelled by such an example, the sisters may always grow in the love of God and in charity for one another. (TC 18)*

*The end of the reading.*

**ALL: Thanks be to God! (Meditative Pause or Reflection)**

Leader: Let us pray:

All praise be yours, Lord Jesus Christ.

You are the source, end, and energy for our oneness.

You pray that we all may be one

as you and the Father are one in the Holy Spirit.

And you are with us whenever we gather together in your name.

**ALL: Through the intercession of St. Clare,  
and after her example,  
give us the constancy of effort  
to bring about the unity of mutual love,  
to make up for what is lacking in one another,  
and to share each other's burden of charity  
so that we may be an example and a mirror of the love of God.  
This we ask of you who live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Leader: Pray for us, holy mother, St. Clare,

**ALL: That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.**



# Novena

## To prepare for the feast of St. Clare of Assisi

### August 7: WE PRAY FOR THE GRACE OF WITNESS

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Happy, indeed is she to whom it is given to share this sacred banquet, to cling with all her heart to Him

**ALL: Whose remembrance brings us a gentle light.**

*Reader: A reading from the Testament of St. Clare:  
The Lord Himself not only has set us an example and mirror for others, but also for our own sisters whom the Lord has called to our way of life, so that they in turn will be mirror and example to those living in the world. Since, therefore, the Lord has called us to such great things, that those who are to be models and mirrors for others may behold themselves in us, we are truly bound to bless and praise the Lord and to be strengthened constantly in Him to do good. Therefore, if we have lived according to the form of life given us, we shall, by very little effort, leave others a noble example and gain the prize of eternal happiness. <sup>(6)</sup>*

**ALL: Thanks be to God! (Meditative Pause or Reflection)**

Leader: Let us pray:  
All praise be yours, Lord Jesus Christ.  
You are the Word made flesh dwelling among us.  
You are with us always until the end of time,  
and You work with us and confirm the word through accompanying signs.

**ALL: Through the intercession of St. Clare,  
and after her example,  
give us the clarity, conviction, and transparency  
to reveal your presence and power to others,  
to testify to the truth and the effectiveness of the holy Gospel,  
and to give witness to the richness of your kingdom.  
We ask this of you who live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Leader: Pray for us, holy mother, St. Clare,

**ALL: That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.**



# Novena

To prepare for the feast  
of St. Clare of Assisi

**August 8: WE PRAY FOR THE GRACE  
OF THE HEALING POWER OF GOSPEL LIVING**

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Happy, indeed is she to whom it is given to share this sacred banquet, to cling with all her heart to Him

**ALL: Whose fragrance will revive the dead.**

*Reader: A reading from the third and fourth letters of St. Clare:  
I sigh with such happiness in the Lord because I know you see that you make up most wonderfully what is lacking both in me and in the other sisters in following the footprints of the poor and humble Jesus Christ. (3L 4)  
... I consider you a co-worker of God Himself and a support of the weak members of His ineffable Body. Who is there, then, who would not encourage me to rejoice over such a marvelous joy? Therefore, dearly beloved, may you too always rejoice in the Lord. And may neither bitterness nor a cloud of sadness overwhelm you. (3L 8-11) ... Let yourself be inflamed more strongly with the fervor of charity! As you contemplate further His ineffable delights, eternal riches and honors, and sigh for them in the great desire and love of your heart, may you cry out, Draw me after You! (4L 27-32)*

*The end of the reading.*

**ALL: Thanks be to God! (Meditative Pause or Reflection)**

Leader: Let us pray:  
All praise be yours Lord Jesus Christ.  
You are the divine healer, the mender of the breach,  
the one in whom all things are reconciled.

