

The Study of Saint Anthony's life convinces us that the reason for his irresistible attraction to people everywhere must be sought in the absolute fidelity which he proclaimed the Gospel, and in the courageous consistency with which he strove to embody its teachings.

—Saint Pope John Paul II

THE SOLEMN NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT ANTHONY

THE HISTORY OF THE DEVOTION

Saint Anthony died on Friday, June 13, 1231, and was buried on the following Tuesday, June 17. Tradition states that Anthony's funeral procession became a triumphal celebration in light of many great miracles which took place. On that day, the blind saw, the deaf heard, the mute spoke, and cripples walked again. All those who called up on the name of Anthony received God's help and mercy. In gratitude for these many signs and wonders, the faithful have since set aside each Tuesday to honor the saint. Through the centuries, crowds have gathered at his tomb, especially on Tuesdays, and the faithful of Padua profess that whatever is asked of God through Saint Anthony on this day will be granted.

The practice of Tuesday devotion spread widely in Italy and other parts of Europe and gained momentum in the years to come. In 1617, a novel woman of Bologna sought a particular favor from God through the intercession of Saint Anthony. Her prayer was that she and her husband might be blessed with children. One night, the saint appeared to her in a dream and said, "Visit my shrine in the church of the Franciscans for nine Tuesdays, and your prayers will be heard." After following this directive, the woman's prayer was answered.

News of this blessing received through prayer spread far, and the practice of nine Tuesday's devotion traveled with it. In some places, the number of Tuesday's was increased to thirteen commemorating the date of Saint Anthony's death.

SOLEMN MASS AND NOVENA DEVOTIONS IN HONOR OF SAINT ANTHONY

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

How good it is, O glorious Saint,
In these our troubled days,
To look upon your holy life,
Your kind and gentle ways.
How good it is in hour of need
To call upon your name,
And find compassion ever there,
Your love always the same.

Refrain:

O wonderful Saint Anthony
Before the Lord we pray:
Your life and faith inspire us now
To live the Gospel way.

To you the Lord through prayer and faith
Has made His precepts known.
His gospel was your source of strength,
In you his light has shone.
Good Teacher, instrument of God,
Who spoke and lived His Word,
Call forth our weary songs to sing
The praises of our Lord.

Refrain.

MASS

Liturgy of the Word

Liturgy of the Eucharist

NOVENA BEGINS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION.

HYMN

The love and care you have for us
Is far beyond compare.
Our hearts are bound by trust in you
Which we now firmly share.
We pray O heav'nly Saint that you
May ask for us God's grace;
To shine upon our lives as bright
As did your saintly face.
O wonderful Saint Anthony,
Before the Lord we pray;
Your life and faith inspire us now
To live the Gospel way.

Priest: Dear brothers and sisters let us call upon our Lord Jesus Christ to fill us with His kindness, to give us His peace, to take away our sins, to dispel all doubt from our minds, and to enkindle in our hearts a worthy desire to imitate Saint Anthony of Padua.

KNEEL

LITANY OF SAINT ANTHONY

V. Lord, have mercy.	R. Lord, have mercy.
V. Christ, have mercy.	R. Christ, have mercy.
V. Lord, have mercy.	R. Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us. **Christ, graciously hear us.**
God, the Father of Heaven, **have mercy on us.**
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy on us.**
God, the Holy Spirit, **have mercy on us.**
Holy Trinity, one God, **have mercy on us.**

Holy Mary, **Pray for us.**

Holy Father Francis, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony of Padua, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, glory of the Order of Friars Minor, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, Martyr in desiring to die for Christ, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, Pillar of the Church, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, Worthy Priest of God, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, Apostolic Preacher, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, Teacher of Truth, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, Tenor of evil spirits, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, Comforter of the afflicted, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, Helper in necessities, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, Deliverer of captives, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, Guide of the erring, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, Restorer of lost things, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, Chosen intercessor, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, Continuous worker of miracles, **Pray for us.**

Be merciful unto us, **spare us, O Lord.**

Be merciful unto us, **hear us, O Lord.**

From all evil, **O Lord, deliver us.**

From all sin, **O Lord, deliver us.**

From all dangers of body and soul, **O Lord, deliver us.**

From the snares of the devil, **O Lord, deliver us.**

From pestilence, famine and war, **O Lord, deliver us.**

From eternal death, **O Lord, deliver us.**

Through the merits of Saint Anthony, **O Lord, deliver us.**

Through his zeal for the conversion of sinners, **O Lord, deliver us.**

Through his desire for the crown of martyrdom, **O Lord, deliver us.**

Through his fatigues and labors, **O Lord, deliver us.**

Through his preaching and teaching, **O Lord, deliver us.**

Through his tears of penance, **O Lord, deliver us.**

Through his patience and humility, **O Lord, deliver us.**

Through his glorious death, **O Lord, deliver us.**

Through the number of his wonderful deeds **O Lord, deliver us.**

In the day of judgement, **O Lord, deliver us.**

We sinners, **We beseech You, hear us.**

Bring us to true penance, **We beseech You, hear us.**
Grant us patience in our trials, **We beseech You, hear us.**
Assist us in our needs, **We beseech You, hear us.**
Grant us our petitions **We beseech You, hear us.**
Kindle the fire of Your love in us **We beseech You, hear us.**
Favor us with the protection and intercession of Saint Anthony, **We beseech You, hear us.**
Son of God, **We beseech You, hear us.**

Priest: Pray for us, O Blessed Anthony.

