

'O' Antiphon Christmas Novena

***Pray this Nine Day Novena beginning on the 16th
of December and ending on the 24th***

Mention your request after daily prayers



December 16

O Shepherd that rules Israel, You who lead Mary and Joseph as Your dearest sheep, come to guide and comfort us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.



December 17

O Wisdom that comes out of the mouth of the Most High, that reaches from one end to another, and orders all things mightily and sweetly, come to teach us the way of prudence!

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.



December 18

O Adonai, O Lord, and ruler of the house of Israel, Who did appear unto Moses in the burning bush, and gave him the law in Sinai, come to redeem us with an outstretched arm!

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.



December 19

O Root of Jesse, which stands for an ensign of the people, at Whom the kings shall shut their mouths, Whom the Gentiles shall seek, come to deliver us, do not tarry.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.



December 20

O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel, that opens and no man shuts, and shuts and no man opens, come to liberate the prisoner from the prison, refuge us in Your Heart!

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.



December 21

O Dayspring, brightness of the everlasting light, Son of justice, come to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death!

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.



December 22

O King of the Gentiles, yea, and their Desired! O Corner-stone, that makes of two one, come to save man, whom You have made out of the dust of the earth!

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.



December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and our Law-giver, Longing of the Gentiles, yea, and their salvation, come to save us, O Lord our God!

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.



December 24

O You that sits upon the Cherubim, God of hosts, come, show Your Face, and we shall be saved.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

The O Antiphons: Messianic titles and reflections

O Sapientia: O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation. Isaiah had prophesied, *‘The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord’.* (Isa 11:2-3), and *‘Wonderful is His counsel and great is His wisdom.’* (28:29).

O Adonai: O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free. Isaiah had prophesied, *‘But He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land’s afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.’* (Isa 11:4-5); and *‘Indeed the Lord will be there with us, majestic; yes the Lord our judge, the Lord our lawgiver, the Lord our king, he it is who will save us’.* (33:22).

O Radix Jesse: O Root of Jesse, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid. Isaiah had prophesied, *‘But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.’* (Isa 11:1), and *‘On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.’*(11:10). Remember also that Jesse was the father of King David, and Micah had prophesied that *the Messiah would be of the house and lineage of David and be born in David’s city, Bethlehem* (Micah 5:1).

O Clavis David: O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of Heaven: *‘Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom’.* Isaiah had prophesied, *‘I will place the Key of the House of David on His shoulder; when he opens, no one will shut, when he shuts, no one will open’.* (Isa 22:22), and *‘His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David’s throne, and over His kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever.’* (9:6).

O Oriens: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: *come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.* Isaiah had prophesied, *‘The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown.’* (Isa 9:1).

O Rex Gentium: O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, *come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.* Isaiah had prophesied, *‘For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.’* (Isa 9:5), and *“He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.”* (2:4).

O Emmanuel: O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, *come and set us free, Lord our God.* Isaiah had prophesied, *‘The Lord himself will give you this sign: the Virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.’* (Isa 7:14). Let us remember ‘Emmanuel’ means ‘God is with us’ and that He has come *‘that we may have life and have it abundantly’*, so that *‘we may abide in Him who is love’*, laying down our lives for Him, *‘that where He is, we also may be’* (John 10; 14; 17).

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