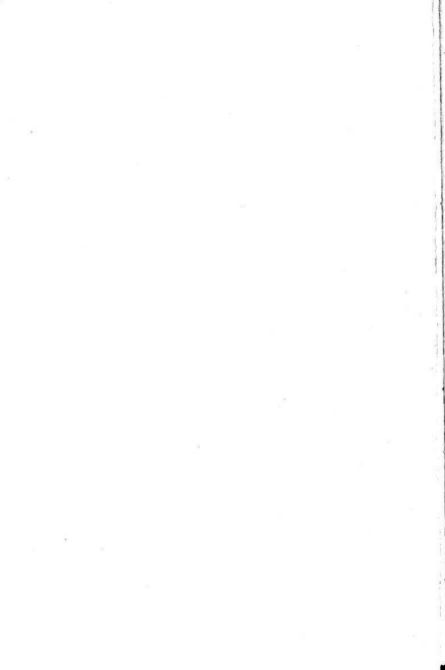




Preparing to  
**WELCOME JESUS**



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# PREPARING TO WELCOME JESUS

## My Novena of Preparation

Just nine more days

before Jesus will come  
for the first time.

Oh, I can hardly wait!

I must get my heart ready.

I must make it very lovely.

I will do something special

each day of my novena.

I will make flowers for my King.

When He comes into my heart

He will find them there.

They will tell Him

how much I love Him.

Holy Guardian Angel,

help me to do my best each day.

Dear Mother Mary, and Saint Joseph,

will you take care

of the flowers I make?

## First Day

Flowers I will make:

Red Roses

How I will make them:

By being kind to others.

Prayer I will say:

Sweetest Jesus,

You were always very kind  
to others.

You want me to be kind  
to others too.

Today I will try very hard  
to be kind  
at home,  
at school,  
at play.

Each time I do something  
kind for someone  
I will make  
a pretty red rose  
for my heart-garden.

## Second Day

Flowers I will make:

Violets

How I will make them:

By not getting angry.

Prayer I will say:

Holy Child Jesus,

When You were just as old as  
I am,

You were very gentle.

You never got angry.

Dear Holy Child,

You are coming  
into my heart very soon.

You will be happy to see  
many violets there.

I will make them

by being gentle like You,  
even when I feel very angry.

## Third Day

Flowers I will make:

Forget-me-nots

How I will make them:

By making Visits to Jesus.

Prayer I will say:

It is sweet to know

that You, dear Jesus,

are always in the Tabernacle.

You are waiting for me.

You want me to come to You.

I will visit You many times.

I will not forget You.

Each little visit

will be a tiny, blue flower.

These forget-me-nots will be in my  
heart

when You come

for my First Communion Visit.

Dear Jesus, I want You.

Please come to me soon.

## Fourth Day

Flowers I will make:

Lilies of the valley

How I will make them:

By being unselfish.

Prayer I will say:

When You were a child

like me, dear Jesus,

When Your playmates

wanted anything You had,

You gave it to them gladly.

You did not take the best

of everything for Yourself.

You did not always want to be first.

I will be like You,

Dear Holy Child.

I will be unselfish too.

I will do this because I love You.

## Fifth Day

Flowers I will make:

Bluebells

How I will make them:

By being cheerful.

Prayer I will say:

It is not always easy to be cheerful.

Sometimes I feel mean and grumpy.

Dear Jesus,

You want me to be happy  
and cheerful.

You want me

to make others cheerful, too.

Please help me

to do that,

even when things do not go  
the way I want them to.

I hope You will like my bluebells;

they are very hard to make.

## Sixth Day

Flowers I will make:

Daisies

How I will make them:

By being obedient.

Prayer I will say:

When You lived in Nazareth,  
with Mother Mary and St. Joseph  
You were obedient, dear Jesus.

You did what You were told  
right away.

When I do not feel  
that I want to obey,  
help me to remember  
that You always did  
. . . and You were God!

Each time I obey cheerfully,  
I will make a tall daisy  
that will stand like a soldier  
in my garden when You come.

## Seventh Day

Flowers I will make:

Buttercups

How I will make them:

By being diligent.

Prayer I will say:

Dear Jesus,

You like to have us

pray when we pray,

work when we work,

and play when we play.

If we do this,

we will always be busy;

we will not have time to sin.

Dear Jesus, I will make

many buttercups for You.

I want my heart to be very lovely

when You come.

Jesus, I can hardly wait.

## Eighth Day

Flowers I will make:

Lilies

How I will make them:

By keeping away from all sin.

Prayer I will say:

Jesus, my God,

In just a few days

You are coming to me!

My heart must be very pure.

It must be as pure and white

as an Easter Lily.

Help me to be very sorry

for all my sins.

Help me not to want sin

any more.

Dearest Mother Mary,

Make my heart

as beautiful as yours was,

when you made

your First Holy Communion.

## Ninth Day

Flowers I will make:

Pansies

How I will make them:

By thinking of Jesus.

Prayer I will say:

In just a few more hours  
my Jesus will come.

I will try to think of Him  
all day.

I will invite Him  
again and again.

+ I will tell Him  
over and over  
how much I love Him. †

I will ask Mother Mary  
to pray for me.

Good Saint Joseph,  
will you fix the flowers  
in my garden  
so that Jesus will like them?

## My Novena Is Finished

All: My heart is a little garden now,  
Where lovely flowers grow.

Solo: Jesus my Guest will like it,  
My dear Mother told me so.

Boys: At the gate are red roses to  
greet Him,  
And tall white lilies stand in  
a row.

Girls: Soft little pansies and violets  
Gently sway to and fro.

Solo: There are tiny forget-me-nots  
Of the daintiest, prettiest blue.