All: **That we may be made worth of the promises of Christ.**

All: **O Lord Jesus Christ, true God and true man, for Your sake alone, and because I love You, I am most heartily sorry for having offended You; and I firmly resolve with the assistance of Your grace, never again to offend You. I am ready to confess my sins, to make due restitution, or repair any injury or damage caused by me. For love of You I also forgive all those who have ever injured me. To You, O Lord, I offer up my life, my every thought, word, and action, my comforts and sufferings in union with the merits of Your bitter passion and death. I offer them together with the virtues and good works of Saint Anthony, your beloved servant, in whose honor I keep this novena.**

All: **Grant me Your grace and hear my petitions through the intercession of Saint Anthony. Amen**

Glorious Saint Anthony, light of the Church, and true son of Saint Francis of Assisi, help us to have a true and solid devotion to you, so that we may imitate your life, and work for God and souls.

All: **May your spirit of prayer make us always faithful to the vows of our baptism. Put into our hearts the fire of divine charity, that we may love our Father in heaven; that Christ the King may reign in our hearts and purify them of all evil; and that we may love our neighbor as you taught.**

Saint Anthony of Padua, apostle and teacher, keep before us always the Word of God, which was the source of your wisdom. Teach us the ways of God, that we may live the Gospel of Christ, and grow in Him.

Saint Anthony, lover of souls, pray that the spirit of the Gospel may reach the people of every nation, beginning with ourselves. Pray that the spirit of Christian love and unity may fill the people of God, and bring all His children together again as one flock with one Shepherd. Amen.

Priest: Pray for us, O Blessed Anthony.

All: That we may be made worth of the promises of Christ.

All: O good Saint Anthony, you are called the Saint of Padua, but you are worthy to be called the Saint of the World, because the whole world invokes you and praises you, You, who so often held in your arms the Baby Jesus, bring him back into our hearts from which we have so often driven Him away by our sins. Obtain for us the grace necessary to keep Him always in our hearts and especially the grace of perseverance.

O Blessed Anthony, with firm hope we implore your aid. Obtain for us, we beseech you, our requests.

(Pause and silently mention your request.)

But if it should be opposed to the will of God and the welfare of our souls, obtain for us such other graces as shall be helpful to our salvation. Amen.

All: O glorious Saint Anthony, helper of the poor and comforter of the afflicted, you who have come with such loving solicitude to my assistance and have comforted me so abundantly, look upon me with kindness as I offer you my heartfelt thanks. Accept, therefore, my thanksgiving and with it my promise, which I now renew, to live always in the love of Jesus and of my neighbor. Continue to guard me with your protection that I might receive the final grace of being at one with you and the saints in God's Kingdom. Amen.

Priest: Pray for us, O Blessed Anthony.

All: That we may be made worth of the promises of Christ.

STAND

Priest: Let us pray —

(during Paschal time)

God of mercy, You wash away our sins by water, give us new birth in Your Spirit, and redeem us in the blood of Christ. As we celebrate Christ's resurrection increase our awareness of these blessings and renew Your gift of life within us. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

(after Pentecost)

God, our Father, let your Spirit You sent on Your Church to begin the teaching of the Gospel continue to work in the worth through the hearts of all who believe. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. May God inspire you to follow the example of Saint Anthony and give witness to the Truth before all people.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: May the prayers of Saint Anthony deliver you from present evils, and may his example of holy living turn your thoughts to the service of God and your neighbor.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Like Saint Anthony, may we come to share in the joy of our Father's house.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Through the intercession of Saint Anthony, may Almighty God bless you: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Let us go in peace.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ALL ARE INVITED TO COME FORWARD AND VENERATE THE RELIC OF SAINT ANTHONY.

PRAYER CONCLUDING THE FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

TO BE RECITED AFTER THE PROCESSION

O Blessed Anthony, my faithful intercessor, I have now through the grace of God and your assistance, finished this pious exercise in your honor. I had, indeed the will and desire to do all in my power for your greater honor and glory, but you know my weakness and misery and want of devotion; wherefore, I beseech you to make amends for all my failings, and to offer your merits and good works for me; that I may find grace and hearing with God.

Obtain for me, through your merits, the blessing of a virtuous life, a true knowledge of my God and of myself, a perfect mortification of y sense, and a complete triumph over all temptations. I place myself under your special protection; assist me to follow your example in life and come to my aid in death; in that moment let me experience the might of your help.

Amen.

CHAPLET OF SAINT ANTHONY

During the nineteenth century, some people in Padua began to recite the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be thirteen times in thanksgiving for favors granted after having prayer the Responsory of Saint Anthony. This is known as the Rosary or Chaplet of Saint Anthony. It is composed of thirteen groups of three beads each. On the first bead of each three is said Our Father, on the second, Hail Mary, and on the third, Glory Be, and so on.

