

Novena for Victims of Abuse

For use during the YouTube Novena starting on April 19, 2021



APRIL 19TH—APRIL 28TH

April is recognized as Child Abuse Awareness Month. This year the Diocese of Santa Rosa will have a novena that will be prayed with a decade of the rosary, beginning on April 19th and continuing for 9 additional consecutive nights.

It will start with the Sorrowful Mysteries for the first five nights and then continue with the Glorious Mysteries. Bishop Vasa will lead the 10th night (April 28th, the Feast of St. Louis de Montfort), and include a prayer for people to renew their consecration to Our Blessed Mother through the prayer of St. Louis de Montfort.

Each day begin with

A PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong always present, always just;
You gave your only Son
to save us by his Blood on the Cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters
who have been gravely harmed,
and the cries of those who love them.
Soothe their restless hearts with hope,
steady their shaken spirits with faith.
Grant them justice for their cause,
enlightened by your truth.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness into wholeness.

Grant us the courage and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act with justice.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.

Grant that all harmed by abuse
might find peace in justice.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Then say a

DECADE OF THE ROSARY

Sorrowful Mysteries: April 19-23

Glorious Mysteries: April 24-28

Each day end with

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness
and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou,
O Prince of heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all evil spirits,
who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen

HAIL HOLY QUEEN

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To you do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
your eyes of mercy towards us;
and after this our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Rosary Prayers

OUR FATHER

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HAIL MARY

Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

GLORY BE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Sorrowful Mysteries

Day One—AGONY IN THE GARDEN

He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. (Lk 22:44)

Many victims of child sexual abuse suffer in silence for years, wrestling alone with the agony of their memories and pain. We pray that the Church may always be a place where they can come to share their stories, be received in love and compassion, and be supported on the path to healing.

Day Two—SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. (Jn 19:1)

The experience of child sexual abuse may leave scars no less profound than the scars of a scourging, though they often remain unseen. We must strive to make our parish communities places where victims can feel safe to share their burdens and to find healing and peace.

Day Three—CROWNING WITH THORNS

And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly. (Jn 19:2-3)

Those who have survived sexual abuse may feel isolated from the community, set apart and unwelcome. Jesus must have felt the same as the soldiers mocked and tortured him. As members of Christ's Body, the Church, we are called to see Christ in our brothers and sisters in need and offer them our aid, comfort, and support.

Day Four—CARRYING OF THE CROSS

They pressed onto service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. (Mk 15:21)

Simon helped Jesus carry his cross, helping him bear the weight and the burden. So must we help victims of child sexual abuse bear the weight and burden of their experiences, helping them to find healing in God who is light and life.

Day Five—THE CRUCIFIXION

Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit;" and when he had said this he breathed his last." (Lk 23:46)

We commend into God's hands all those who are at risk for child sexual abuse, those who are doing the hard work of healing, and those who are not yet ready to begin the healing process. Through our prayers, efforts, and sacrifices, may they come to know the peace and wholeness that only God can bring.

Glorious Mysteries

Day Six—THE RESURRECTION

"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised." (Lk 24:5-6)

The Father's gift of healing is a wondrous thing, bringing new life and hope from what was pain and despair. We pray for all victims of child sexual abuse, that they may come to abundant new life in the Risen Lord.

Day Seven—THE ASCENSION INTO HEAVEN

As [the apostles] were looking on, [Jesus] was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. (Acts 1:9)

Jesus ascended into heaven in the presence of his Apostles, making them his witnesses to the whole world. We, too, are called to be witnesses, speaking on behalf of vulnerable children and young people and helping to build a society where they are safe from those who would steal their trust and their innocence.

Day Eight—THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. (Acts 2:4)

The Spirit brought the Apostles the gift of courage. No longer did they hide behind locked doors in the upper room, seeking their own safety. Rather, they boldly went out into the city proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and calling the people to repentance in his name. In the same way, we must boldly speak out to protect children and to create environments where they can grow and learn in safety.

Day Nine—THE ASSUMPTION

The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God. (Rv 12:6)

At her death, Mary was assumed into heaven, body and soul. As she carried the Son of God in her body, her body was taken to heaven to share in the full glory of her Son. We pray for those victims of child sexual abuse who seek healing and wholeness, that Mary will present them to her Son who alone makes us whole.

Day Ten—THE CROWNING OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AS QUEEN OF HEAVEN

I will make your name renowned through all generations; thus nations shall praise you forever. (Ps 45:18)

As the Mother of our Redeemer, Mary was crowned as Queen of Heaven. From heaven, she intercedes for us as a loving mother. We entrust into her maternal care all vulnerable children and young people, praying that she will intercede on their behalf and keep them safe from all harm.