

Our Lady of Czestochowa

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Day 1: August 23

Theme: Mary, Temple of the Holy Spirit, make us temples of Christ's presence and instruments of Christ's mission.



Leader: Hail, O Lady, Holy Queen,
ALL: Mary, holy Mother of God:
Leader: you are the virgin made church
ALL: and the one chosen by the most holy Father in heaven
Leader: whom He consecrated with His most holy beloved Son
ALL: and with the Holy Spirit the Paraclete,
Leader: in whom there was and is
ALL: all the fullness of grace and every good.
Leader: Hail, His Palace!
ALL: Hail, His Tabernacle!
Leader: Holy Virgin Mary, among women,
ALL: there is no one like you born into the world:
Leader: you are the daughter and the servant
of the Most High

ALL: and Supreme King and Father of heaven,

Leader: you are the mother
of our Most Holy Lord Jesus Christ,

ALL: you are the spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Let us pray: Lord God,
with artistry beyond all telling
you fashioned a holy temple for your Son
in the virginal womb of Blessed Mary;
grant that, in faithfully safeguarding
the grace of our baptism,
we may worship you in spirit and in truth
and become, like Mary, a temple of your glory.
Through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Sacred Scripture:

Reader 1: A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

Sisters and brothers, do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy. Whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? (1 Cor 3:16-17; 6:17-19)

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Reflection of Pope St. John Paul II:

Reader 2: Under the influence of the Holy Spirit the inner, "spiritual," human person matures and grows strong. Thanks to the divine self-communication, the human spirit which "knows the human secrets" meets the "Spirit who searches everything, even the depths of God." In this

Spirit, who is the eternal gift, the Triune God opens himself to the human being, to the human spirit. The hidden breath of the divine Spirit enables the human spirit to open in its turn before the saving and sanctifying self-opening of God. Through the gift of grace, which comes from the Holy Spirit, the human being enters a "new life," is brought into the supernatural reality of the divine life itself, and becomes a "dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit," a living temple of God. For through the Holy Spirit, the Father and the Son come to him and take up their abode with him. In the communion of grace with the Trinity, one's "living area" is broadened and raised up to the supernatural level of divine life. A person lives in God and by God: one lives "according to the Spirit", and "sets one's mind on the things of the Spirit."

Hence, a person's intimate relationship with God in the Holy Spirit also enables that person to understand oneself, one's own humanity, in a new way. The effective knowledge and full implementation of this truth of his being come about only by the power of the Holy Spirit. The human person learns this truth from Jesus Christ and puts it into practice in one's own life by the power of the Spirit, whom Jesus himself has given to us.

Response:

Leader: You, whom we seek, come to the temple.

Mal 3:1

ALL: We are the temple of the living God!

2 Cor 6:16

Leader: For you have said,

*"This is my dwelling place for ever,
here have I chosen to live."*

Ps 132:14

ALL: Yes, we are the temple of God.

Leader: The temple of God is holy,

and we are that temple.

1 Cor 3:16-17

**ALL: Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit
who is within.**

1 Cor 6:19

Leader: This is your dwelling among humans.

You shall dwell with us,

**ALL: we shall be your people
and you shall be our God**

who is always with us,

Rev 21:3

Leader: who is ever present in our midst

until the end of the world.

Lv 20:12

Mt 28:20

**ALL: You will continue to work with us
and confirm your word
through the signs that accompany us.**

Mk 16:20

Leader: You, Lord, are in your temple,

and we ponder your love

Ps 11:4

within your temple.

Ps 48:9

**ALL: Yes, you, our God, come to us;
you keep silence no longer.**

Ps 50:3

Leader: Mary, Temple of the Holy Spirit, I give you thanks for all the good which has come to our nations in years of profound transformation. Faithful Daughter of the Eternal Father, Temple of the Love that embraces heaven and earth, I entrust to you the service of the Church in the world, a world which so needs love. Mother of God, Mother of the only-begotten Son who gave us as the principle of life the new commandment of love, help us to become builders of a united world, in which peace triumphs over war, and the civilization of death is replaced by love for life.

(Pope St. John Paul II)

ALL: This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Our Lady of Czestochowa, pray for us!

ALL: Mary, Temple of the Holy Spirit, make us temples of Christ's presence and instruments of Christ's mission. Amen.

