

A Novena Dedicated to St. John Neumann

St. John Neumann was born in Bohemia in the early 1800s in what is now the Czech Republic. When he was 20, he discerned that God was calling him to be a priest. St. John Neumann had a gift for learning languages. During his time in seminary, he learned six languages and became familiar with two others. He felt God was calling him to go to the United States because he knew that his ability to speak so many languages would be valued in this new country of immigrants that would welcome a priest speaking their language.

He went to America and joined the Redemptorist order. Due to his gift for administrative organization, John was made the Superior General of the order and later he was made bishop of Philadelphia. As bishop, he chose, ***“Passion of Christ, strengthen me”*** for his motto. In the seven years he was bishop, he built 89 churches, with the intent of each one having a school, as well as several hospitals and orphanages. He started the modern-day Catholic school system in America, which is why he is a patron saint of Catholic education. He died suddenly from a heart attack on January 5th, 1860, at the age of 49 on a Philadelphia street. His feast day is celebrated on that day of January 5th. ***[See pages 13 and 14 for a more detailed description of Saint John Neumann’s life, sacrifice, and death.]***



Daily Novena prayers to St. John Neumann, C.Ss.R. as written by Sister JosephMary f.t.i. January 2018

St. John Neumann, acknowledging our dependence upon Almighty God and recognizing the power of your intercession, we come to you because many prayers have been answered through your intercession. You were an inspiration to all who knew you. You went wherever the care of souls required your presence. You were always an example of charity and sacrifice. It was your life of virtue which merited a place in heaven. As we submit to the will of God in heaven, we pray that our petitions be granted for His honor and glory and for the salvation of souls.

St. John Neumann, pray for us.

St. John Neumann, manifest yourself to all who seek your help. Teach us to prefer God in everything we do. Protect us from spiritual and temporal harm. Alleviate the sufferings of the poor, the aged, and the infirm. Many times you experienced the sorrows of life, and yet you overcame those trials. Show us how to overcome our trials and tribulations. We want to grow in faith, hope, and love. Never let us forget that we are temples of the Holy Spirit. May we always be worthy of that honor.

St. John Neumann, intercede for us.

St. John Neumann, you had great devotion to our Eucharistic Lord. Pray that we may know and love the Eucharist as you did. Give strength and courage to the Vicar of Christ. Protect our bishops, priests, and religious. May all people be zealous for the kingdom of God. Enlighten the minds of people who seek truth. Lead them to the path of justice. How good it is to know that you will never forget our families, relatives, and friends. Protect our loved ones away from home. May your prayers comfort the souls of our departed brethren. St. John Neumann, pray that we may live and die in the state of grace. Look upon us with favor, St. John Neumann. We claim you as our very own. You are familiar with the places where we live, work, and pray. As a priest, you lived here among our forefathers. You taught them. You blessed them. You prayed for them. How often they gathered to pray with you. You did this so that they might enjoy the glories of heaven. Just as our predecessors came to you, so now we come to you. We are confident you will not disappoint us. Pray for our intentions.

(Pause and reflect on your intentions)

Whatever God grants through your intercession, we accept with a deep sense of gratitude. We thank Him. We praise Him. We want to be with Him forever.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you placed the holy confessor St. John Neumann among the elect of Your sanctuary. May his life be an inspiration to all who seek eternal glory. May our prayers be answered through his intercession. May they be answered not only through his intercession but most especially through the merits of Jesus Christ, Who lives forever and ever. Amen.

The novena prayer to St. John Neumann is prayed by the congregants at the National Shrine of St. John Neumann in Philadelphia, PA on every Wednesday after each Mass and has been for many years. Please join your prayers with theirs on Wednesdays as we implore St. John Neumann for his powerful and prayerful intercession to further Catholic Education and to ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Day 1

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Daily Intro Prayer: Prayer of St John Neumann (from his diary):

My God, possess me that I may become a fit instrument of your graces and mercies to the souls you have confided to my care. If you know that success will make me vain, do not, on that account, allow me to fail. Humble me in some other way, but do not punish me through those you have confided to me.

