

13 DAYS NOVENA TO ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Day 1:

O glorious St. Anthony, born under the protection of Mary Immaculate, on the Feast of her Assumption into Heaven and consecrated to her at a tender age; thou didst vanquish the demon by the Sign of the Cross, which thy finger impressed on the marble of the church where thou wert praying. Oh, we beseech thee; obtain for us a tender devotion to our Blessed Mother, and the strength to triumph over all the attacks on our infernal enemy.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Day 2:

O glorious Saint! Thou didst escape from the dangers and temptations of the world by disdaining greatness, riches and the comforts of life, and by joining the Canons Regular of St. Augustine; we beseech thee, obtain for us detachment of the heart and a true contempt for the world.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Day 3:

O glorious Saint! Thou didst feel a burning desire in thy youthful heart to suffer martyrdom for the faith, and for this purpose didst enter the Order of the Seraphic Saint Francis; we beseech thee, obtain for us the spirit of penance and mortification.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Day 4:

O glorious Saint! Guided by sentiments of the most profound humility, thou didst all in thy power to hide thyself from the eyes of the world, when God suddenly made thee known as an ark of science and sanctity; we beseech thee, obtain for us the grace of practicing humility and of loving a life hidden in God.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Day 5:

O glorious Saint! Chosen by God to preach His Word, thou didst receive from Him the gift of tongues, and the power of working the most extraordinary miracles; we beseech thee, obtain for us the grace to listen willingly to Divine inspirations and to hear with fruit the Word of God.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Day 6:

O glorious Saint! Thy ardent love of God merited for thee the happy privilege of receiving and caressing in thy arms the Divine Infant Jesus; we beseech thee, obtain for us the grace of receiving Him in the Blessed Eucharist with love and fervent devotion.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Day 7:

O glorious Saint! Thou didst confound the heretics and prove to them the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament by causing a dumb animal to kneel down and adore the Sacred Host; we beseech thee, obtain for us the grace of a lively faith in the Holy Eucharist.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Day 8:

O glorious Saint! When men refused to come and hear the Word of God, thou didst call the fishes of the sea to the shore and preach to them; we beseech thee, obtain for us the perfect submission of our minds and hearts to Divine truths.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Day 9:

O glorious Saint! As protector of the innocent, thou didst make a child only a few days old speak to save the honor of its mother; we beseech thee, obtain for us the grace of being strong and submissive to the Will of God in unjust persecutions and of preserving intact the peace and purity of our souls.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Day 10:

O glorious Saint! Once, while preaching at Padua, thou didst find thyself at the same time at Lisbon, by a marvelous miracle, to defend thy father against calumny and to save him from death; we beseech thee, obtain for us the grace that we may pardon all injuries and love our enemies.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Day 11:

O glorious Saint! By thy prayers, thy zeal, and thy heavenly wisdom thou didst convert thousands of heretics and hardened sinners; we beseech thee, obtain for us the grace of true conversion that we may give ourselves entirely to God.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Day 12:

O glorious Saint! In imitation of our Divine redeemer, thou didst spend thy life for the salvation of souls; we beseech thee, obtain for us the grace to become saints, to die a happy death, and to praise God forever with thee and all the saints and angels in Heaven.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Day 13:

O glorious Saint! God has given thee the power of working miracles continually, and the favor of answering the prayers of those who invoke thy assistance in misfortune, anxiety, and distress; we beseech thee, obtain for us from Jesus, through Mary, His Blessed Mother, what we beg of thee so fervently and hopefully, if it be for the glory of God and the good of our souls.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Prayer to St. Anthony to Recover Lost Things

O blessed St. Anthony,
the grace of God has made you a powerful advocate
in all our needs and the patron
for the restoring of things lost or stolen.
I turn to you today with childlike love and deep confidence.
You have helped countless children of God
to find the things they have lost,
material things, and, more importantly,
the things of the spirit: faith, hope, and love.
I come to you with confidence;
help me in my present need.
I recommend what I have lost to your care,
in the hope that God will restore it to me,
if it is His holy Will.

Amen.

