

Novena Day #1

Opening Hymn: Immaculate Mother

Immaculate Mother	In heaven the blessed
To you do we plead	Your glory proclaim
To ask God, our Father	On earth we, your children
For help in our need.	Invoke your sweet name
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria

Opening Prayer:

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

Most holy and Immaculate Virgin and our Mother Mary, you are our Perpetual Help, our refuge and our hope. We come to you today. We thank God for all the graces received through your intercession. Mother of Perpetual Help, we promise to love you always and to do all we can to lead others to you. Confident of your powerful influence with God, obtain for us these graces: the strength to overcome temptation, a perfect love for Jesus Christ, and a holy death so that we will live with you and your Son for all eternity. Amen.

Novena Prayer:

Dear Mother of Perpetual Help from the cross, Jesus gave you to us for our Mother. You are the kindest, the most loving of all mothers. Look tenderly on us, your children, as we now ask you to help us in all our needs especially this one... (Pause)

While you were on earth, dear Mother, you willingly shared in the suffering of your Son; strengthened by your faith and confidence in the Fatherly love of God, you accepted the mysterious designs of His Will.

We, too, have our crosses and trials. Sometimes they almost crush us to the ground. Dearest Mother, share with us your abundant faith and confidence in God. Make us aware that God never ceases to love us; that He answers all our prayers in the way that is best for us. Strengthen our hearts to carry our cross in the footsteps of your Divine Son. Help us to realize that he who shares the cross of Christ will certainly share His resurrection.

Dearest Mother, as we worry about our own problems let us not forget the needs of others. You always love others so much; help us to do the same. While praying for our own intentions and for the intentions of all that are present with us virtually at this Novena we earnestly ask you, our Mother, to help us comfort the sick and the dying, give hope to the poor and unemployed, heal the broken-hearted, lighten the burden of the oppressed, teach justice to their oppressors and bring back to God all those who have offended him.

Dearest Mother, help us to avoid sin which separates us from our heavenly Father and from one another. Full of trust in you we place ourselves under the mantle of your maternal protection and confidently hope for your powerful help. Amen.

Daily Reflection: The Title Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Among the innumerable titles under which Christian piety is pleased to invoke the Blessed Virgin, there are few that are as likely to lift our hearts and fill them with unlimited confidence as the sweet name of Mother of Perpetual Help; a name that pleases Her so. To convince you of this: consider, on one hand, what the life of man on earth is, and on the other hand, what the name of Our Lady of Perpetual Help means.

Truthfully, what is life but a chain of miseries, dangers, afflictions and labors? In the temporal order, who is exempt from illness or from poverty? Who is there who does not have to weep? In the spiritual order, who knows how, on every occasion, to be on guard against the great misfortune of sin, against the snares of lukewarmness, against the coaxing of temptations? Who does not weaken from time to time in the service of God, in the practice of virtue, and who does not tire at times in the path of good?

Finally, what Christian does not tremble at the thought of the decisive and difficult moment of death; of the purifying fire of purgatory? In view of such miseries and necessities, the soul, overwhelmed, feels itself weakening and would like to burst into tears. But upon hearing the sweet name of Mother of Perpetual Help, it becomes serene, it takes courage, and continues joyfully on its path toward eternity. Why? Because, it then feels that its lamentations are not lost in a desert, but that they find a gracious echo in the heart of a Mother who desires, and is able, to help it.

In truth, the Virgin of Perpetual Help means: a remedy for all the evils that afflict us - a remedy not just for a day, but perpetual, from the cradle to Heaven; help in everything and help at all times. Perpetual help means: consolation in afflictions, in poverty, in illness, in labors; strength to give up sin, whether mortal or venial, and not to fall into it again. Perpetual Help means: fidelity in the service of the Lord and of the Virgin, herself, and therefore, final perseverance. Perpetual Help means: courage in the practice of virtue; special protection in the terrible hour of death; prompt and efficacious relief in the dreadful prison where just souls, who are still indebted to Divine justice, suffer before entering the heavenly homeland. Perpetual Help means: that even when circumstances or situations occur where everything seems hopeless, there is still one certain recourse: The protection of the Blessed Virgin.

Meditate and ask for what you wish to obtain from Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Hail Mary....

Hymn: Mother of Christ

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
What shall I ask of thee?
I do not sigh for the wealth of earth,
For joys that fade and fee;
But, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This do I long to see,
The bliss untold which think arms enfold,
The treasure upon thy knee.

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
I toss on stormy sea,
O lift thy child as beacon light
To the port where I fain would be,
Then, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This I do ask of thee,
When the voyage is o'er, O stand on the
shore, and show Him at last to me.

Petitions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

- Holy Mary,
- *Pray for us.*
- Holy Virgin conceived,
- *Pray for us.*
- We sinners call to you,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be filled with the Holy Spirit and become courageous with Christ's love for men
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be more and more like our Divine Lord, as you were,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be meek and humble like your Son, Jesus,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may fear losing God's friendship forever by unrepented sin,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may seek Christ's mercy and forgiveness constantly in the Sacrament of Penance,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be aware of God speaking to us in the events of daily life,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may pray daily with love and trust, especially in moments of temptation,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may realize the value of worshipping God together in the Eucharist,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may grow in the love of Christ and neighbor by frequent Communion,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may reverence our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may strive to be true Christians by our loving concern for others,
- *Loving Mother help us.*

- That we may proclaim the dignity of work by doing our own work conscientiously,
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- That we may forgive from our heart those who have wronged us,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may see the evil seeking our own interest at the expense of others,
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- That we may work for the just distribution of this world's goods,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may share our talents with others for the good of the community,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may accept our responsibility in the community in the spirit of genuine service,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- To pray that the Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen Pope Francis, the Bishops and the clergy,
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- That we may be blessed with an increase of priestly and religious vocations,
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- That we may be comforted at the death of our dear ones by our hope in the risen Lord,
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- To pray that our departed brothers and sisters quickly share in your Son's resurrection,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- Let us pray in silence for our own intentions (pause)

Holy Mary help us in our needs, pray for all the people of God; may all experience your perpetual help.

Lord, you gave us Mary to be our mother ever ready to help us; grant us the grace to have recourse to her in all our needs.

Amen.

Consecration of Family to Our Mother of Perpetual Help:

Most Holy Virgin Mother of Perpetual Help with great respect and love I thank you. Most humble and precious Mother, I kneel before you to consecrate to you in a special manner my home and everybody and everything in it. I take you most loving, as the mother of my family. Queen of Heaven, make us worthy to become your favored children. Hold us under your protection. Protect us from sin and sinful occasions, and teach us to love Jesus your most Holy Child. I thank you most Holy Mother for your maternal protection, and numerous graces we have received through your powerful intercession. Grant that all who live may always invoke your good name for your name oh mother is help in life and salvation in death. Oh Mother of Perpetual Help, bless me and my household, pour your blessings on us, bless all those who think about you. So that we may contribute to you our family, may we imitate you in love, humility, chastity and resignation to the will of God, so that if we serve you worthily in this world, we may praise you and thank you forever in the world to come. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

All powerful and merciful Lord, you give us the picture of the Mother of your Son to venerate under the title of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Graciously grant that in all the difficulties of our lives we may be assisted by the continuous protection of the Virgin Mary and obtain the reward forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Ave Maria

Ave Maria, Gratia plena
Maria, gratia plena
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Ave, ave dominus, dominus tecum
Benedicta tu in mulieribus
Et benedictus
Et benedictus fructus ventris
Ventris tui, Jesus

Ave Maria, Mater Dei
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus
Ora, ora pro nobis
Ora, ora pro nobis peccatoribus
Nunc et in hora mortis
In hora mortis nostrae
In hora mortis nostrae
In hora mortis nostrae
Ave Maria

Novena Day #2

Opening Hymn: Immaculate Mother

Immaculate Mother	In heaven the blessed
To you do we plead	Your glory proclaim
To ask God, our Father	On earth we, your children
For help in our need.	Invoke your sweet name
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We, too, have our crosses and trials. Sometimes they almost crush us to the ground. Dearest Mother, share with us your abundant faith and confidence in God. Make us aware that God never ceases to love us; that He answers all our prayers in the way that is best for us. Strengthen our hearts to carry our cross in the footsteps of your Divine Son. Help us to realize that he who shares the cross of Christ will certainly share His resurrection.

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Daily Reflection: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Assists Her Devotees to Cease Sinning

Among men, titles are often vain designations that do not correspond to reality. In Mary, on the contrary, titles are always an expression of the most obvious truth. And, thus, the Blessed Virgin is called, and is truly the Perpetual Help of all the unfortunate who have recourse to Her. Consider, however, that there is one class of Unfortunates for whom the most loving Mother seems to reserve her most tender glances and whom She makes a special object of Her most compassionate concern: they are the poor sinners, and it is easy to understand the reason behind that predilection.

The greater the misfortune of a child, the more Her maternal love increases. Well then, what greater misfortune is there than that of being separated from Jesus and being chained to the shameful slavery of the devil? By losing sanctifying grace, the unhappy one has made himself the target of divine anger; the ire of God clamors against him, and if death should surprise him, oh, what a calamity! His lot will be among the reprobate. That is why the kindest of mothers pours out on Her children, the sinners, all the treasures of the mercy and tenderness of Her maternal heart. She attracts them with the sweetness of her name: Mother of Perpetual Help, with the fame of Her miracles and even with her merciful glance.