My heart is pierced with sorrow when I hear of the loss of one of my sheep. Lord Jesus, have mercy. Permit not that any one of those whom you have entrusted to me should be lost. O my Jesus, I will pray, fast, suffer, and, with the help of your grace, sacrifice life itself.

O Lord, imbue my words with power and healing that they may glorify the truth. As for myself, I am fully satisfied with the labors assigned to me in your vineyard, for I came here to atone for my sins and to win souls for God. Nowhere can a better opportunity be found for doing good. May God grant me the grace to discharge my duties in a worthy and fruitful manner, especially (mention your request here...)

O my Jesus, though I am poor in so many ways and so ignorant, I have been chosen as a shepherd to your sheep. Give me an ever-increasing love for those souls redeemed by your Precious Blood, that I may labor at their salvation in wisdom, patience, and holiness. Grant that not one of those you have confided to me may be lost through my fault. O my Jesus, help me to sanctify those committed to my care.

O holy Mother of my Lord, pray for me and for those in my vineyard. Holy guardian angels of these dear ones, teach me how to act toward them so as to be able to instill into their hearts the maxims of faith and true love of God. Lord, teach me how to live and, if need be, to die, that all may be saved, that all may love and praise you throughout all eternity, that they may also love and cherish your dear Mother.

Saint John Neumann, you organized Catholic education for countless children. Please watch over all Catholic schools and help them be a model of the Faith in their actions as well as their words. - **Amen** -

Concluding Prayer

Passion of Christ, strengthen me. Strengthen me to carry my daily cross. Through the intercession of your servant, St. John Neumann, I ask that You lighten the burden that now weighs heavily on my heart.

St. John Neumann, you had a special love for the sciences. Pray for all scientists, that through their studies, they may be led ever closer to God, the first cause and designer of all Creation.

Holy Spirit, help me to recognize the gifts that You have given me. Help me to follow You more closely and lead others to You with those gifts. So, like St. John Neumann, I may become a saint using these gifts and walking a path that You have laid out for me. – **Amen** -

Our Father ---- Hail Mary --- Glory Be

St John Neumann, pray for us. – Amen –

Day 2

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Daily Intro Prayer: Prayer of St John Neumann (from his diary):

My God, possess me that I may become a fit instrument of your graces and mercies to the souls you have confided to my care. If you know that success will make me vain, do not, on that account allow me to fail. Humble me in some other way, but do not punish me through those you have confided to me.

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O Lord, imbue my words with power and healing that they may glorify the truth. As for myself, I am fully satisfied with the labors assigned to me in your vineyard, for I came here to atone for my sins and to win souls for God. Nowhere can a better opportunity be found for doing good. May God grant me the grace to discharge my duties in a worthy and fruitful manner, especially (mention your request here...)

O my Jesus, though I am poor in so many ways and so ignorant, I have been chosen as a shepherd to your sheep. Give me an ever-increasing love for those souls redeemed by your Precious Blood, that I may labor at their salvation in wisdom, patience, and holiness. Grant that not one of those you have confided to me may be lost through my fault. O my Jesus, help me to sanctify those committed to my care.

O holy Mother of my Lord, pray for me and for those in my vineyard. Holy guardian angels of these dear ones, teach me how to act toward them so as to be able to instill into their hearts the maxims of faith and true love of God. Lord, teach me how to live and, if need be, to die, that all may be saved, that all may love and praise you throughout all eternity, that they may also love and cherish your dear Mother.

Saint John Neumann, you organized Catholic education for countless children. Please watch over all Catholic schools and help them be a model of the Faith in their actions as well as their words. - **Amen** -

Concluding Prayer

Dear Lord, make me selfless as St. John Neumann was.

Throughout my life, give me the grace to direct my first thoughts to the service of Thee and of others. Make my prayer Thy will be done, knowing that in Thy mercy and love, Thy will for me is my sanctification.

Merciful Father, Thou hast given me all that I have in this world, even life itself. In all my daily needs, help me to remember the needs of others too.

