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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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## Gratitude and Hope: Remember, Rejoice, Renew

Today we celebrate the Annual Novena Procession and it is particularly significant because it is the 75th Anniversary of Novena Church. The theme chosen for the celebration reflects God's constant faithfulness and Mary's intercession both in the past and into the future. It expresses our gratitude for all we have received and the hope that we have in God's plentiful redemption.

**Gratitude** - In 1949, the novena began with just a handful of people in the house chapel. Very soon, a church had to be built and within a couple of decades, the novena attracted thousands of devotees every Saturday. We are most grateful for how Mary our Mother, has through the novena, drawn thousands of people to the Catholic faith and helped countless people of all faiths experience the plentiful redemption that her Son Jesus offers.

**Hope** - At our last General Chapter, Redemptorists around the world, were urged to be missionaries of hope and the Jubilee Year reminds us that we are pilgrims walking with hope. The Gospel tells us the story of Jesus' birth and it is a reminder that even though our world is so wounded, there is always hope because God is truly present, especially in places where woundedness abounds. Jesus is Emmanuel, God-is-with-us. God is with us throughout our pilgrimage of life, through both happy and challenging moments.

**Remember** - Our Christian faith places a great emphasis on memory. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist and when we celebrate the Annual Procession, we remember the blessings that we have received from God. They are signs of God's faithfulness and presence in our lives, the fruits of Mary's intercession.

**Rejoice** - This memory of God's blessings leads us to two things. First, it leads us to rejoice. People participate at the Procession with such passion and enthusiasm. Anniversaries, especially milestone anniversaries, are days to celebrate God's faithfulness and blessings.

**Renew** - The memory of God's blessings also leads us to share those blessings with others. This week our Superior-General Fr. Rogerio Gomes and one-hundred Redemptorists and our lay partners have gathered to renew our charism to preach the Good News to the most abandoned. The prophet Micah referred to this group as the remnant, the anawim, for whom God has special care and who Redemptorists give special attention to in their apostolate. This anniversary must push us to renew this commitment. At the same time, the *anawim* are themselves missionaries of hope to us. Paul tells the Romans, 'for those who love God, all things work together unto good.' Our devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help is a reminder that with God there is always hope, mercy and plentiful redemption - that all shall be well.

A Reflection by Fr Gerard Louis CSSR

## Readings & responses for the week

### 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, 7 SEPTEMBER	Wis 9:13-18. Phm 9-10,12-17. Lk 14:25-33 O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next
Monday 8 SEPTEMBER The Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary	Mic 5:1-4; Mt 1: 1-16,18-23 I exult for joy in the Lord.
Tuesday 9 SEPTEMBER St Peter Claver	Col 2: 6-15; Lk 6:12-19 How good is the Lord to all.
Wednesday, 10 SEPTEMBER	Col 3:1-11; Lk 6:20-26 How good is the Lord to all.
Thursday, 11 SEPTEMBER	Col 3:12-17; Lk 6:27-38 Let everything that breathes give praise to the Lord.
Friday, 12 SEPTEMBER The Most Holy Name of Mary	1 Tim 1:1-2,12-14, Lk 6:39-42 You are my inheritance, O Lord.
Saturday, 13 SEPTEMBER St John Chrysostum	1 Tim 1:15-17, Lk 6:43-49 May the name of the Lord be blessed for evermore!

### NOVENA DEVOTIONS ON SATURDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.30pm

2.00pm (Mandarin)

### MASS ON WEEKDAYS

12:15pm, 6.30pm

9.00am, 6.30pm Public Holiday

(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

### MASS ON SATURDAY

7.00am, 6.30pm (Sunset)

### MASS ON SUNDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.30pm  
(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

### SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

No booking is required. There will not be standing room allowed in the main church.

### RECEPTION OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 8.00pm

Lunch Hour 11.45am to 12.45pm

Saturday 7.30am to 8.00pm

Sunday 8.30am to 1.30pm & 4.30pm to 7.00pm

Closed on Public Holiday

### GIFTSHOP OPERATING HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday  
10.30am to 6.30pm

Lunch Hour 12.15pm to 12.45pm

Saturday 8.30am to 6.30pm

Sunday 9.00am to 1.30pm

Closed on Thursday and Public Holiday

## SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES



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## PRO-BONO COUNSELLING



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Pro-bono counselling service is available to anyone who requires support.

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For more information

6631 8963 (Monday - Friday)

### The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

It is a significant feast in the Christian liturgical calendar within the Catholic Church. It not only marks the birth of Mary but also highlights her role as the mother of Jesus Christ, the Savior. This feast serves as a reminder of God's divine plan and the grace bestowed upon Mary from the moment of her birth. It is a day filled with joy and celebration, reflecting on the miracles and intercessions attributed to Mary throughout history.

## NOVENA BIBLE APOSTOLATE



### James *Pearls for Wise Living*

BIBLE STUDY

Looking for an anchor to hold you steady through the storms of life?

James, one of the most practical books of the Bible, is a collection of teachings on issues faced by ordinary Christians in everyday life. In James, Pearls for Wise Living, Jeff Cavins shows how the teachings of James speak to those of us who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and our faith.

11 sessions - every Thursday

Date: 2025, Sept 18, 25

Oct 02, 09, 16, 23, & 30

Nov: 06, 13, 20 & 27

Fee: Love Offering

Venue: Novena Church

To Register: [Click Here](#) or Scan QR



STARTING ON 18 SEPTEMBER, 2025 | 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM



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<https://novenachurch.com/faith-formation/>



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### The Most Holy Name of Mary

It is celebrated on September 12 in the Catholic Church. This feast honors the name of the Virgin Mary, which is significant in Christian tradition, symbolizing her role as the Mother of God. The name "Mary" is often interpreted to mean "Star of the Sea," reflecting her guidance and intercession for believers. The feast was established to commemorate the victory at the Battle of Vienna in 1683 and has been celebrated universally since 1684.