How many have not felt moved and converted on exchanging glances with this miraculous Virgin! That glance, filled with sadness and compassion, seems to say to the sinner: Unfortunate one! How long? How long will you afflict with your offences the tender Son you see in my arms? How long will you offer Him gall and vinegar, rendering His passion and death useless? How long will you afflict me, your mother, and thrust into my heart, one after the other, most cruel swords? How long will you persist in running toward the eternal abyss? My child, how long? Tender words that only the heart hears; wondrous words that illuminate the understanding, soften the hardened heart, melt it, and finally, like that cry of the repentant prodigal: "I have sinned, My God; forgive me, forgive me." His tears flow abundantly and the Virgin presents them to her Beloved Son, and the sinner is converted.

Say if it is not so, you who have found before Her image: repentance, life, pardon, peace and joy in your heart. Is it surprising then, that among the wonders the Virgin of Perpetual Help works every day, the stupendous conversions due to Her intercession number in thousands! So certain it is, that a pious writer said: "I do not know of any more efficacious nor more rapid means to obtain the conversion of a sinner than to inspire in him a tender and sincere devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help." And why would that wonder-working image want to be entrusted to a congregation of missionaries, accompanying them to the most remote towns and going in search of straying sheep in the most unknown and forgotten cottages?

Thus, beloved sinner, no matter what the number or the gravity of your faults, no matter how hardened your heart is, all is not yet lost for you. Lift your spirit! Take courage! Have recourse to Our Mother of Perpetual Help and you will obtain forgiveness. She is the safest refuge of the sinner who sincerely wants to return to his God. Tell Her, then, with all your heart: "O Mother of Perpetual Help! filled with confidence in Thy kindness and mercy, I throw myself at Thy feet. I come wounded with the arrow of repentance. My having offended God grieves me; my Mother, obtain for me true

repentance and forgiveness." You will see that this benign Mother will make you return to grace and to friendship with your God. Amen.

Meditate and ask for what you wish to obtain from Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Hail Mary....

Hymn: Mother of Christ

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To the port where I fain would be,
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- That we may be ready at death to enter the home of our heavenly Father,
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- That we may be comforted at the death of our dear ones by our hope in the risen Lord,
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- To pray that our departed brothers and sisters quickly share in your Son's resurrection,
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- Let us pray in silence for our own intentions (pause)

Holy Mary help us in our needs, pray for all the people of God; may all experience your perpetual help.

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Amen.

Consecration of Family to Our Mother of Perpetual Help:

Most Holy Virgin Mother of Perpetual Help with great respect and love I thank you. Most humble and precious Mother, I kneel before you to consecrate to you in a special manner my home and everybody and everything in it. I take you most loving, as the mother of my family. Queen of Heaven, make us worthy to become your favored children. Hold us under your protection. Protect us from sin and sinful occasions, and teach us to love Jesus your most Holy Child. I thank you most Holy Mother for your maternal protection, and numerous graces we have received through your powerful intercession. Grant that all who live may always invoke your good name for your name oh mother is help in life and salvation in death. Oh Mother of Perpetual Help, bless me and my household, pour your blessings on us, bless all those who think about you. So that we may contribute to you our family, may we imitate you in love, humility, chastity and resignation to the will of God, so that if we serve you worthily in this world, we may praise you and thank you forever in the world to come. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

All powerful and merciful Lord, you give us the picture of the Mother of your Son to venerate under the title of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Graciously grant that in all the difficulties of our lives we may be assisted by the continuous protection of the Virgin Mary and obtain the reward forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Ave Maria

Ave Maria, Gratia plena
Maria, gratia plena
Maria, gratia plena
Ave, ave dominus, dominus tecum
Benedicta tu in mulieribus
Et benedictus
Et benedictus fructus ventris
Ventris tui, Jesus

Ave Maria, Mater Dei
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus
Ora, ora pro nobis
Ora, ora pro nobis peccatoribus
Nunc et in hora mortis
In hora mortis nostrae
In hora mortis nostrae
In hora mortis nostrae
Ave Maria

Novena Day #3

Opening Hymn: Immaculate Mother

Immaculate Mother	In heaven the blessed
To you do we plead	Your glory proclaim
To ask God, our Father	On earth we, your children
For help in our need.	Invoke your sweet name

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria

Opening Prayer:

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

Most holy and Immaculate Virgin and our Mother Mary, you are our Perpetual Help, our refuge and our hope. We come to you today. We thank God for all the graces received through your intercession. Mother of Perpetual Help, we promise to love you always and to do all we can to lead others to you. Confident of your powerful influence with God, obtain for us these graces: the strength to overcome temptation, a perfect love for Jesus Christ, and a holy death so that we will live with you and your Son for all eternity. Amen.

Novena Prayer:

Dear Mother of Perpetual Help from the cross, Jesus gave you to us for our Mother. You are the kindest, the most loving of all mothers. Look tenderly on us, your children, as we now ask you to help us in all our needs especially this one... (Pause)

While you were on earth, dear Mother, you willingly shared in the suffering of your Son; strengthened by your faith and confidence in the Fatherly love of God, you accepted the mysterious designs of His Will.

We, too, have our crosses and trials. Sometimes they almost crush us to the ground. Dearest Mother, share with us your abundant faith and confidence in God. Make us aware that God never ceases to love us; that He answers all our prayers in the way that is best for us. Strengthen our hearts to carry our cross in the footsteps of your Divine Son. Help us to realize that he who shares the cross of Christ will certainly share His resurrection.

Dearest Mother, as we worry about our own problems let us not forget the needs of others. You always love others so much; help us to do the same. While praying for our own intentions and for the intentions of all that are present with us virtually at this Novena we earnestly ask you, our Mother, to help us comfort the sick and the dying, give hope to the poor and unemployed, heal the broken-hearted, lighten the burden of the oppressed, teach justice to their oppressors and bring back to God all those who have offended him.

Dearest Mother, help us to avoid sin which separates us from our heavenly Father and from one another. Full of trust in you we place ourselves under the mantle of your maternal protection and confidently hope for your powerful help. Amen.

Daily Reflection: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Assists Her Devotees to Overcome Lukewarmness

Yesterday we saw how great is the tenderness of Our Lady with great sinners, but it is no less great with another class of souls in need - those who are called tepid, and are in a state almost as dangerous as that of mortal sin.

Although these negligent souls, who at times frequent the Sacraments, do indeed wish to avoid mortal sin, nevertheless they do not try to serve God; filling their lives with voluntary venial sins; with superficiality they recite their prayers and carry out other devotions; they hear Mass; perhaps they go to confession and receive Communion, but they do it out of routine and for human considerations; without fruit, without advancing in virtue; anger, lies, murmurings, rash judgements, nasty words, envies, laziness, vanity, impurities, dangerous and useless conversations, disordered attachment to the things of the world and other similar faults easily find their place in the hearts of tepid persons.

Think of the great risk of being condemned for being in this state. St. Teresa saw the place for which she was destined in Hell if she were not more fervent. In the opinion of St. Chrysostom, we must have more fear of habitual venial sins than mortal sins, because, says this great Saint, mortal sin is monstrous and in itself inspires horror, while tepidity leaves us calm and unconcerned. And was it not perchance against tepidity that Our Lord has proffered these tremendous words: "I would that thou wert cold," that is, that you would be in mortal sin! Who would believe it, if God Himself had not said it? "But because thou art lukewarm, I will begin to vomit thee out of my mouth." Who does not have horror of vomit? That is why St. Gregory writes: "I do not despair of seeing a sinner, as yet unconverted, saved; but rather for the salvation of a soul that has fallen into tepidity."

A terrible sentence that the doctors confirm when they teach that it is almost impossible for a tepid soul to be converted. Oh careless soul! It is sufficient to commit a habitual sin deliberately to be tepid and to find oneself in this danger. What will become, then, of you who commit so many faults with as much ease as thirsty swallow water? But then, the soul who finds itself in this state will say to me: "Is there then no remedy for me and must I abandon myself to despair?"

O unfortunate soul! It is difficult for you to be converted. But with all that, do not despair. Consider that what is impossible on earth is not so in Heaven. If you wish with all the earnestness of your will to throw off this dismal yoke, I will tell you a way as efficacious as it is easy. Lift up your glance; contemplate the image of your most kind Mother of Perpetual Help. Do you not see a brilliant star on Her forehead? It is the symbol of your hope. Place your confidence in Her, begin to serve Her with fidelity and you will feel your heart transformed.

Devotion to this Mother of fair love is incompatible with culpable negligence. Oh, how many souls have given up their tepidity on the same day they have begun to be Her devotees. What is lacking to you is the powerful love that fears to displease the lovable Jesus, for She is the Mother

of this fervent charity that beautifies souls. She wishes to grant it to you more than you want to receive it. Do you want the miracle of Cana re-enacted for you? Invoke Her with love. She will present you to the Divine Infant Who rests in Her arms, saying to Him: "Vinum non habent." (They have no wine) "My Son, see this poor soul who does not have true love." And then your coldness will be converted into fervor, as the water was converted into wine. Our Lady will inspire in you a living desire to consecrate yourself without reserve to the Lord; She will give you a special delight in meditating on eternal truths; She will communicate to you a singular devotion to the August Sacrament of our altar; and thus you will be able to break the chains that imprison you and again be the delight of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Meditate and ask for what you wish to obtain from Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Hail Mary....

Hymn: Mother of Christ

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- That we may accept our responsibility in the community in the spirit of genuine service,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- To pray that the Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen Pope Francis, the Bishops and the clergy,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be blessed with an increase of priestly and religious vocations,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may bring knowledge and love of Christ to those who do not know Him,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be aware of our dependence on God in the midst of human achievements,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be ready at death to enter the home of our heavenly Father,
- loving Mother help us.
- That we may die at peace with Christ and our fellowmen and women,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be comforted at the death of our dear ones by our hope in the risen Lord,
- *Loving Mother help us.*

- To pray that our departed brothers and sisters quickly share in your Son's resurrection,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- Let us pray in silence for our own intentions (pause)

Holy Mary help us in our needs, pray for all the people of God; may all experience your perpetual help.