Make me aware of the need to pray always, not just for myself but also for the Church, the pope, the clergy, and all people who suffer any need. I ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. – **Amen** -

Our Father ---- Hail Mary --- Glory Be

St John Neumann, pray for us. – Amen –

Day 3

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Daily Intro Prayer: Prayer of St John Neumann (from his diary):

My God, possess me that I may become a fit instrument of your graces and mercies to the souls you have confided to my care. If you know that success will make me vain, do not, on that account allow me to fail. Humble me in some other way, but do not punish me through those you have confided to me.

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O Lord, imbue my words with power and healing that they may glorify the truth. As for myself, I am fully satisfied with the labors assigned to me in your vineyard, for I came here to atone for my sins and to win souls for God. Nowhere can a better opportunity be found for doing good. May God grant me the grace to discharge my duties in a worthy and fruitful manner, especially (mention your request here...)

O my Jesus, though I am poor in so many ways and so ignorant, I have been chosen as a shepherd to your sheep. Give me an ever-increasing love for those souls redeemed by your Precious Blood, that I may labor at their salvation in wisdom, patience, and holiness. Grant that not one of those you have confided to me may be lost through my fault. O my Jesus, help me to sanctify those committed to my care.

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of God. Lord, teach me how to live and, if need be, to die, that all may be saved, that all may love and praise you throughout all eternity, that they may also love and cherish your dear Mother.

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Concluding Prayer

St. John Neumann, manifest yourself to all who seek your help. Teach us to prefer God in everything we do. Protect us from spiritual and temporal harm. Alleviate the sufferings of the poor, the aged, & the infirm.

Many times you experienced the sorrows of life, and yet you overcame those trials. Show us how to overcome our trials and tribulations.

We want to grow in faith, hope, and love. Never let us forget that we are temples of the Holy Spirit.

May we always be worthy of that honor. St. John Neumann, intercede for us. – **Amen** -

Our Father ---- Hail Mary --- Glory Be

St John Neumann, pray for us. – Amen –

Day 4

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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O Lord, imbue my words with power and healing that they may glorify the truth. As for myself, I am fully satisfied with the labors assigned to me in your vineyard, for I came here to atone for my sins and to win souls for God. Nowhere can a better opportunity be found for doing good. May God grant me the grace to discharge my duties in a worthy and fruitful manner, especially (mention your request here...)

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Concluding Prayer

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You were an inspiration to all who knew you. You went wherever the care of souls required your presence. You were always an example of charity and sacrifice.

It was your life of virtue which merited a place in Heaven. As we submit to the will of God in Heaven, we pray that our petitions be granted for His honor and glory and for the salvation of souls. St. John Neumann, pray for us. – **Amen** -

Our Father ---- Hail Mary --- Glory Be

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Day 5

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Concluding Prayer

St. John Neumann, you had great devotion to our Eucharistic Lord. Pray that we may know and love the Eucharist as you did. Give strength and courage to the Vicar of Christ. Protect our bishops, priests, and religious. May all people be zealous for the Kingdom of God. Enlighten the minds of people who seek truth. Lead them to the path of justice.

How good it is to know that you will never forget our families, relatives, and friends. Protect our loved ones away from home. May your prayers comfort the souls of our departed brethren. St. John Neumann, pray that we may live and die in the state of grace. — **Amen** -

Our Father ---- Hail Mary --- Glory Be

St John Neumann, pray for us. — Amen —

Day 6

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Saint John Neumann, you organized Catholic education for countless children. Please watch over all Catholic schools and help them be a model of the Faith in their actions as well as their words. - **Amen** -

Concluding Prayer

Look upon us with favor, St. John Neumann. We claim you as our very own. You are familiar with the places where we live, work, and pray.

As a priest, you lived here among our forefathers. You taught them. You blessed them. You prayed for them. How often they gathered to pray with you. You did this so that they might enjoy the glories of Heaven. Just as our predecessors came to you, so now we come to you.

