

Prayer for the Feasts of the Circumcision and the Holy Name of Jesus

“Eight days being passed, the Child was circumcised and His Name was called Jesus.”

In order to melt the hard and frozen heart of sinful man, O divine Infant, the cold, the poverty, and the tears of Thy manger were not to be enough. Behold, even while the heavenly light and the echo of the angelic harmonies were not yet spent above Thy head, a knife of stone passed over Thy sacred flesh, work of the Holy Spirit, and drew from thence some drops of blood. Now, in the morning of life, those drops are few; but at eventide Thou wilt shed it all even to its last drop. Ah, make us also understand that we cannot escape the necessity of expiating our guilt and of recovering our freedom of spirit through mortification of the base instincts of our flesh.

The grandeur of Thy name, O Jesus, went before, accompanied, and followed Thy coming upon earth. From eternity the Father carried that name written in golden letters in His mind, and at the dawn of creation angelic harps intoned a hymn of praise to it, and the holy men of old greeted it from afar with a joyous heart-beat of hope. At its first echoes in the universe, the heavens opened, earth breathed again, and hell trembled. Its history records nothing but triumphs. For twenty centuries it has been the watch-word of true believers, who have always found in it, and will continue to find therein, the inspiration and the impelling power to reach the most exalted heights of virtue. It will ever be the sweetest name of all; it was spoken over Thy manger and inscribed upon the Cross; and through all the years it will bring to man's remembrance Him who loved us even unto death.

O Jesus, take full possession of our hearts, and make them live by Thy love only, until they consecrate their final beating to Thee.

Raccolta (1957) #129. S.P. AP, May 4, 1941

Novena for Epiphany Dec 28th – January 5th

Novena Prayer for Every Day:

At Thy birth, O Jesus, a star of wondrous splendor shone forth in the Eastern skies and led to Bethlehem the Magi, those envoys of far-distant, pagan peoples, even as the Angel, bathed in heavenly light, was summoning to Thy manger the shepherds, as representatives of the chosen people. For the Gentiles as well as the Jews, must needs recognize in Thee, a poor and helpless Infant, the Almighty King of Ages, the Savior of mankind. Neither scepter nor diadem disclosed Thy kingly state; no sweet harmonies, no hosts of angels mustering around Thy crib revealed Thy divine nature; but the star shining above Thy wretched stable pointed to the Heavens, the earth, and the entire universe as Thine absolute possessions; even as the Magi, who at the inspiration of Thy grace, coming promptly from afar, caring naught for dangers, overcoming every difficulty, and embracing every sacrifice, reached Thy feet and kneeling in reverence offered Thee gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Thirsting for God, they had gone eagerly in search of Thee, and Thou did reveal Thyself to them in a wonderful manner, while still in Thy crib, filling them with joy and transforming them into the first messengers of Thy glories to the peoples of the East.

After the appearance of the star, which sufficed to render the Magi Thy ardent followers, O Jesus, did Thou demonstrate Thy divinity! Yet what darkness still overshadows our poor minds! How reluctantly our wills give way to the loving impulses of Thy grace, even when they do not openly resist Thee! Give us, therefore, O Jesus, the strength to reply ever promptly and generously to Thy call, and grant that the divine light of faith, which was enkindled by Thee within us while still in our cradles, may ever accompany us on the road of life, until, blessed at last in Heaven, we shall be able to fix our eyes upon Thee in the light of glory.

Raccolta (1957) # 130 S.P. Ap., May 4, 1941.

Prayer During Christmastide

Most dear Lord Jesus Christ Who, being made a Child for us, didst will to be born in a cave to free us from the darkness of sin, to draw us unto Thee, and to set us on fire with Thy holy love; we adore Thee as our Creator and Redeemer, we acknowledge Thee and choose Thee for our King and Lord, and for tribute we offer Thee all the affection of our poor hearts. Dear Jesus, Our Lord and God, graciously accept this offering, and that it may be worthy of Thine acceptance, forgive us our sins, enlighten us, and inflame us with that sacred fire which Thou camest to bring upon the earth and to enkindle in our hearts. May our souls thus become an altar on which we may offer Thee the sacrifice of our mortifications; grant that we may ever seek Thy greater glory here on earth, so that one day we may come to enjoy Thine infinite loveliness in heaven. Amen.

Raccolta (1957) #127. S.C. Ind., Jan. 18, 1894; S.P. Ap., Feb. 21, 1933

Another Epiphany Prayer

O divine Infant, who, after the wonders of Thy birth in Bethlehem, wishing to extend to the whole world Thine infinite mercy, didst call the Wise Men by heavenly inspiration to Thy crib, which was thus converted into a throne of royal grandeur, and didst graciously receive those holy men, who were obedient to the divine call and hastened to Thy feet, acknowledging Thee and worshiping Thee as the Prince of Peace, the Redeemer of mankind, and the very Son of God; ah, renew in us the proofs of Thy goodness and almighty power; enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills, and inflame our hearts to know Thee, to serve Thee, and to love Thee in this life, meriting thus to enjoy Thee eternally in the life to come.

Raccolta (1957) #128. S.P. Ap., July 14, 1924 and Jan. 15, 1935