Prayer for a Particular Intention

I salute thee, great St. Anthony, and rejoice at the favors, which our Lord has so liberally bestowed upon thee. I remind thee especially of the blessed moment when the divine Infant Jesus condescended to embrace and fondly caress thee. Oh, what a great happiness and joy must have filled thy heart in that moment! By this special prerogative, then, and by the joy of thy beatific vision, by which thou now beholdest Him face to face, I beg, entreat, and conjure thee, O Blessed St. Anthony, to help and assist me in my afflictions, troubles and anxieties, particularly concerning (here mention your trouble or desire). Oh, let thy heart be moved to intercede for me, to hear and answer me. Tell our Lord of the wants and necessities of thy devoted client. One word, one sign from thy heart, which Jesus has so much honored will obtain what I desire, and filled with joy and gratitude, I will proclaim thy power, thereby to honor and glorify Him who so blessed thee.

Amen

Efficacious Prayer

O Blessed father St. Anthony, light of doctrine and fire of charity, glory of the Catholic Church, ornament of the holy Order of Friars Minor, martyr in desire, true son and disciple of St. Francis, shield and defender of his rules and institutes, man of God imitator of the humility of Christ, and master of heavenly wisdom. Glorious Anthony, trumpet of the Holy Ghost, ark of the Testament and zealous preacher of the Gospel, whom heretics could never resist and whom even beasts and fishes obeyed, whom all creatures served, whom tyrants respected, whom cities and people have invoked in their troubles, and have always found propitious and favorable. I beseech thee, my most kind father and protector, by the merits of the blood of Jesus crucified. Whom thou didst love so dearly, be propitious to me, now that I humbly have recourse to thy kindness. Turn thine eyes towards my soul, and since thou art the finder of things lost, console my affliction, letting me find forever, the grace of God, which I have so often lost. Comfort, I beseech thee, the weak, help the poor, obtain pardon for sinners, perseverance for the just, and for all men a perfect life, a holy death and eternal rest.

Amen



St. Anthony

St. Anthony of Padua is one of the Catholic Church's most popular saints. Saint Anthony of Padua, patron saint of lost and stolen articles, was a powerful Franciscan preacher. St. Anthony of Padua's life is what every Christian's life is meant to be; a steady courage to face the ups and downs of life, the call to love and forgive, to be concerned for the needs of others, to deal with crisis great and small, and to have our feet solidly on the ground of total trusting love and dependence on God. St. Anthony is beloved throughout the world and is responsive to all people and all needs. His intercessory powers before our God are awesome.

Anthony traveled tirelessly in both northern Italy and southern France—perhaps 400 trips—choosing to enter the cities where the heretics were strongest. Yet the sermons he has left behind rarely show him taking direct issue with the heretics. As the historian Clasen interprets it, Anthony preferred to present the grandeur of Christianity in positive ways. It was no good to prove people wrong: Anthony wanted to win them to the right, the healthiness of real sorrow and conversion, the wonder of reconciliation with a loving Father.

Anthony continued to preach as he taught the friars and assumed more responsibility within the Order. In 1226 he was appointed provincial superior of northern Italy, but still found time for contemplative prayer in a small hermitage. Around Easter in 1228 (he was only 33 years old), while in Rome, he met Pope Gregory IX, who had been a faithful friend and adviser of St. Francis. Naturally, the famous preacher was invited to speak. He did it humbly, as always. The response was so great that people later said that it seemed the miracle of Pentecost was repeated.

In Padua, he preached his last and most famous Lenten sermons. The crowds were so great—sometimes 30,000—that the churches could not hold them, so he went into the piazzas or the open fields. People waited all night to hear him. He needed a bodyguard to protect him from the people armed with scissors who wanted to snip off a piece of his habit as a relic. After his morning Mass and sermon, he would hear confessions. This sometimes lasted all day—as did his fasting.

The great energy he had expended during the Lent of 1231 left him exhausted. He went to a little town near Padua, but seeing death coming close, he wanted to return to the city that he loved. The journey in a wagon weakened him so much, however, that he had to stop at Arcella. He had to bless Padua from a distance, as Francis had blessed Assisi.

At Arcella, he received the last sacraments, sang and prayed with the friars there. When one of them asked Anthony what he was staring at so intently, he answered, "I see my Lord!" He died in peace a short time after that. He was only 36 and had been a Franciscan but 10 years.

The following year, his friend, Pope Gregory IX, moved by the many miracles that occurred at Anthony's tomb, declared him a saint. Anthony was a simple and humble friar who preached the Good News lovingly and with fearless courage. The youth whom his fellow friars thought was uneducated became one of the great preachers and theologians of his day. He was a man of great penance and apostolic zeal. But he was primarily a saint of the people. In canonizing Anthony in 1232, Pope Gregory IX spoke of him as the "Ark of the Testament" and the "Repository of Holy Scripture."