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Day 2: August 24

Theme: Mary, Virgin made Church and Mother of the Church, help us be Church!



Leader: *Hail, O Lady, Holy Queen,*
ALL: **Mary, holy Mother of God:**
Leader: *you are the virgin made church*
ALL: **and the one chosen by the most holy Father in heaven**
Leader: *whom He consecrated with His most holy beloved Son*
ALL: **and with the Holy Spirit the Paraclete,**
Leader: *in whom there was and is*
ALL: **all the fullness of grace and every good.**
Leader: *Hail, His Servant!*
ALL: **Hail, His Mother!**
Leader: *Virgin Mother of God, most august Mother of the Church,*
ALL: **we commend the whole Church to you.**

Leader: *From the Cross, the Divine Savior, your Son, gave you as a most loving Mother to the disciple whom He loved;*

ALL: **remember the Christian people who commit themselves to you.**

Leader: *Be mindful of all your children;*

ALL: **join to their prayers your special power and authority with God.**

Leader: *Keep their faith whole and lasting,*

ALL: **strengthen their hope, and enkindle their love.**

Leader: *Come to the aid of those who find themselves in hardship, in need, in danger,*

ALL: **and especially those who are suffering persecution.**

Leader: *We commend the whole human race to your Immaculate Heart, O Virgin Mother of God.*

ALL: **Lead it to acknowledge Jesus as the one true Savior.**

Leader: *Drive far from it all the calamities provoked by sin.*

ALL: **Bring it peace, which consists in truth, justice, liberty and love. Amen.**

Leader: *Let us pray. Lord our God,
through your power and your goodness
the Blessed Virgin Mary,
the fairest fruit of your redeeming love,
shines forth as the perfect image of the Church;
grant to your people on their pilgrim way on earth
that, with eyes fixed on Mary,
they may follow closely in the footsteps of her Son
until they come to that fullness of glory,
which now they contemplate in his mother
with hearts filled with joy
through Christ our Lord.*

ALL: **Amen.**

Sacred Scripture:

Reader 1: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians: Sisters and Brothers, [Christ] came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone. Through him the

whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord; in him you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

(Eph 2:17-22)

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Reflection of Pope St. John Paul II:

At the feet of Our Lady of Jasna Góra we found the strength to remain faithful to the Church, when she was persecuted, when she had to keep silent and suffer. We always said "yes" to the Church, and this Christian attitude has been a great act of love for her. For the Church is our spiritual mother. It is thanks to her that "we should be called children of God; and so we are" (cf 1 Jn 3:1). The Church is inscribed for ever in the history of our Nation, keeping careful watch over the destiny of her children, especially in times of humiliation, war, persecution or loss of independence.

Here, at the feet of Mary, ever anew we "learn the Church," entrusted by Christ to the Apostles and to all of us. The mystery of Mary is linked inseparably to the mystery of the Church, from the moment of the Immaculate Conception, through the Annunciation, the Visitation, Bethlehem, Nazareth, up to Calvary. Together with the Apostles Mary remained in prayer in the Upper Room, waiting, after the Ascension of her Son, for the fulfillment of the promise. She awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit, who would publicly make known the birth of the Church, and afterwards she watched over the development of the first Christian community.

Response:

Leader: Christ is the head of the body, the church.

He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,

ALL: that in all things he himself might hold primacy.

Leader: For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell,

and through him to reconcile all things for him,

**ALL: making peace by the blood of his cross through him,
whether those on earth or those in heaven.**

(Col 18-20)

Leader: Hence, may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith;

ALL: that, rooted and grounded in love, you may have strength

Leader: to comprehend with all the holy ones

ALL: what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

Leader: and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,

ALL: so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Leader: Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine,

ALL: by the power at work within us,

Leader: to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus

ALL: to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

(Eph 3: 17-21)

Leader: Mother of the Church, Blessed Virgin, Help of Christians, I bring to your feet the whole Church, all the continents, countries and nations which have believed in Jesus Christ and have recognized in him the signpost marking their path through history. I bring here, O Mother, all humanity, including those still searching for the way to Christ. Be their guide and help them to be open to the God who is coming. I bring to you in prayer the peoples of East and West, of North and South, and I entrust to your motherly care all the families of nations. Mother of the Church's faith, just as you persevered in prayer with Jesus' disciples in the Upper Room, so be with us today in the Upper Room of the Church, and obtain for us the grace to be open to the gift of God's Spirit. (Pope St. John Paul II)

ALL: This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Our Lady of Czestochowa, pray for us!