We are confident you will not disappoint us. Pray for our intentions. — **Amen** -

Our Father ---- Hail Mary --- Glory Be

St John Neumann, pray for us. — Amen -

Day 7

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Daily Intro Prayer: Prayer of St John Neumann (from his diary):

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O Lord, imbue my words with power and healing that they may glorify the truth. As for myself, I am fully satisfied with the labors assigned to me in your vineyard, for I came here to atone for my sins and to win souls for God. Nowhere can a better opportunity be found for doing good. May God grant me the grace to discharge my duties in a worthy and fruitful manner, especially (mention your request here...)

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Saint John Neumann, you organized Catholic education for countless children. Please watch over all Catholic schools and help them be a model of the Faith in their actions as well as their words. - **Amen** -

Concluding Prayer

Whatever God grants through your intercession, we accept with a deep sense of gratitude. We thank Him. We praise Him. We want to be with Him forever. Let us pray as we begin the conclusion of your Novena:

Almighty God, you placed the holy confessor St. John Neumann among the elect of Your sanctuary. May his life be an inspiration to all who seek eternal glory. May our prayers be answered through his intercession.

May they be answered not only through his intercession but most especially through the merits of Jesus Christ, Who lives forever and ever. – **Amen** -

Our Father ---- Hail Mary --- Glory Be

St John Neumann, pray for us. – Amen –

Day 8

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Daily Intro Prayer: Prayer of St John Neumann (from his diary):

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Concluding Prayer

God, our Father, you are the source of hope for all who believe. Hear and answer the prayer I offer You through the merits of St. John Neumann, Your devoted son and servant. In his name and for Your greater honor and glory, give me the graces I need to live as he lived. In all that I do in this life, may I be motivated by love for You and for all mankind. May faith be the cornerstone of my life, and may I reflect your presence living within me to everyone I meet.

I place my life in Your hands. Help me to see in all my needs, my problems, and my crosses Your love working for my sanctification. Through the intercession of St. John Neumann, watch over me today and every day so I may persevere in the Christian life to the end and share in the happiness of Mary and all the saints who live in Your presence. I ask You this through Christ, Your Son, Our Lord. - **Amen** -

Our Father ---- Hail Mary --- Glory Be

St John Neumann, pray for us. – Amen -

Day 9

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Daily Intro Prayer: Prayer of St John Neumann (from his diary):

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Concluding Prayer

Oh St. John Neumann, your ardent desire of bringing all souls to Christ impelled you to leave home and country. Teach us to live worthily in the spirit of our baptism which makes us all children of the one Heavenly Father and brothers of Jesus Christ, the first-born of the family of God.

Obtain for us that complete dedication in the service of the needy, the weak, the afflicted, and the abandoned which so characterized your life.

Help us to walk perseveringly in the difficult and at times painful paths of duty, strengthened by the Body and Blood of our Redeemer and under the watchful protection of Mary our Mother. May death still find us on the sure road to our Father's house, with the light of living faith in our hearts. -- **Amen** -

Our Father ---- Hail Mary --- Glory Be

St John Neumann, pray for us. – Amen -

Additional focused Prayers

A Prayer for Religious:

St. John Neumann, you were once a layman: --- help those in the priesthood of the laity to respond gladly to God's call to holiness.

You were once a seminarian: --- help our young men and women to answer God's call for service in the Church.

You were once a catechist: --- help those in the teaching ministry to burn with the divine Word that they proclaim.

You were once a diocesan priest: --- help all of our priests to serve in vowed commitment to the Lord.

You were once a member of a religious order: --- help all of our religious to walk faithfully in the footsteps of their founders.

You were once a bishop: --- help the leaders of our Church to shepherd us in building God's kingdom today.

St. John Neumann, help us all. – **AMEN** -

As St. John Neumann lived --- a Powerful & Selfless Prayer:

Merciful Father, You have given me all that I have in this world, yes, even life itself. In all my daily needs, help me to remember the needs of others too.

Make me aware of the need to pray to You, not just for myself but also for the Church, the pope, the clergy, and all people who suffer any need.

Make me as selfless as Saint John Neumann was. Throughout my life, give me the grace to direct my first thoughts to the service of You and of others.

Make my prayer, "Your will be done," knowing that Your mercy and Your love, will for me, be my sanctification.

I ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. - **AMEN**.