THE RESPONSORY OF SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

If you ask for a miracle,
Death, error, all calamities,
The leprosy and demons fly,
And health succeeds infirmities.

Refrain: The sea obeys and fetters break,
And lifeless limbs thou dost restore;
Whilst treasures lost are found again,
When young and old thine aid implore.

All dangers vanish at our prayer,
The direst need does quickly flee.
Let those who know thy power proclaim,
Let Paduans say these are of you.

Refrain

To Father, Son may glory be
And Holy Spirit eternally.

Refrain

V. Pray for us, blessed Anthony,
R. **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us Pray. O God, let the votive commemoration of Blessed Anthony, Your confessor, make glad Your Church that we may be fortified by spiritual assistance, and may deserve to possess joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER TO FIND WHAT IS LOST

St. Anthony, when you prayed, your stolen book of prayers was given back to you. Pray now for all of us who have lost things precious and dear. Pray for all who have lost faith, hope or the friendship of God. Pray for us who have lost friends or relatives by death. Pray for all who have lost peace of mind or spirit. Pray that we may be given new hope, new faith, new love. Pray that lost things, needful and helpful to us, may be returned to our keeping. Or, if we must continue in our loss, pray that we may be given Christ's comfort and peace. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

St. Anthony, God has helped me abundantly through your prayer and has strengthened me in my need. I thank God and I thank you. Accept this prayer and my serious resolve which I now renew, to live always in the love of Jesus and of my neighbor. Continue to shield me by your protection and pray to God for the final grace of one day entering the kingdom of heaven to sing with you the everlasting mercies of God. Amen.

PRAYER FOR POOR CHILDREN

St. Anthony, your love for the infant Jesus made him present to you to see and hold in your arms. Help us to see and love Jesus in all the poor and suffering of the world. Move us to clothe, feed and help Jesus, in all unwanted, abused and abandoned children and people. Lead us, for the sake of Jesus, who became a child like one of us, to reverence and protect all human life from its beginning to its end. Amen.

SAINT ANTHONY'S BREAD

One of the oldest of the devotions to Saint Anthony, this tradition began prior to 1263, when a young child drowned near Saint Anthony's Basilica, which was then under construction. His mother sought the aid of Saint Anthony, and promised if the child were restored to life, she would provide a measure of grain equal to the boy's weight to be given to the poor. The boy was restored to life.

In some places arose the custom of placing children under Saint Anthony's protection. Some parents would then donate grain equal to the child's weight to feed poor patients in the city hospital. More wealthy parents might donate silver to be used to purchase bread for the poor.

In the late nineteenth century, the custom of donating money for the poor in honor of Saint Anthony began. For the Church of Saint Anthony in Rome, bread is distributed daily to the poor. It is indeed a fitting sign of faith and of devotion to the generous spirit of Saint Anthony that the faithful pledge and contribute alms to the poor in the name of "Saint Anthony's Bread."

In many churches, the public blessing of small loaves of bread is customary on the feast of the Saint. These loaves are distributed as a reminder of the Saint's charity for the poor and are devoutly eaten as pledge of divine grace.

FROM A SERMON BY SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA, PRIEST

Actions speak louder than words

The man who is filled with the Holy Spirit speaks in different languages. These different languages are different ways of witnessing to Christ, such as humility, poverty, patience and obedience; we speak in those languages when we reveal in ourselves these virtues to others. Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak. We are full of words but empty of actions, and therefore are cursed by the Lord, since he himself cursed the fig tree when he found no fruit but only leaves. Gregory says: "A law is laid upon the preacher to practice what he preaches." It is useless for a man to flaunt his knowledge of the law if he undermines its teaching by his actions.

But the apostles spoke as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. Happy the man whose words issue from the Holy Spirit and not from himself! For some men speak as their own character dictates, but steal the words of others and present them as their own and claim the credit for them. The Lord refers to such men and others like them in Jeremiah: *So, then, I have a quarrel with the prophets that steal my words from each other. I have a quarrel with the prophets, says the Lord, who have only to move their tongues to utter oracles. I have a quarrel with the prophets who make prophecies out of lying dreams, who recount them and lead my people astray with their lies and their pretensions. I certainly never sent them or commissioned them, and they serve no good purpose for this people, says the Lord.*

We should speak, then, as the Holy Spirit gives us the gift of speech. Our humble and sincere request to the Spirit for ourselves should be that we may bring the day of Pentecost to fulfillment, insofar as he infuses us with his grace, by using our bodily senses in a perfect manner and by keeping the commandments. Likewise we shall request that we may be filled with a keen sense of sorrow and with fiery tongues for confessing the faith, so that our deserved reward may be to stand in the blazing splendor of the saints and to look upon the triune God.

(Sermons I, 226)

Almighty, eternal God,

You have given Your people Saint Anthony as an outstanding preacher and intercessor in times of need.

Grant that with his help we may follow the example of Christian living and experience Your support in all adversities.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.