Lord, you gave us Mary to be our mother ever ready to help us; grant us the grace to have recourse to her in all our needs.

Amen.

Consecration of Family to Our Mother of Perpetual Help:

Most Holy Virgin Mother of Perpetual Help with great respect and love I thank you. Most humble and precious Mother, I kneel before you to consecrate to you in a special manner my home and everybody and everything in it. I take you most loving, as the mother of my family. Queen of Heaven, make us worthy to become your favored children. Hold us under your protection. Protect us from sin and sinful occasions, and teach us to love Jesus your most Holy Child. I thank you most Holy Mother for your maternal protection, and numerous graces we have received through your powerful intercession. Grant that all who live may always invoke your good name for your name oh mother is help in life and salvation in death. Oh Mother of Perpetual Help, bless me and my household, pour your blessings on us, bless all those who think about you. So that we may contribute to you our family, may we imitate you in love, humility, chastity and resignation to the will of God, so that if we serve you worthily in this world, we may praise you and thank you forever in the world to come. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

All powerful and merciful Lord, you give us the picture of the Mother of your Son to venerate under the title of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Graciously grant that in all the difficulties of our lives we may be assisted by the continuous protection of the Virgin Mary and obtain the reward forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Ave Maria

Ave Maria, Gratia plena
 Maria, gratia plena
 Maria, gratia plena
 Ave, ave dominus, dominus tecum
 Benedicta tu in mulieribus
 Et benedictus
 Et benedictus fructus ventris
 Ventris tui, Jesus

Ave Maria, Mater Dei
 Ora pro nobis peccatoribus
 Ora, ora pro nobis
 Ora, ora pro nobis peccatoribus
 Nunc et in hora mortis
 In hora mortis nostrae
 In hora mortis nostrae
 In hora mortis nostrae
 Ave Maria

Novena Day #4

Opening Hymn: Immaculate Mother

Immaculate Mother	In heaven the blessed
To you do we plead	Your glory proclaim
To ask God, our Father	On earth we, your children
For help in our need.	Invoke your sweet name

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria

Opening Prayer:

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

Most holy and Immaculate Virgin and our Mother Mary, you are our Perpetual Help, our refuge and our hope. We come to you today. We thank God for all the graces received through your intercession. Mother of Perpetual Help, we promise to love you always and to do all we can to lead others to you. Confident of your powerful influence with God, obtain for us these graces: the strength to overcome temptation, a perfect love for Jesus Christ, and a holy death so that we will live with you and your Son for all eternity. Amen.

Novena Prayer:

Dear Mother of Perpetual Help from the cross, Jesus gave you to us for our Mother. You are the kindest, the most loving of all mothers. Look tenderly on us, your children, as we now ask you to help us in all our needs especially this one... (Pause)

While you were on earth, dear Mother, you willingly shared in the suffering of your Son; strengthened by your faith and confidence in the Fatherly love of God, you accepted the mysterious designs of His Will.

We, too, have our crosses and trials. Sometimes they almost crush us to the ground. Dearest Mother, share with us your abundant faith and confidence in God. Make us aware that God never ceases to love us; that He answers all our prayers in the way that is best for us. Strengthen our hearts to carry our cross in the footsteps of your Divine Son. Help us to realize that he who shares the cross of Christ will certainly share His resurrection.

Dearest Mother, as we worry about our own problems let us not forget the needs of others. You always love others so much; help us to do the same. While praying for our own intentions and for the intentions of all that are present with us virtually at this Novena we earnestly ask you, our Mother, to help us comfort the sick and the dying, give hope to the poor and unemployed, heal the broken-hearted, lighten the burden of the oppressed, teach justice to their oppressors and bring back to God all those who have offended him.

Dearest Mother, help us to avoid sin which separates us from our heavenly Father and from one another. Full of trust in you we place ourselves under the mantle of your maternal protection and confidently hope for your powerful help. Amen.

Daily Reflection: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Defends Her Devotees In Temptations

Consider that one of the major difficulties in which man needs the perpetual help of Mary in a special way, is in temptation: that perpetual and provoking struggle in which we are engaged against the enemies of our salvation. All of us, the just and the sinners, feel ourselves inclined to evil. St. Paul himself, after having been carried up to the third heaven, exclaimed saying: "Unhappy man that I am. I see another Law in my members, fighting against the laws of my mind and captivating me in the law of sin. There was given a sting of my flesh, an angel of Satan, to buffet me." Perhaps, my friend, you could use the same language; you, too, feel this dismal law of sin that wants to dominate the spirit, those vehement impulses of passions hungering for pleasure; Satan and a deceiving world hold out chains to you too, and at times you find yourself in great danger of succumbing to the very violence of temptation. Oh then, what constraints, what straits are those to the soul who wants to be saved; it finds itself surrounded by so many and such powerful enemies; it feels its own weakness and frailty, and with all that, it has to defeat all its enemies together, under pain of being lost, perhaps for eternity! How critical a position!

Christians, what will you do in these struggles so terrible with the world, the flesh and the devil? Will you surrender your arms declaring yourself defeated? No; that would be great and criminal cowardice. Ah! Let that not be your conduct! Rather, let us have recourse to Our Lady and Her Perpetual Help will attain victory for us. It is related that the Emperor Constantine, having to face a decisive battle against Maxentius, an enemy of the Christians, lifted his eyes to Heaven and saw in the sky a brilliant cross with this inscription: "In this sign shalt thou conquer." and it was verified by the complete routing of Maxentius. Christian soul, you who are continually at war with so many enemies, Heaven presents you with the same banner in the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Look at the veil that covers the virginal forehead of the Heavenly Queen; on it you will also see a cross that promises you the most powerful help of the merciful Mother of God.

Mary is terror against the power of Hell like an army in battle array. She is the Tower of David, constructed with ramparts from which hang a thousand shields. Against this Tower the sharp arrows of the enemy will break. She is the one who crushes the head of the infernal serpent, and the powers of Hell flee simply on hearing Her most holy Name pronounced.

Christian, have you looked for some time with reflection upon the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help? Does not Her sight remind you of the prodigies worked in other times by the Ark of the Lord? Truly, the Ark of the Covenant was covered with pure gold, it contained the manna that fell from Heaven; and two Angels covered it with their white wings. By means of the Ark of the Lord, the people of God attained their victories; the walls of Jericho crumbled; the Philistines were defeated; because the Holy Ark was with Israel. Well then, do you not see the gold of divine charity glow in the same way in the loving heart of that kindest of mothers? Do you not see Jesus, the sweet manna of our souls, in Her maternal arms? Do you not see the Angels in the background of

that picture with their wings extended? Is it not by means of Her most powerful help that so many Christians have attained victory over their enemies? How many souls adorned with the grace of the Lord would be sunk in sin if they had not invoked Our Lady of Perpetual Help at the moment of temptation!

Thus, oh Christian soul, make a firm resolution never to enter into combat with the enemies of your salvation alone, but rather accompanied by Most Holy Mary; Her Perpetual Help will serve as your shield and, thus, you will attain innumerable other victories in as many battles as you must endure. Oh Mother of Perpetual Help! For us Thou art the Holy Ark of the Lord; with Thee we will win victories; before Thee the enemies of our salvation will flee terrified; in every temptation we will invoke Thy Perpetual Help and Thou will help us perpetually.

Meditate and ask for what you wish to obtain from Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Hail Mary....

Hymn: Mother of Christ

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
What shall I ask of thee?
I do not sigh for the wealth of earth,
For joys that fade and fee;
But, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This do I long to see,
The bliss untold which think arms enfold,
The treasure upon thy knee.

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
I toss on stormy sea,
O lift thy child as beacon light
To the port where I fain would be,
Then, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This I do ask of thee,
When the voyage is o'er, O stand on the
shore, and show Him at last to me.

Petitions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

- Holy Mary,
- *Pray for us.*
- Holy Virgin conceived,
- *Pray for us.*
- We sinners call to you,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be filled with the Holy Spirit and become courageous with Christ's love for men
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be more and more like our Divine Lord, as you were,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be meek and humble like your Son, Jesus,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may fear losing God's friendship forever by unrepented sin,
- *Loving Mother help us.*

- That we may seek Christ's mercy and forgiveness constantly in the Sacrament of Penance,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be aware of God speaking to us in the events of daily life,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may pray daily with love and trust, especially in moments of temptation,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may realize the value of worshipping God together in the Eucharist,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may grow in the love of Christ and neighbor by frequent Communion,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may reverence our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may strive to be true Christians by our loving concern for others,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may proclaim the dignity of work by doing our own work conscientiously,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may forgive from our heart those who have wronged us,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may see the evil seeking our own interest at the expense of others,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may work for the just distribution of this world's goods,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may share our talents with others for the good of the community,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may accept our responsibility in the community in the spirit of genuine service,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- To pray that the Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen Pope Francis, the Bishops and the clergy,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be blessed with an increase of priestly and religious vocations,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may bring knowledge and love of Christ to those who do not know Him,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be aware of our dependence on God in the midst of human achievements,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be ready at death to enter the home of our heavenly Father,
- loving Mother help us.
- That we may die at peace with Christ and our fellowmen and women,
- *Loving Mother help us.*

- That we may be comforted at the death of our dear ones by our hope in the risen Lord,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- To pray that our departed brothers and sisters quickly share in your Son's resurrection,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- Let us pray in silence for our own intentions (pause)

Holy Mary help us in our needs, pray for all the people of God; may all experience your perpetual help.