ALL: Mary, Virgin made Church and Mother of the Church, help us be Church. Amen.

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Day 3: August 25

Theme: Mary, Mother of Unity and Peace, help us build a better future for our world and attain a civilization of love.



Leader: *Hail, O Lady, Holy Queen,*
ALL: **Mary, holy Mother of God:**
Leader: *you are the virgin made church*
ALL: **and the one chosen by the most holy Father in heaven**
Leader: *whom He consecrated with His most holy beloved Son*
ALL: **and with the Holy Spirit the Paraclete,**
Leader: *in whom there was and is*
ALL: **all the fullness of grace and every good.**
Leader: *Hail, His Home!*
ALL: **Hail, His Robe!**
Leader: *And, hail all you holy virtues*
ALL: **which through the grace and light of the Holy Spirit**
are poured into the hearts of the faithful
Leader: *so that from their faithless state*
ALL: **you may make them faithful to God.**

Leader: *Hail, Queen Wisdom, may the Lord protect you with your sister, holy pure Simplicity.*
ALL: **Lady, holy Poverty, may the Lord protect you with your sister, holy Humility.**
Leader: *Lady, holy Charity, may the Lord protect you with your sister, holy Obedience.*
ALL: **O most holy Virtues, may the Lord protect all of you, from Whom you come and proceed.**
Leader: *Holy Wisdom destroys Satan and all his subtlety.*
ALL: **Pure holy Simplicity destroys all the wisdom of this world and the wisdom of the body.**
Leader: *Holy Poverty destroys the desire of riches and avarice and the cares of this world.*
ALL: **Holy Humility confounds the pride of all the people who are in the world and the vanity of all things that belong to the world.**
Leader: *Holy Charity destroys every temptation of the devil and of the flesh and every carnal fear.*
ALL: **Holy Obedience destroys every wish of the body and of the flesh and binds its mortified body to obedience of the Spirit, to obedience of one's brother and sister, and also to obedience to all creatures so that all may do whatever has been given to them from above by the Lord.**
Leader: *Let us pray. All-holy Father, eternal God, in your goodness you prepared a royal throne for your Wisdom in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary; bathe your Church in the radiance of your life-giving Word, that, pressing forward on its pilgrim way through time and civilization in the light of your truth, it may come to that joy of being strong in faith, unwavering in hope, and steadfast in love for our good and the good of all creation through Christ our Lord.*
ALL: **Amen.**

Sacred Scripture:

Reader 1: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians:

Sisters and brothers, if then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do

everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:1,12-17)

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Reflection of Pope Saint John Paul II:

Reader 2: In recent decades, the loss of the sense of God has coincided with the advance of a nihilistic culture that impoverishes the meaning of human life and, in the ethical field, relativizes even the fundamental values of the family and of respect for life. This does not often occur visibly, but through a subtle methodology of indifference that makes all kinds of behavior seem normal, so that moral problems are no longer acknowledged. It is paradoxically demanded that the State recognize as "rights" many forms of conduct which threaten human life, especially the weakest and the most defenseless, not to mention the enormous difficulties in accepting others because they are different, inconvenient, foreign, sick, or disabled. It is precisely this ever more prevalent rejection of others because of their otherness that challenges our conscience as believers. In face of this death-loving culture our responsibility as Christians is expressed in commitment to the "new evangelization", one of whose most important fruits is the civilization of love. The Gospel message of love liberates human needs and values, such as solidarity, the yearning for freedom and equality, and respect for pluralism in forms of expression. The cornerstone of the civilization of love is recognition of the value of the human person and, concretely, of all human beings.

Pope Saint John Paul II, Dec. 3, 1999

Response:

Leader: Certainly you, Lord, will again restore our life,

ALL: that your people may rejoice in you.

Leader: Show us, Lord, your mercy;

ALL: grant us your salvation.

Leader: I will listen for what God, the Lord, has to say;

ALL: surely he will speak of peace to his people and to his faithful.

