

## DAILY NOVENA SCHEDULE

Weekdays: 8 am

Saturday: 8 am & 5 pm

Sunday: 8 am, 10:30 am & 7:30 pm

## SUGGESTIONS FOR A FRUITFUL NOVENA

1. Commit to praying the Novena at church or home every day, respecting the intent and grace that moved you to this prayer.
2. Simplify and quiet your life so that you can fully sense and listen to God during these nine days.
3. Pray about which specific intentions you desire during this Novena, then keep asking God for them each day, remembering you pray within a supportive communion of faith.
4. Be attentive to how God answers your prayers over the nine days. When you recognize God's grace, take time to respond generously and gratefully.

Please write down your prayers and place them in the boxes in front of the Francis Xavier statue. You can also email them to [novenaofgrace@gmail.com](mailto:novenaofgrace@gmail.com). Some prayers will be read aloud during the prayers of intercession.

## NOVENA PRAYER

Francis, you offer to be our companion as we bring our needs to God, and so we pray: Gracious and loving God, we join with our brother Francis to give you thanks and praise. We ask that we might live as he did, loving so completely those who are sick, forgotten, foreign, or feel alone.

We pray that our hearts be united with you through all our days. And because you have told us to ask, to seek and to knock, once again with Francis we come to you with our hopes and longings.

(pause for silent personal prayer)

Loving God, hear our prayers and answer us according to your wisdom and compassion, for you make all things work together for good.

Amen.

# TRUST IN THE SLOW WORK OF GOD

## A NOVENA OF GRACE

**Gary Smith, SJ**

**Lisa Chambers**

**Lizzie Petticrew**

**Pat Couture, SJ**

**Matthew Pearl**

**Sarah Faux**

**Gerry O'Brien**

**Emily Gumper**

**Mike Moynahan, SJ**

**MARCH 3-11, 2022**



**St. Ignatius Parish,  
Portland, OR**

**[www.novenaofgrace.com](http://www.novenaofgrace.com)**

# WELCOME

The Novena of Grace, held in honor of St. Francis Xavier, is a nine-day period of concentrated prayer to God for our hearts' deepest desires. The Novena is a Catholic tradition open to people of all faiths. As we enter into this Novena, we remember that God meets us where we are. Let us seek the grace of each day in openness and trust, asking God for what we deeply need and desire.

## SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

Saint Francis Xavier is generally known as the greatest missionary of the Catholic Church. He was sent by Saint Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, to "set the world on fire" in 1541.

For the next 11 years Saint Francis traveled to India, Malaysia, Indonesia, and finally Japan under harrowing conditions. During his travels, he ministered to the poor and sick, taught the faith, and spent his nights in prayer. He worked tirelessly against the immorality, greed, and violence of European imperialism. Saint Francis inspires us with his courage to go freely wherever the call of Jesus beckons.

The Novena of Grace began in 1633 when Saint Francis appeared in a vision to Fr. Marcellus Mastrilli, SJ, and promised that all who earnestly ask his intercession with God for nine days would receive whatever they asked that would contribute to their salvation. The Novena continues to be celebrated throughout the world.

## TRUST IN THE SLOW WORK OF GOD

A Novena of Grace

"Believing in God means saying: there exists an ultimate tenderness, an ultimate bosom, an infinite womb, in which I can take refuge and finally have peace in the serenity of love."

— *theologian Leonard Boff*

"Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay... We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new... Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you..."

— *Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ*

## REFLECT

1. What am I seeking during this Novena? What are the deepest desires of my heart?
2. In what ways have God's love and fidelity been revealed to me, my loved ones, and my community?
3. Where in my life journey have I learned to trust in God's unfailing love?
4. How has the virtue of patience helped me to be open to God's slow work through time?

## PRAYING WITH VOW CROSSES

At the end of Mass, you are invited to come forward for a blessing with a Jesuit vow cross.

## WHY ASK FOR A BLESSING?

The blessing rite celebrates that your prayer is received and supported by God's community. The blessing ministers stand with you in your need, your suffering, and your hope. The blessing is a reminder of God's unfailing love. It invites you to trust in the slow and sure work of God.

Francis Xavier carried a similar vow cross with him, using it for teachings and blessings as he traveled throughout the East. We use these vow crosses as a prayer to draw near to St. Francis and all the Jesuits who hold these crosses in their hands.

## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Come forward to a minister of blessing who has the Jesuit vow cross. The blessing minister will hold the vow cross as you share your prayer request. This could be for something you are hoping for or thankful for. The blessing minister will respond and affirm what you have already made sacred with God. Through an intercessory blessing, your prayer is held in confidence before God.

## DONATIONS

The Novena of Grace is self-sustaining, with our funding reliant upon your generosity. A portion of your generous donation is used to defray operational costs and sustain the Novena ministry; the rest supports the ministries of St. Ignatius Parish.

## FEEDBACK

We welcome your feedback: visit our website at [www.novenaofgrace.com](http://www.novenaofgrace.com) or fill out an evaluation form distributed at the conclusion of the Novena.