Lord, you gave us Mary to be our mother ever ready to help us; grant us the grace to have recourse to her in all our needs. Amen.

Consecration of Family to Our Mother of Perpetual Help:

Most Holy Virgin Mother of Perpetual Help with great respect and love I thank you. Most humble and precious Mother, I kneel before you to consecrate to you in a special manner my home and everybody and everything in it. I take you most loving, as the mother of my family. Queen of Heaven, make us worthy to become your favored children. Hold us under your protection. Protect us from sin and sinful occasions, and teach us to love Jesus your most Holy Child. I thank you most Holy Mother for your maternal protection, and numerous graces we have received through your powerful intercession. Grant that all who live may always invoke your good name for your name oh mother is help in life and salvation in death. Oh Mother of Perpetual Help, bless me and my household, pour your blessings on us, bless all those who think about you. So that we may contribute to you our family, may we imitate you in love, humility, chastity and resignation to the will of God, so that if we serve you worthily in this world, we may praise you and thank you forever in the world to come. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

All powerful and merciful Lord, you give us the picture of the Mother of your Son to venerate under the title of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Graciously grant that in all the difficulties of our lives we may be assisted by the continuous protection of the Virgin Mary and obtain the reward forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Ave Maria

Ave Maria, Gratia plena
 Maria, gratia plena
 Maria, gratia plena
 Ave, ave dominus, dominus tecum
 Benedicta tu in mulieribus
 Et benedictus
 Et benedictus fructus ventris
 Ventris tui, Jesus

Ave Maria, Mater Dei
 Ora pro nobis peccatoribus
 Ora, ora pro nobis
 Ora, ora pro nobis peccatoribus
 Nunc et in hora mortis
 In hora mortis nostrae
 In hora mortis nostrae
 In hora mortis nostrae
 Ave Maria

Novena Day #5

Opening Hymn: Immaculate Mother

Immaculate Mother	In heaven the blessed
To you do we plead	Your glory proclaim
To ask God, our Father	On earth we, your children
For help in our need.	Invoke your sweet name

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria

Opening Prayer:

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

Most holy and Immaculate Virgin and our Mother Mary, you are our Perpetual Help, our refuge and our hope. We come to you today. We thank God for all the graces received through your intercession. Mother of Perpetual Help, we promise to love you always and to do all we can to lead others to you. Confident of your powerful influence with God, obtain for us these graces: the strength to overcome temptation, a perfect love for Jesus Christ, and a holy death so that we will live with you and your Son for all eternity. Amen.

Novena Prayer:

Dear Mother of Perpetual Help from the cross, Jesus gave you to us for our Mother. You are the kindest, the most loving of all mothers. Look tenderly on us, your children, as we now ask you to help us in all our needs especially this one... (Pause)

While you were on earth, dear Mother, you willingly shared in the suffering of your Son; strengthened by your faith and confidence in the Fatherly love of God, you accepted the mysterious designs of His Will.

We, too, have our crosses and trials. Sometimes they almost crush us to the ground. Dearest Mother, share with us your abundant faith and confidence in God. Make us aware that God never ceases to love us; that He answers all our prayers in the way that is best for us. Strengthen our hearts to carry our cross in the footsteps of your Divine Son. Help us to realize that he who shares the cross of Christ will certainly share His resurrection.

Dearest Mother, as we worry about our own problems let us not forget the needs of others. You always love others so much; help us to do the same. While praying for our own intentions and for the intentions of all that are present with us virtually at this Novena we earnestly ask you, our Mother, to help us comfort the sick and the dying, give hope to the poor and unemployed, heal the broken-hearted, lighten the burden of the oppressed, teach justice to their oppressors and bring back to God all those who have offended him.

Dearest Mother, help us to avoid sin which separates us from our heavenly Father and from one another. Full of trust in you we place ourselves under the mantle of your maternal protection and confidently hope for your powerful help. Amen.

Daily Reflection: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Protects Her Devotees in All the Necessities and Afflictions of Life

Let us consider that the world is a place of trial, a valley of tears and weeping. Who is unaware of it? "Man", says Job, "born of a woman, living for a short time, is filled with many works and miseries." His works is that of Calvary. Such is the condition of every mortal. That is why the author of the "Imitation of Christ" says, "Man needs consolation."

And this consolation, where will our afflicted heart find it? Perhaps in our friends and neighbors? Ah, no! Usually they look with indifference upon our tribulations; our tears do not move them; and if one of them is moved to compassion upon seeing our sorrow, often he does not know how to mitigate it in the least, because he is impotent. Of whom can we ask help in poverty, consolation in afflictions, counsel in doubts? Of whom but of Her Who is the Perpetual Help of mortals.

Look, afflicted soul; see how the Divine Infant clasps the hand of His tender Mother. He has seen the cross and the instrument of His passion that the Angels present to Him, and He has become terrified, and His Heart has said: "My sorrow is always before My eyes." But where does He seek consolation? In His good Mother Who extends Her hand to Him, to support and comfort Him in His suffering! Let us learn from the Heavenly Infant to have recourse to the compassionate Mother of Perpetual Help in our afflictions and trials. Perpetual are our miseries. But, oh consolation! Perpetual also is Her Help.

Poor soul! Do not be discouraged. Your Mother sees the many and varied calamities that grieves you. She sees what torment your body and afflicts your soul.

Are you poor? Neither the necessities of your family, nor the afflictions of your heart, nor the tears you shed for lack of means with which to procure food or to satisfy your creditor or to provide honestly for your children pass unnoticed by Her.

Are you ill? She sees the pain that consumes you, the abhorrence that afflicts you, the fear that oppresses you, the days you pass without relief, the nights you count without rest.

Are you the target of another's envy or anger? Are you calumniated? Do you find reason for affliction within your own family? This compassionate Mother witnesses your bitterness, the injustices committed against you in tribunals, the harm your rivals cause you, the outrage and offence you receive from your relatives. She counts your tears. This with all the rest that afflicts you, She sees without withdrawing Her penetrating and benign glance from you for one moment.

And She not only sees it, but it seems that She feels it more vividly than you yourself. A mother is of mercy; and that is why, just as She sees our miseries with the eyes of a mother with the heart of a mother She sympathizes with them. In such a way that, just as at the foot of the

cross, the wounds of the most sacred Body of Jesus were reflected in the loving Heart of Mary, thus all the injuries of our wounded heart are reproduced in that of our Heavenly Mother.

Finally, this tender Mother not only sees our miseries and our heart open but is moved by our misfortune in a gesture of helping us with all haste. And She exercises this pious office with us continually. Is She doing anything but granting us help in our necessities? Ah! No matter how little we dedicate our thoughts to the many laborious evils to which we are subject in life, we will come to see that in everything, She defends us, relieves us, protects us.

At the wedding at Cana, scarcely was She aware of the lack of wine, of the shame of the bridegroom and of the disturbance of the guests when, moved to compassion, She presented that necessity to Her Son, begging sweetly to apply the opportune remedy; thus, in the same way now that She is seated gloriously at the right hand of Her Son in Heaven, She continually discloses to Him all our necessities. She begs Him without ceasing either to alleviate our miseries or to provide powerful help to suffer them with humble resignation, as this or that may rebound to His greater glory and our spiritual good.

Well then, if such are the benign effects that we experience everyday from the loving help of Mary, what must be our gratitude towards a Mother so kind, what must be our affection for a Mother so tender, what must be our confidence in a Mother Who loves us so and concerns Herself so much with us? She has Her eyes always fixed on our miseries, with Her Heart always disposed to be compassionate and with Her hands always open in an attitude of remedying them. Let us have continuous and devout recourse then, to this most kind Mother, disclosing to Her with filial confidence all our needs, and let us be assured that through Her we will have our perpetual relief, encouragement and consolation. Amen.

Meditate and ask for what you wish to obtain from Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Hail Mary....

Hymn: Mother of Christ

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
What shall I ask of thee?
I do not sigh for the wealth of earth,
For joys that fade and fee;
But, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This do I long to see,
The bliss untold which think arms enfold,
The treasure upon thy knee.

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
I toss on stormy sea,
O lift thy child as beacon light
To the port where I fain would be,
And, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This I do ask of thee,
When the voyage is o'er, O stand on the
shore, and show Him at last to me.

Petitions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

- Holy Mary,
 - *Pray for us.*
- Holy Virgin conceived,
 - *Pray for us.*
- We sinners call to you,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be filled with the Holy Spirit and become courageous with Christ's love for men
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be more and more like our Divine Lord, as you were,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be meek and humble like your Son, Jesus,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may fear losing God's friendship forever by unrepented sin,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may seek Christ's mercy and forgiveness constantly in the Sacrament of Penance,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be aware of God speaking to us in the events of daily life,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may pray daily with love and trust, especially in moments of temptation,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may realize the value of worshipping God together in the Eucharist,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may grow in the love of Christ and neighbor by frequent Communion,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may reverence our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may strive to be true Christians by our loving concern for others,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may proclaim the dignity of work by doing our own work conscientiously,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may forgive from our heart those who have wronged us,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may see the evil seeking our own interest at the expense of others,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may work for the just distribution of this world's goods,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may share our talents with others for the good of the community,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*

- That we may accept our responsibility in the community in the spirit of genuine service,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- To pray that the Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen Pope Francis, the Bishops and the clergy,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be blessed with an increase of priestly and religious vocations,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may bring knowledge and love of Christ to those who do not know Him,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be aware of our dependence on God in the midst of human achievements,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be ready at death to enter the home of our heavenly Father,
- loving Mother help us.
- That we may die at peace with Christ and our fellowmen and women,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be comforted at the death of our dear ones by our hope in the risen Lord,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- To pray that our departed brothers and sisters quickly share in your Son's resurrection,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- Let us pray in silence for our own intentions (pause)

Holy Mary help us in our needs, pray for all the people of God; may all experience your perpetual help.