**ALL: Through the intercession of St. Clare,  
and after her example,  
give us the grace  
to be recipients and agents of your healing power  
in all the corners of our world.  
May our faithfulness to our charism and to our commitment  
bring the strength of your healing to those who are weak,  
the warmth of your healing to those who have grown cold,  
and the newness of your healing to those who are broken and wounded.  
We ask this of you who live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Leader: Pray for us, holy mother, St. Clare,

**ALL: That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.**



# Novena

## To prepare for the feast of St. Clare of Assisi

### August 9: WE PRAY FOR THE GRACE OF EVANGELIZATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Happy, indeed is she to whom it is given to share this sacred banquet, to cling with all her heart to Him

**ALL: Whose glorious vision will be the happiness of all the citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem.**

*Reader: A reading from the second letter of St. Clare:  
What you hold, may you always hold.  
What you do, may you always do and never abandon.  
But with swift pace, light step, and unswerving feet,  
so that even your steps stir up no dust,  
go forward securely, joyfully, and swiftly  
on the path of prudent happiness,  
believing nothing,  
agreeing with nothing  
which would dissuade you from this resolution  
or which would place a stumbling block for you on the way.  
so that you may offer your vows to the Most High  
in the pursuit of that perfection  
to which the Spirit of the Lord had called you. (11-14)  
The end of the reading.*

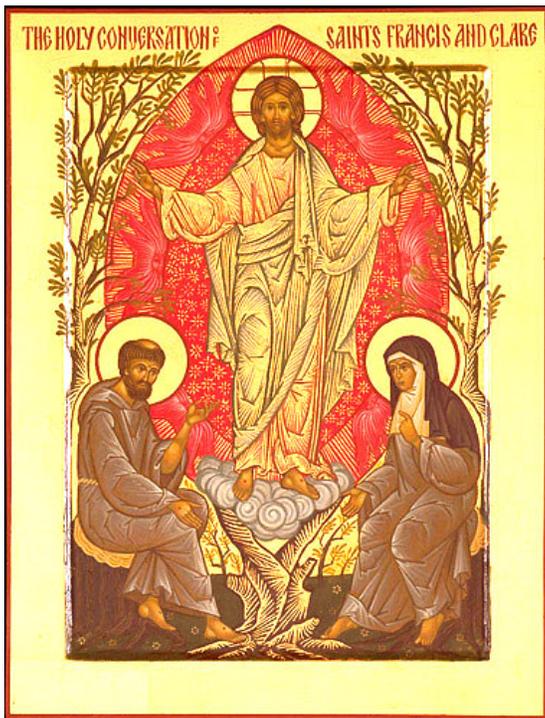
**ALL: Thanks be to God! (Meditative Pause or Reflection)**

Leader: Let us pray:  
All praise be your, Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Word made flesh dwelling among us,  
who commissions us to proclaim the Good News.

**ALL: Through the intercession of St. Clare,  
and after her example,  
give us the patience, perseverance, and peace  
to hold fast to our commitment to gospel values  
so as to make known clearly and convincingly your power and presence  
by the testimony of our lives,  
by our deeds of loving kindness,  
and by our faithful service to the Church and to society.  
We ask this of you who live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Leader: Pray for us, holy mother, St. Clare,

**ALL: That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.**



# Novena

To prepare for the feast  
of St. Clare of Assisi

**August 10: WE PRAY FOR  
THE SHARING OF THE PASCHAL MYSTERY**

*The Transitus of St. Clare of Assisi  
or, when the Transitus is not the conclusion  
of the Novena:*

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and  
of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Happy, indeed is she to whom it is given to  
share this sacred banquet,

**ALL: To cling with all her heart to Him.**

*Reader: A reading from the first letter of St. Clare:  
I have resolved to beg you by my humble prayers in the mercy of Christ to  
be strengthened in his holy service, and to progress from good to better,  
from virtue to virtue so that he whom you serve with the total desire of  
your soul may bestow on you the reward for which you long (31-32).  
The end of the reading.*

**ALL: Thanks be to God! (Meditative Pause or Reflection)**

Leader: Let us pray:  
All praise be your, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for you are the way, the truth, and the life;  
in you we live, and move, and have our being;  
you are the center and inspiration of all that we are and do.  
You bring to completion all of our efforts,  
and we share with you your paschal mystery.

**ALL: Through the intercession of St. Clare,  
and after her example,  
may we come to the life of resurrection  
and live in the embrace of the Blessed Trinity  
as we bond ourselves together in union with you,  
conform to you in our simple living and our contemplative prayer,  
proclaim the Good News by our witness and service,  
and take up our cross and follow you.  
We ask this of you who live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

Leader: Pray for us, holy mother, St. Clare,

**ALL: That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.**