CAPUCHIN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION
SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST OF PUERTO RICO CUSTODY
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Christmas Novena 2026

Membership number

Warm greetings this Christmas season!

Christmas reminds us that God did not wish to remain far from us. He chose to draw so near that He became a child—small and humble—and was born in a manger. Saint Francis of Assisi was so deeply moved by this mystery that he sought to celebrate it in Greccio by creating a representation of the birth of Jesus, allowing everyone to behold, with their own eyes, the humility and love of God. Francis wanted to help us understand that, in that Child, God draws near and invites us to open our hearts to Him.

Therefore, as we observe this novena, let us not prepare merely by decorating our homes, planning a festive meal, or exchanging gifts. Let us also prepare our hearts. This Christmas, may there be room for the family member with whom we have not spoken for some time, for the neighbor who is alone, for the sick person who needs a visit, and for the child who longs for a kind word. The greatest gift we can offer the Child Jesus is a heart ready to love and hands ready to serve.

Through his own life, Saint Francis teaches us that true joy does not come from possessing many things, but from recognizing God's love and sharing it with others. While we may not all have a Christmas filled with gifts, we can all offer a smile, an embrace, a word of forgiveness, and a gesture of generosity. When we do this, the manger ceases to be merely a scene we observe and becomes a reality we live out.

Fr. Gamalier, please include in your prayers the following intentions for the

Christmas Novena 2026

Name: _ Phone:

People and intentions included in your prayers.

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May this novena help us prepare a place for Jesus within our families and communities.

Like Saint Francis, may we learn to recognize Him in simplicity, to serve Him in our brothers and sisters, and to bring peace wherever there is division. And when Christmas Eve arrives, may we be able to say with joy: "Lord, our home may not be perfect, but here is a heart that longs to welcome You!" May the Infant Jesus renew our hope, strengthen our families, and teach us—following in the footsteps of Saint Francis—to live a Christmas that is simpler, more fraternal, and full of love!

With affection and gratitude,



Fr. Gamalier Martínez, OFM Cap.
Director
Capuchin Missionary Association

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