Lord, you gave us Mary to be our mother ever ready to help us; grant us the grace to have recourse to her in all our needs.

Amen.

Consecration of Family to Our Mother of Perpetual Help:

Most Holy Virgin Mother of Perpetual Help with great respect and love I thank you. Most humble and precious Mother, I kneel before you to consecrate to you in a special manner my home and everybody and everything in it. I take you most loving, as the mother of my family. Queen of Heaven, make us worthy to become your favored children. Hold us under your protection. Protect us from sin and sinful occasions, and teach us to love Jesus your most Holy Child. I thank you most Holy Mother for your maternal protection, and numerous graces we have received through your powerful intercession. Grant that all who live may always invoke your good name for your name oh mother is help in life and salvation in death. Oh Mother of Perpetual Help, bless me and my household, pour your blessings on us, bless all those who think about you. So that we may contribute to you our family, may we imitate you in love, humility, chastity and resignation to the will of God, so that if we serve you worthily in this world, we may praise you and thank you forever in the world to come. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

All powerful and merciful Lord, you give us the picture of the Mother of your Son to venerate under the title of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Graciously grant that in all the difficulties of our lives we may be assisted by the continuous protection of the Virgin Mary and obtain the reward forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Ave Maria

Ave Maria, Gratia plena
Maria, gratia plena
Maria, gratia plena
Ave, ave dominus, dominus tecum
Benedicta tu in mulieribus
Et benedictus
Et benedictus fructus ventris
Ventris tui, Jesus

Ave Maria, Mater Dei
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus
Ora, ora pro nobis
Ora, ora pro nobis peccatoribus
Nunc et in hora mortis
In hora mortis nostrae
In hora mortis nostrae
In hora mortis nostrae
Ave Maria

Novena Day #6

Opening Hymn: Immaculate Mother

Immaculate Mother	In heaven the blessed
To you do we plead	Your glory proclaim
To ask God, our Father	On earth we, your children
For help in our need.	Invoke your sweet name

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria

Opening Prayer:

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

Most holy and Immaculate Virgin and our Mother Mary, you are our Perpetual Help, our refuge and our hope. We come to you today. We thank God for all the graces received through your intercession. Mother of Perpetual Help, we promise to love you always and to do all we can to lead others to you. Confident of your powerful influence with God, obtain for us these graces: the strength to overcome temptation, a perfect love for Jesus Christ, and a holy death so that we will live with you and your Son for all eternity. Amen.

Novena Prayer:

Dear Mother of Perpetual Help from the cross, Jesus gave you to us for our Mother. You are the kindest, the most loving of all mothers. Look tenderly on us, your children, as we now ask you to help us in all our needs especially this one... (Pause)

While you were on earth, dear Mother, you willingly shared in the suffering of your Son; strengthened by your faith and confidence in the Fatherly love of God, you accepted the mysterious designs of His Will.

We, too, have our crosses and trials. Sometimes they almost crush us to the ground. Dearest Mother, share with us your abundant faith and confidence in God. Make us aware that God never ceases to love us; that He answers all our prayers in the way that is best for us. Strengthen our hearts to carry our cross in the footsteps of your Divine Son. Help us to realize that he who shares the cross of Christ will certainly share His resurrection.

Dearest Mother, as we worry about our own problems let us not forget the needs of others. You always love others so much; help us to do the same. While praying for our own intentions and for the intentions of all that are present with us virtually at this Novena we earnestly ask you, our Mother, to help us comfort the sick and the dying, give hope to the poor and unemployed, heal the broken-hearted, lighten the burden of the oppressed, teach justice to their oppressors and bring back to God all those who have offended him.

Dearest Mother, help us to avoid sin which separates us from our heavenly Father and from one another. Full of trust in you we place ourselves under the mantle of your maternal protection and confidently hope for your powerful help. Amen.

Daily Reflection: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Sustains Her Devotees in the Practice of Virtues

If it were sufficient to avoid sin in order to be agreeable in everything to the Lord, the benign office of our Mother would stop at this. For this alone She would provide Her Perpetual Help. But God is not content without being offended; He requires positive service. He wants us to be perfect. "Be perfect as your Heavenly father is perfect." And truly, He wants us to dedicate ourselves to the practice of these Christian virtues.

But how many difficulties are encountered on the path that leads to the holy mountain of perfection! It seem that good, solely because it is good, is now contrary to our corrupt nature. Just soul who have consecrated yourselves to the practice of piety, have you not found it so? Oh, how arid and sterile is our heart, how incapable of producing any fruit worthy of Life eternal, if the heavenly waters of grace do not fall to fertilize it!

When a soul truly wishes to sanctify itself, it renounces itself, advancing each day in perfection, experiencing what the author of the "Imitation of Christ" says: "that sanctification is not child's play, nor the work of one day." Then it feels the need of perpetual and powerful help, of continual assistance.

Ah, and this perpetual help, perchance do we have it? Why do we withdraw? Why turn back in the face of difficulty? Do we not have Our Lady of Perpetual Help to protect us?

Take courage, generous souls; your Mother will help you. Do you not see that She presents you to the Infant Jesus? And why, except to incite us to the practice of virtue? The knowledge alone that his king is watching him gives courage to the warrior in combat. Thus, when good is made difficult for us and when we are about to weaken, let us fix our glance on the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The sight of the adorable Infant Who one day must reward us, encourage us, and we will have the courage to practice the most heroic virtues.

Children of Mary, would you like to be truly virtuous, but always find in your interior that reserve of self-love that poisons your good works? Invoke Our Lady of Perpetual Help and in a little while your spirit, like Hers, will seek nothing but the good pleasure and glory of God.

Are you the target of continuous contradictions? Do you lack patience? Invoke Our Lady of Perpetual Help frequently and you will be meek and humble of heart. Is it your desire to live detached from all disordered affections for creatures but that miserable heart always take delight in the vanities of this world? Invoke Our Lady of Perpetual Help and you will grasp the vanity of everything created.

The white lily of chastity has enamored you. Do you want to preserve it immaculate or acquire it again, if through misfortune you lost? Invoke Our Lady of Perpetual Help and soon you will be singing within yourself to Him Who grazes among the lilies. "As the lily among thorns, so is my beloved among the daughters."

Faith, hope and charity, queen of virtues, wish to place their throne in your heart? Who will grant you that favor but the Virgin Who bears on her forehead the star of faith and the cross that is all our hope, and in Her arms, the love of the Divine Jesus? The wound of an insult received does not want to heal in your heart? Invoke Our Lady of Perpetual Help and you will succeed in doing good to those who offended you.

Finally, are you in the flower of your age? Does the choice of a way of life concern you? Pray to Her like other souls whom She has helped, enlightening them about the vanities of the world and enkindling in them the love of their God, to the point of their abandoning everything and consecrating themselves to the Lord, by means of the sacred vows of religion. And finally, if you have chosen your vocation and wish to work out your sanctification in the world, make yourself a devotee of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and you will attain it.

Oh, with what speed those who consecrate themselves to the veneration of Our Lady advance on the path of perfection! That precious devotion seems to give them wings to fly to the heights of sanctity; let the priests who have inculcated it in their penitent speak about it. Oh! Only in Heaven will it be known how many souls have reached perfection through that so easy means. Dedicate yourselves, then, pious souls, from now on, to the service of that gracious Mother and one day you will be Her crown in glory.

Meditate and ask for what you wish to obtain from Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Hail Mary....

Hymn: Mother of Christ

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
What shall I ask of thee?
I do not sigh for the wealth of earth,
For joys that fade and flee;
But, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This do I long to see,
The bliss untold which thy arms enfold,
The treasure upon thy knee.

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
I toss on stormy sea,
O lift thy child as beacon light
To the port where I fain would be,
And, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This I do ask of thee,
When the voyage is o'er, O stand on the
shore, and show Him at last to me.

Petitions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

- Holy Mary,
- *Pray for us.*
- Holy Virgin conceived,
- *Pray for us.*
- We sinners call to you,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be filled with the Holy Spirit and become courageous with Christ's love for men
- *Loving Mother help us.*

- That we may be more and more like our Divine Lord, as you were,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be meek and humble like your Son, Jesus,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may fear losing God's friendship forever by unrepented sin,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may seek Christ's mercy and forgiveness constantly in the Sacrament of Penance,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be aware of God speaking to us in the events of daily life,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may pray daily with love and trust, especially in moments of temptation,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may realize the value of worshipping God together in the Eucharist,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may grow in the love of Christ and neighbor by frequent Communion,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may reverence our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may strive to be true Christians by our loving concern for others,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may proclaim the dignity of work by doing our own work conscientiously,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may forgive from our heart those who have wronged us,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may see the evil seeking our own interest at the expense of others,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may work for the just distribution of this world's goods,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may share our talents with others for the good of the community,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may accept our responsibility in the community in the spirit of genuine service,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- To pray that the Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen Pope Francis, the Bishops and the clergy,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be blessed with an increase of priestly and religious vocations,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may bring knowledge and love of Christ to those who do not know Him,
- *Loving Mother help us.*

- That we may be aware of our dependence on God in the midst of human achievements,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be ready at death to enter the home of our heavenly Father,
- loving Mother help us.
- That we may die at peace with Christ and our fellowmen and women,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be comforted at the death of our dear ones by our hope in the risen Lord,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- To pray that our departed brothers and sisters quickly share in your Son's resurrection,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- Let us pray in silence for our own intentions (pause)

Holy Mary help us in our needs, pray for all the people of God; may all experience your perpetual help.