Leader: Near indeed is his salvation for those who fear him;

ALL: glory will dwell in our land.

Leader: Love and truth will meet;

ALL: justice and peace will kiss.

Leader: Truth will spring from the earth;

ALL: justice will look down from heaven.

Leader: Yes, the Lord will grant his bounty;

ALL: our land will yield its produce.

Leader: Justice will march before him,

ALL: and make a way for his footsteps.

(Ps 85:7-14)

Leader: For the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace

ALL: for those who cultivate peace.

(Jas 3:18)

Leader: The peace of God that surpasses all understanding

ALL: will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Leader: Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen.

ALL: Then the God of peace will be with you.

(Phil 4:7-9)

Leader: Mother of Unity and Peace, strengthen the bond of communion within the Church of your Son, enliven ecumenical efforts so that all Christians, by the power of the Holy Spirit, may become one family of sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, the one Savior of the world yesterday, today and for ever (cf. Heb. 13:8). Mother of God and our Mother, I thank you for being the guiding Star of the building of a better future for the world, for being the Patroness of the attainment of the civilization of love among the members of the human race.

(Pope St. John Paul II)

ALL: This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Our Lady of Czestochowa, pray for us!

ALL: Mary, Mother of Unity and Peace, help us build a better future for our world and attain a civilization of love.

Triduum of Prayer to prepare for the feast of

Our Lady of Czestochowa

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August 26:

The Liturgical Festival of Our Lady of Czestochowa



(The following prayer may be used on its own or as the conclusion to the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass or to the Intercessions at Morning or Evening Prayer.)

Leader: O Mary, our dear Lady of Czestochowa,
ALL: look graciously upon your children in this troubled and sinful world.
Leader: Embrace us all in your loving and motherly protection.
ALL: Protect our young people from godless ways.
Leader: Assist our dear ones grown old with age to prepare for their journey home.
ALL: Shield our defenseless unborn from the horrors of abortion.
Leader: Spare your children from all hatred, discrimination and war.
ALL: Be our strength against all sin.
Leader: Fill our hearts, our homes and our world with that peace and love
ALL: which comes only from your Son, whom you so tenderly embrace.
Leader: O, Queen and Mother, be our comfort and strength!
ALL: In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Leader:	<i>Mother of God and our Mother,</i>	ALL: pray for us.
Leader:	<i>Mother of those who place their hope God's providence,</i>	ALL: pray for us.
Leader:	<i>Mother of those who suffer for their faith,</i>	ALL: pray for us.
Leader:	<i>Mother of those who live in fear and sadness,</i>	ALL: pray for us.
Leader:	<i>Mother of those who speak the truth,</i>	ALL: pray for us.
Leader:	<i>Mother of those who resist evil and tyranny,</i>	ALL: pray for us.
Leader:	<i>Mother of orphans and abandoned children,</i>	
	<i>of mothers who weep, of fathers who endure hardship,</i>	ALL: pray for us.
Leader:	<i>Mother of all Polish people,</i>	ALL: pray for us.
Leader:	<i>Mother of all people of good will,</i>	ALL: pray for us.
Leader:	<i>We beg you, O Mother,</i>	
ALL:	in whom resides the hope of millions of people,	
Leader:	<i>grant that we may live in liberty and in truth,</i>	
ALL:	in fidelity to you and to your Son,	
Leader:	<i>who lives and reigns both on the earth and in the heavens,</i>	
ALL:	both now and for ever. Amen.	

Leader: *We consecrate ourselves today to Our Lady of Czestochowa*

ALL: **O Mother of God, * Immaculate Mary, * to you do I dedicate my body and soul, * all my prayers and deeds, * my joys and sufferings, * all that I am and all that I have. * With a joyful heart * I surrender myself to your love. * To you will I devote my services * of my own free will * for the salvation of the human family, * and for the help of the Holy Church * whose Mother you are. * From now on * my only desire is to do all things * with you, through you, and for you. * I know I can accomplish nothing by my own strength, * whereas you can do everything that is the will of your Son, * Our Lord Jesus Christ. * You are always victorious. * Grant, therefore, O Helper of the Faithful, * that our family, our faith communities, and our country * might become in truth the Kingdom * where you reign in the glorious presence * of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, * forever and ever. Amen.**

(Pope St. John Paul II)