Lord, you gave us Mary to be our mother ever ready to help us; grant us the grace to have recourse to her in all our needs.

Amen.

Consecration of Family to Our Mother of Perpetual Help:

Most Holy Virgin Mother of Perpetual Help with great respect and love I thank you. Most humble and precious Mother, I kneel before you to consecrate to you in a special manner my home and everybody and everything in it. I take you most loving, as the mother of my family. Queen of Heaven, make us worthy to become your favored children. Hold us under your protection. Protect us from sin and sinful occasions, and teach us to love Jesus your most Holy Child. I thank you most Holy Mother for your maternal protection, and numerous graces we have received through your powerful intercession. Grant that all who live may always invoke your good name for your name oh mother is help in life and salvation in death. Oh Mother of Perpetual Help, bless me and my household, pour your blessings on us, bless all those who think about you. So that we may contribute to you our family, may we imitate you in love, humility, chastity and resignation to the will of God, so that if we serve you worthily in this world, we may praise you and thank you forever in the world to come. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

All powerful and merciful Lord, you give us the picture of the Mother of your Son to venerate under the title of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Graciously grant that in all the difficulties of our lives we may be assisted by the continuous protection of the Virgin Mary and obtain the reward forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Ave Maria

Ave Maria, Gratia plena
Maria, gratia plena
Maria, gratia plena
Ave, ave dominus, dominus tecum
Benedicta tu in mulieribus
Et benedictus
Et benedictus fructus ventris
Ventris tui, Jesus

Ave Maria, Mater Dei
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus
Ora, ora pro nobis
Ora, ora pro nobis peccatoribus
Nunc et in hora mortis
In hora mortis nostrae
In hora mortis nostrae
In hora mortis nostrae
Ave Maria

Novena Day #7

Opening Hymn: Immaculate Mother

Immaculate Mother	In heaven the blessed
To you do we plead	Your glory proclaim
To ask God, our Father	On earth we, your children
For help in our need.	Invoke your sweet name

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria

Opening Prayer:

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

Most holy and Immaculate Virgin and our Mother Mary, you are our Perpetual Help, our refuge and our hope. We come to you today. We thank God for all the graces received through your intercession. Mother of Perpetual Help, we promise to love you always and to do all we can to lead others to you. Confident of your powerful influence with God, obtain for us these graces: the strength to overcome temptation, a perfect love for Jesus Christ, and a holy death so that we will live with you and your Son for all eternity. Amen.

Novena Prayer:

Dear Mother of Perpetual Help from the cross, Jesus gave you to us for our Mother. You are the kindest, the most loving of all mothers. Look tenderly on us, your children, as we now ask you to help us in all our needs especially this one... (Pause)

While you were on earth, dear Mother, you willingly shared in the suffering of your Son; strengthened by your faith and confidence in the Fatherly love of God, you accepted the mysterious designs of His Will.

We, too, have our crosses and trials. Sometimes they almost crush us to the ground. Dearest Mother, share with us your abundant faith and confidence in God. Make us aware that God never ceases to love us; that He answers all our prayers in the way that is best for us. Strengthen our hearts to carry our cross in the footsteps of your Divine Son. Help us to realize that he who shares the cross of Christ will certainly share His resurrection.

Dearest Mother, as we worry about our own problems let us not forget the needs of others. You always love others so much; help us to do the same. While praying for our own intentions and for the intentions of all that are present with us virtually at this Novena we earnestly ask you, our Mother, to help us comfort the sick and the dying, give hope to the poor and unemployed, heal the broken-hearted, lighten the burden of the oppressed, teach justice to their oppressors and bring back to God all those who have offended him.

Dearest Mother, help us to avoid sin which separates us from our heavenly Father and from one another. Full of trust in you we place ourselves under the mantle of your maternal protection and confidently hope for your powerful help. Amen.

Daily Reflection: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Grants Her Devotees Fidelity in Her Service

Perseverance! A great problem, a major question of life and death, a perpetual torment of souls who want to be saved.

Have you not said trembling - on seeing yourself surrounded by so many dangers, and above all, on seeing souls that seemed confirmed in good fall away, on feeling violent passions inflamed, and on examining your own fickleness - have you not said: "Oh, will I be saved? Have my sins been forgiven? I hope so. Am I in the grace of God? Will I persevere in good until the end? What will be my sentence at judgement? Will I be found among the predestined? And, finally, what will be my lot in eternity?"

Terrifying reflections, questions whose uncertain replies fill the heart with anxiety. St Teresa, writing on this point, could not understand why the pen did not fall from her hand. St. Paul, after having preached to others, feared that he would be among the reprobate, and St Jerome responded beforehand to the sound of the trumpet of final judgement with cries of terror.

How, then, to get rid of this annoying doubt? How to find a guarantee of tranquility? A great saint tells us: "Of what value is it to stir up these questions disputed by the wise ones concerning whether you will be saved or lost? If we are true children of Mary, certainly we will be among the chosen ones."

This is the doctrine of all the Doctors of the Church. It is impossible for one who counts on the most powerful help of Mary to be condemned. A consoling word that should fill us with confidence and devotion, but this is understood on the condition that one lives without sins or desires at least to cease sinning. Because, if someone wants to sin with the hope that the Blessed Virgin will save him, through his own faults he would make himself unworthy and incapable of Her protection.

It is true, then, O Mother of Perpetual Help that if I am Thy faithful servant, without doubt I will be saved. I will serve Thee, then. I will love Thee. I will invoke Thee always.

Nevertheless, Christian soul, you are still not at peace concerning your perseverance. You must still fear one thing. Without doubt Most Holy Mary will save you if you invoke Her, but, will you be faithful in Her service? Will you, one day, cease to be Her devotee? So great is the fickleness of our heart that tomorrow you will give up what today you have begun. Have, perchance, all those who were devotees of the Virgin in the beginning, persevered in Her service?

For this great misery, called inconstancy, there is a remedy in Our Lady of Perpetual Help. She Herself is the One Who must help us to persevere in her service. If all graces pass through the hands of Mary, why would not this most special grace of all graces, that of invoking her perpetually, also pass through them? And the very name itself of Perpetual Help, is it not almost a sure guarantee that She will help us perpetually?

How could we weaken in her love and forget Her? If a mother, according to nature, knew that a child of hers could not be happy without enjoying the attentions of his mother, what would she not do to keep him at her side? Well then, our august Queen knows that there cannot be happiness for us, her very beloved children, without having fidelity in Her service, which is intimately united to the service of the Lord, and that is why She provides Her devotees with Her maternal help, abundantly and perpetually.

When a soul who has been at one time Her devotee wishes to abandon Her, that tender Mother waits, so to speak, at the door of his heart and knocks until it is opened, that is, until the unfaithful one returns to his primitive fervor. We have, then, an infallible means of assuring ourselves of perseverance in the devotion to Mary. It suffices to ask Her for the grace to call on Her always; to ask her for the grace today; to ask Her tomorrow and every day. In short, O soul devoted to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, engrave in your memory that maxim of the great doctor, St. Alphonsus: "I am sure I will be saved, if I sincerely invoke Mary; I am sure of invoking Her, if I ask of Her the grace to do so always. And I will not tire of repeating this petition of imploring Her with fidelity."

Let us conclude, then, in the words of St. Bernard: "O man, whoever you may be, do not forget that, rather than walking on earth, you go fluctuating between dangers and tempests; if you do not want to be immersed, do not take your eyes away from this star, Mary. Look at Her often. When in danger of sinning, in the anguish of temptations, in doubts concerning things you must resolve, remember that Mary can assist you, and call on Her right away, so She may help you. Never let her powerful name leave your heart, so it may inspire you with confidence; nor your lips, so you may invoke it. Follow Mary, and you will not stray from the path of salvation; commend yourself to Her and you will not lose confidence; if Her hand sustains you, you will not fall; if She is your guide, you will be saved without effort; and finally, if Mary takes your defense, undoubtedly you will arrive at the kingdom of the blessed. Do this, and you will live." Amen

Meditate and ask for what you wish to obtain from Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Hail Mary....

Hymn: Mother of Christ

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
What shall I ask of thee?
I do not sigh for the wealth of earth,
For joys that fade and fee;
But, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This do I long to see,
The bliss untold which think arms enfold,
The treasure upon thy knee.

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
I toss on stormy sea,
O lift thy child as beacon high
To the port where I fain would be,
Then, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This I do ask of thee,
When the voyage is o'er, O stand on the
shore
And show Him at last to me.

Petitions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

- Holy Mary,
 - *Pray for us.*
- Holy Virgin conceived,
 - *Pray for us.*
- We sinners call to you,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be filled with the Holy Spirit and become courageous with Christ's love for men
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be more and more like our Divine Lord, as you were,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be meek and humble like your Son, Jesus,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may fear losing God's friendship forever by unrepented sin,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may seek Christ's mercy and forgiveness constantly in the Sacrament of Penance,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be aware of God speaking to us in the events of daily life,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may pray daily with love and trust, especially in moments of temptation,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may realize the value of worshipping God together in the Eucharist,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may grow in the love of Christ and neighbor by frequent Communion,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may reverence our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may strive to be true Christians by our loving concern for others,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may proclaim the dignity of work by doing our own work conscientiously,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may forgive from our heart those who have wronged us,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may see the evil seeking our own interest at the expense of others,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may work for the just distribution of this world's goods,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may share our talents with others for the good of the community,
 - *Loving Mother help us.*

- That we may accept our responsibility in the community in the spirit of genuine service,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- To pray that the Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen Pope Francis, the Bishops and the clergy,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be blessed with an increase of priestly and religious vocations,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may bring knowledge and love of Christ to those who do not know Him,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be aware of our dependence on God in the midst of human achievements,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be ready at death to enter the home of our heavenly Father,
- loving Mother help us.
- That we may die at peace with Christ and our fellowmen and women,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be comforted at the death of our dear ones by our hope in the risen Lord,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- To pray that our departed brothers and sisters quickly share in your Son's resurrection,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- Let us pray in silence for our own intentions (pause)

Holy Mary help us in our needs, pray for all the people of God; may all experience your perpetual help.

Lord, you gave us Mary to be our mother ever ready to help us; grant us the grace to have recourse to her in all our needs.

Amen.

Consecration of Family to Our Mother of Perpetual Help:

Most Holy Virgin Mother of Perpetual Help with great respect and love I thank you. Most humble and precious Mother, I kneel before you to consecrate to you in a special manner my home and everybody and everything in it. I take you most loving, as the mother of my family. Queen of Heaven, make us worthy to become your favored children. Hold us under your protection. Protect us from sin and sinful occasions, and teach us to love Jesus your most Holy Child. I thank you most Holy Mother for your maternal protection, and numerous graces we have received through your powerful intercession. Grant that all who live may always invoke your good name for your name oh mother is help in life and salvation in death. Oh Mother of Perpetual Help, bless me and my household, pour your blessings on us, bless all those who think about you. So that we may contribute to you our family, may we imitate you in love, humility, chastity and resignation to the will of God, so that if we serve you worthily in this world, we may praise you and thank you forever in the world to come. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

All powerful and merciful Lord, you give us the picture of the Mother of your Son to venerate under the title of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Graciously grant that in all the difficulties of our lives we may be assisted by the continuous protection of the Virgin Mary and obtain the reward forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Ave Maria

Ave Maria, Gratia plena
Maria, gratia plena
Maria, gratia plena
Ave, ave dominus, dominus tecum
Benedicta tu in mulieribus
Et benedictus
Et benedictus fructus ventris
Ventris tui, Jesus

Ave Maria, Mater Dei
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus
Ora, ora pro nobis
Ora, ora pro nobis peccatoribus
Nunc et in hora mortis
In hora mortis nostrae
In hora mortis nostrae
In hora mortis nostrae
Ave Maria

Novena Day #8

Opening Hymn: Immaculate Mother

Immaculate Mother	In heaven the blessed
To you do we plead	Your glory proclaim
To ask God, our Father	On earth we, your children
For help in our need.	Invoke your sweet name

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria

Opening Prayer:

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

Most holy and Immaculate Virgin and our Mother Mary, you are our Perpetual Help, our refuge and our hope. We come to you today. We thank God for all the graces received through your intercession. Mother of Perpetual Help, we promise to love you always and to do all we can to lead others to you. Confident of your powerful influence with God, obtain for us these graces: the strength to overcome temptation, a perfect love for Jesus Christ, and a holy death so that we will live with you and your Son for all eternity. Amen.

Novena Prayer:

Dear Mother of Perpetual Help from the cross, Jesus gave you to us for our Mother. You are the kindest, the most loving of all mothers. Look tenderly on us, your children, as we now ask you to help us in all our needs especially this one... (Pause)

While you were on earth, dear Mother, you willingly shared in the suffering of your Son; strengthened by your faith and confidence in the Fatherly love of God, you accepted the mysterious designs of His Will.

We, too, have our crosses and trials. Sometimes they almost crush us to the ground. Dearest Mother, share with us your abundant faith and confidence in God. Make us aware that God never ceases to love us; that He answers all our prayers in the way that is best for us. Strengthen our hearts to carry our cross in the footsteps of your Divine Son. Help us to realize that he who shares the cross of Christ will certainly share His resurrection.

Dearest Mother, as we worry about our own problems let us not forget the needs of others. You always love others so much; help us to do the same. While praying for our own intentions and for the intentions of all that are present with us virtually at this Novena we earnestly ask you, our Mother, to help us comfort the sick and the dying, give hope to the poor and unemployed, heal the broken-hearted, lighten the burden of the oppressed, teach justice to their oppressors and bring back to God all those who have offended him.

Dearest Mother, help us to avoid sin which separates us from our heavenly Father and from one another. Full of trust in you we place ourselves under the mantle of your maternal protection and confidently hope for your powerful help. Amen.

Daily Reflection: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Assists Her Devotees at the Hour of Death

Consider that, although man needs the benign help of Mary at all times, and in all circumstances, never, however, as much as in the anxieties of death, which are the greatest that can be experienced in this world.

Terrible, indeed, very terrible, are the afflictions of the dying. Everything conspires to make those last moments terrible – the memory of sins committed, the fear of the incomprehensible judgements of an offended God, the uncertainty of eternal salvation, everything, everything. Especially then, Hell arms itself and puts into action all its forces to possess the soul that is going to pass into eternity, because it knows that only a little time remains before it is to be judged and, if it does not succeed in ruining it, it will be saved forever. That is why the wicked spirit, accustomed to tempting it in life, is not content solely with tempting it at the hour of death, but even calls his companions to help him. They say that, at the moment of St. Andrew Avellino's death, ten thousand devils gathered in his cell to tempt him.

But if at that time, we have on our side the most powerful help of Mary, who will be able to overcome us? And, how will that gracious Mother deny us Her aid if we persevere in asking for it? She Herself revealed to St. Gertrude that She grants aid to Her devotees, at the point of death, for as many times as they have implored Her in life.

Oh, my friend! How fortunate you will be if, at the critical moment of death, you find yourself bound by the chains of love to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. These are the chains of salvation and of eternal glory. No, that tender Mother does not know how to abandon Her true devotees at that supreme moment. She is the Mother of Perpetual Help, and just as She has helped them in the time of their exile, so also, She exhibits Her sweetness at the hour of death and obtain for them a sweet and happy death.

And above all, showing Herself worthy of the beautiful name She bears, She sends the prince St. Michael with all the angels to the aid of Her faithful dying children, so they go then to defend them from the snares of the devils and receive the souls of all those who have continually commended themselves to Her.

She is not content with sending angels to the aid of Her devotees. She Herself will come in person to assist them in their last moments. Since that great day when She had the good fortune and at the same time the sorrow of assisting Her son Jesus, Who is the first of the predestined, She obtained the grace of assisting all of them also at the terrible moment of death. That is why the Holy Church makes us pray for Her to help us especially in the hour of our death. "Pray for us, sinners, now and at the hour of our death."

And this is found to be in conformity with what the Blessed Virgin said to St. Bridget, speaking of Her devotees: "Then, My daughter, as their Mistress and Mother, when they die, I will

go out to meet them so they may have consolation and comfort." The loving Queen then covers these souls with Her mantle and presents them to the Judge, Her Son, and thus surely attains salvation for them.

Christian, although you may have been a sinner, you will not cease experiencing this consolation provided that, from now on, you manage to live well and to serve this gracious and most amiable Lady. In your anguish and in the temptations with which the devil will assault you at death to make you despair, Our Mother of Perpetual Help will give you fortitude and will come Herself to defend you. And, with such a Mother and Protector, what will you fear, O sinner?

Meditate and ask for what you wish to obtain from Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Hail Mary....

Hymn: Mother of Christ

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
What shall I ask of thee?
I do not sigh for the wealth of earth,
For joys that fade and fee;
But, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This do I long to see,
The bliss untold which think arms enfold,
The treasure upon thy knee.

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
I toss on stormy sea,
O lift thy child as beacon light
To the port where I fain would be,
And, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This I do ask of thee,
When the voyage is o'er, O stand on the
shore, and show Him at last to me.

Petitions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

- Holy Mary,
- *Pray for us.*
- Holy Virgin conceived,
- *Pray for us.*
- We sinners call to you,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be filled with the Holy Spirit and become courageous with Christ's love for men
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be more and more like our Divine Lord, as you were,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be meek and humble like your Son, Jesus,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may fear losing God's friendship forever by unrepented sin,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may seek Christ's mercy and forgiveness constantly in the Sacrament of Penance,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be aware of God speaking to us in the events of daily life,
- *Loving Mother help us.*

- That we may pray daily with love and trust, especially in moments of temptation,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may realize the value of worshipping God together in the Eucharist,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may grow in the love of Christ and neighbor by frequent Communion,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may reverence our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may strive to be true Christians by our loving concern for others,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may proclaim the dignity of work by doing our own work conscientiously,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may forgive from our heart those who have wronged us,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may see the evil seeking our own interest at the expense of others,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may work for the just distribution of this world's goods,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may share our talents with others for the good of the community,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may accept our responsibility in the community in the spirit of genuine service,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- To pray that the Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen Pope Francis, the Bishops and the clergy,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be blessed with an increase of priestly and religious vocations,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may bring knowledge and love of Christ to those who do not know Him,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be aware of our dependence on God in the midst of human achievements,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be ready at death to enter the home of our heavenly Father,
- loving Mother help us.
- That we may die at peace with Christ and our fellowmen and women,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be comforted at the death of our dear ones by our hope in the risen Lord,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- To pray that our departed brothers and sisters quickly share in your Son's resurrection,
- *Loving Mother help us.*

- Let us pray in silence for our own intentions (pause)

Holy Mary help us in our needs, pray for all the people of God; may all experience your perpetual help.

Lord, you gave us Mary to be our mother ever ready to help us; grant us the grace to have recourse to her in all our needs.

Amen.

Consecration of Family to Our Mother of Perpetual Help:

Most Holy Virgin Mother of Perpetual Help with great respect and love I thank you. Most humble and precious Mother, I kneel before you to consecrate to you in a special manner my home and everybody and everything in it. I take you most loving, as the mother of my family. Queen of Heaven, make us worthy to become your favored children. Hold us under your protection. Protect us from sin and sinful occasions, and teach us to love Jesus your most Holy Child. I thank you most Holy Mother for your maternal protection, and numerous graces we have received through your powerful intercession. Grant that all who live may always invoke your good name for your name oh mother is help in life and salvation in death. Oh Mother of Perpetual Help, bless me and my household, pour your blessings on us, bless all those who think about you. So that we may contribute to you our family, may we imitate you in love, humility, chastity and resignation to the will of God, so that if we serve you worthily in this world, we may praise you and thank you forever in the world to come. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

All powerful and merciful Lord, you give us the picture of the Mother of your Son to venerate under the title of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Graciously grant that in all the difficulties of our lives we may be assisted by the continuous protection of the Virgin Mary and obtain the reward forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Ave Maria

Ave Maria, Gratia plena
 Maria, gratia plena
 Maria, gratia plena
 Ave, ave dominus, dominus tecum
 Benedicta tu in mulieribus
 Et benedictus
 Et benedictus fructus ventris
 Ventris tui, Jesus

Ave Maria, Mater Dei
 Ora pro nobis peccatoribus
 Ora, ora pro nobis
 Ora, ora pro nobis peccatoribus
 Nunc et in hora mortis
 In hora mortis nostrae
 In hora mortis nostrae
 In hora mortis nostrae
 Ave Maria

Novena Day #9

Opening Hymn: Immaculate Mother

Immaculate Mother	In heaven the blessed
To you do we plead	Your glory proclaim
To ask God, our Father	On earth we, your children
For help in our need.	Invoke your sweet name
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria	Ave, Ave, Ave Maria

Opening Prayer:

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

Most holy and Immaculate Virgin and our Mother Mary, you are our Perpetual Help, our refuge and our hope. We come to you today. We thank God for all the graces received through your intercession. Mother of Perpetual Help, we promise to love you always and to do all we can to lead others to you. Confident of your powerful influence with God, obtain for us these graces: the strength to overcome temptation, a perfect love for Jesus Christ, and a holy death so that we will live with you and your Son for all eternity. Amen.

Novena Prayer:

Dear Mother of Perpetual Help from the cross, Jesus gave you to us for our Mother. You are the kindest, the most loving of all mothers. Look tenderly on us, your children, as we now ask you to help us in all our needs especially this one... (Pause)

While you were on earth, dear Mother, you willingly shared in the suffering of your Son; strengthened by your faith and confidence in the Fatherly love of God, you accepted the mysterious designs of His Will.

We, too, have our crosses and trials. Sometimes they almost crush us to the ground. Dearest Mother, share with us your abundant faith and confidence in God. Make us aware that God never ceases to love us; that He answers all our prayers in the way that is best for us. Strengthen our hearts to carry our cross in the footsteps of your Divine Son. Help us to realize that he who shares the cross of Christ will certainly share His resurrection.

Dearest Mother, as we worry about our own problems let us not forget the needs of others. You always love others so much; help us to do the same. While praying for our own intentions and for the intentions of all that are present with us virtually at this Novena we earnestly ask you, our Mother, to help us comfort the sick and the dying, give hope to the poor and unemployed, heal the broken-hearted, lighten the burden of the oppressed, teach justice to their oppressors and bring back to God all those who have offended him.

Dearest Mother, help us to avoid sin which separates us from our heavenly Father and from one another. Full of trust in you we place ourselves under the mantle of your maternal protection and confidently hope for your powerful help. Amen.

Daily Reflection: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Assists Her Devotees in Purgatory

Will the exercise of Mary's mercy be limited, by chance, to the threshold of eternity or before the tribunal of Jesus Christ? Oh no! Remember, Her help is perpetual. With maternal solicitude, She continues working on our behalf until She sees us at Her side in glory. This compassionate Mother helps Her devotees not only in all the necessities of life and at death, but also in Purgatory. Since the imprisoned souls need greater help and because they are more tormented and cannot be relieved by their own efforts, this Queen of mercy busies Herself with greater efficacy in helping them.

Above all, just hearing Her most holy name pronounced alleviates those unhappy prisoners. They are consoled on thinking that the help of their Mother is perpetual and that it extends, therefore, even to that horrifying prison. One day, Jesus told Her, as St. Bridget heard it: "Thou art My Mother, the Mother of mercy, the consolations of those who find themselves in Purgatory."

And the Blessed Virgin said to the aforementioned saint, that just as the words of consolation She addresses to a poor, sick, afflicted and abandoned one, on his bed of sorrow, delights him, so also were those souls consoled with just hearing Her name. For Her dear children, this name is a great relief in that prison, for which they invoke it often. And the loving Mother, on hearing them invoke it, provides them Her maternal help, directs Her pleas to God with which many souls are helped and refreshed, as with heavenly dew, in their great sufferings.

Moreover, as sovereign Queen, She exercises in that prison Her dominion and the fullness of Her powers, not only to relieve, but also to free from their pains, those holy prisoners. And in regard to relieving them, St. Bernadine of Siena, applying to the matter we are dealing with, those words of Ecclesiasticus, "I have walked in the waves of the sea," says, "this is, visiting and helping in the necessities and pains of My devotees, who are My children. The pains of Purgatory may be called waves, adds the aforementioned saint, because they are transitory, different from those of Hell that never pass and they may be called waves of the sea because they are very bitter pains.

Afflicted by those pains, the devotees of Mary are often visited and aided by Her. Mary Herself revealed to St. Bridget that She was the Mother of all the souls that are found in Purgatory, because all the pains they deserve for the offences they committed in life, in a certain manner, are mitigated, hour by hour, by Her pleas. The compassionate Mother does not disdain descending at times to that holy prison to visit and console Her afflicted children. How important is it, then, to dedicate oneself to the veneration of that kindest Queen, since Her devotees are not forgotten in the purifying flames of Purgatory!

But Mary not only consoles, aids and visits Her children in that prison of expiation, but also at times, She takes them away from there to carry them to Heaven. On the day of Her glorious assumption, one pious tradition holds, Purgatory was left vacant, because Mary had asked and

obtained from Jesus Christ the privilege of taking with Her to glory all the souls that were then grieving in that place where fire purifies all stains.

And it is a matter of faith that with Her plea and petitions She has the singular privilege of freeing as it pleases Her, the souls in Purgatory, and especially those of Her most devoted children. Be a sincere devotee of this tender Mother, therefore, so you, too, may feel the sweet effects of Her maternal help when you are in Purgatory. Even more: ask Her to grant you, before death, the grace of making an act of such perfect love that you may fly to Heaven without even passing through those purifying flames

Meditate and ask for what you wish to obtain from Our Lady of Perpetual Help..

Hail Mary....

Hymn: Mother of Christ

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
What shall I ask of thee?
I do not sigh for the wealth of earth,
For joys that fade and fee;
But, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This do I long to see,
The bliss untold which think arms enfold,
The treasure upon thy knee.

Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
I toss on stormy sea,
O lift thy child as beacon light
To the port where I fain would be,
And, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christ,
This I do ask of thee,
When the voyage is o'er, O stand on the
shore, and show Him at last to me.

Petitions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

- Holy Mary,
- *Pray for us.*
- Holy Virgin conceived,
- *Pray for us.*
- We sinners call to you,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be filled with the Holy Spirit and become courageous with Christ's love for men
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be more and more like our Divine Lord, as you were,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may be meek and humble like your Son, Jesus,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may fear losing God's friendship forever by unrepented sin,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may seek Christ's mercy and forgiveness constantly in the Sacrament of Penance,
- *Loving Mother help us.*

- That we may be aware of God speaking to us in the events of daily life,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may pray daily with love and trust, especially in moments of temptation,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may realize the value of worshipping God together in the Eucharist,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may grow in the love of Christ and neighbor by frequent Communion,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may reverence our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may strive to be true Christians by our loving concern for others,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may proclaim the dignity of work by doing our own work conscientiously,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may forgive from our heart those who have wronged us,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may see the evil seeking our own interest at the expense of others,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may work for the just distribution of this world's goods,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may share our talents with others for the good of the community,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- That we may accept our responsibility in the community in the spirit of genuine service,
- *Loving Mother help us.*
- To pray that the Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen Pope Francis, the Bishops and the clergy,
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Amen.

Consecration of Family to Our Mother of Perpetual Help:

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Closing Prayer:

All powerful and merciful Lord, you give us the picture of the Mother of your Son to venerate under the title of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Graciously grant that in all the difficulties of our lives we may be assisted by the continuous protection of the Virgin Mary and obtain the reward forever and ever. Amen.

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 Et benedictus fructus ventris
 Ventris tui, Jesus

Ave Maria, Mater Dei
 Ora pro nobis peccatoribus
 Ora, ora pro nobis
 Ora, ora pro nobis peccatoribus
 Nunc et in hora mortis
 In hora mortis nostrae
 In hora mortis nostrae
 In hora mortis nostrae
 Ave Maria