Boys: Daisies that stand like soldiers,  
And buttercups that catch the  
dew.

Girls: Lilies of the valley, scatter  
perfume;  
While bluebells ring and swing.

All: When Jesus sees my garden,  
Oh, I know He will come in!

## A Little Talk With Jesus the Night Before He Comes

Dearest Jesus,  
I am all excited  
when I think of tomorrow.

You, the Great God . . .  
The King of heaven and earth  
will come into the heart  
of Your little child.

+ It is too wonderful  
for me to understand,  
But I am very, very happy,  
and I want You, Oh so much!  
I hope, dear Jesus, that You will find  
my heart-garden ready.

I have tried my best  
to make the flowers beautiful.  
Oh, I wish my garden were better!  
But I know that You will be pleased;  
so come, sweet Jesus, my Saviour,  
come, dear Jesus, my King.

# MY FIRST COMMUNION DAY

## I Invite Jesus

My heart is a little garden  
Where Jesus will love to rest,  
He is coming in this morning  
To be my only Guest.

Angels are singing a welcome,  
While Mother Mary stands at the gate.  
The flowers are lovely and fragrant  
And I can hardly wait.

Oh come, sweet Jesus, my Saviour!  
Oh come, great Christ, my King!  
The garden of my heart is ready;  
Won't You please, Oh please, come in!

## We Renew Our Baptism Promises

*Priest:* Dear children!

The happy day  
of your First Holy Communion  
has come.

You are to receive Jesus  
for the first time.

The angels and saints  
are happy with you today.

Your parents and friends  
are happy too.

Before you receive Jesus,  
I, your pastor,  
want you to make  
an act of faith  
before all the people.

(Children say the Apostles' Creed  
and the Our Father together)

*Priest:* When you were baptized,  
Your god-parents made promises  
to God for you.

Now you are old enough  
to make them yourselves.

Tell me: Do you promise  
to have nothing to do  
with the devil?

*Children:*

We do promise.

*Priest:* Nor with his works of sin?

*Children:*

We do promise.

*Priest:* Do you promise  
to keep away from everything  
the devil uses  
to lead people into sin?

*Children:*

With God's help, we do promise.

*Priest:* Do you believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth?

*Children:*

We do believe.

*Priest:* Do you believe in Jesus Christ,  
His only Son  
Our Lord,  
who was born  
and died for us?

*Children:*

We do believe.

*Priest:* Do you believe in  
the Holy Ghost,  
The Holy Catholic Church,  
The Communion of Saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body and  
life everlasting?

*Children:*

We do believe.

*Priest:* Do you believe  
all the Catholic Church  
believes and teaches?

*Children:*

We do believe.

For Jesus Christ

began the Catholic Church.

He promised

to be with His Church always.

He promised

that His Church would teach  
only what is true.

*Priest:* Will you always believe  
in the Holy Catholic Church?

*Children:*

Yes, with God's help,  
we will live and die  
as Catholics.

*Priest:* Then say with me:

O God, I thank You  
that I am a Catholic.

I thank You  
that I believe in You,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

O God, I promise  
to obey Your Laws.

I promise to go to Holy Mass  
every Sunday and Holyday.

I will try  
to receive Holy Communion  
at least once a month.

I will say my prayers  
every day.

*Priest:* Dear children!

Never forget these promises.

If you keep them,  
God will give you  
a place in heaven.

## Prayer Before Jesus Comes

Dearest Jesus,  
I have waited a long time  
    for this happy day.  
Now it is here at last. . . .  
    My First Communion!  
I can hardly believe it.  
You are such a great God.  
And I am just a little child.  
Millions of saints and angels  
    praise and adore You.  
But You want  
    to come into my heart!  
How You must love me!  
Sweet Jesus, I love You too.  
Oh, help me to love You  
    all my life,  
    as much as I do today.  
Come, sweet Jesus, Come!

## Jesus I Want You

Jesus, I want You.

I need You.

My heart is ready.

Mother Mary has helped me get  
ready,

Saint Joseph has helped too.

My Guardian Angel  
will lead me to You.

All the other angels  
are watching to see  
how good You are to me.

You are my God.

I am just a little child.

Jesus, I am not worthy,  
But I love You.

I trust You, Jesus;

I believe in You, Jesus.

I am sorry for all my sins.

I want You, sweet Jesus.

Please come!

## Prayer for Help

Holy Mary, my dearest Mother,  
help me to make  
a good Holy Communion.

Give me some of your great  
faith,  
hope,  
and love.

Help me to be very, very sorry  
for all my sins.

Good Saint Joseph,  
be with me;  
and help me  
to make my heart beautiful  
for Jesus.

Holy Guardian Angel,  
lead me to the altar of God.

O Jesus, my King, I love You.

Come into my heart!

Oh come!

## Jesus, Thou Art Coming

Jesus, Thou art coming,  
Holy as Thou art,  
Thou the God who made me,  
To my sinful heart.  
Jesus, I believe it  
On Thy only word;  
Kneeling, I adore Thee  
As my King and Lord.

Who am I, my Jesus,  
That Thou com'st to me?  
I have sinned against Thee,  
Often grievously;  
I am very sorry  
I have caused Thee pain;  
I will never, never,  
Wound Thy heart again.

Dearest Lord, I love Thee,  
With my whole, whole heart,  
Not for what Thou givest,  
But for what Thou art.  
Come, oh, come, sweet Saviour!  
Come to me and stay,  
For I want Thee, Jesus,  
More than I can say.

## After My Guest Has Come

Jesus, You are my God.

I adore You.

Jesus, You said the Little White Host  
is Yourself.

I believe this.

Jesus, You have come into my heart.

I trust You.

Jesus, You are my Divine Guest.

I welcome You, I love You.

Jesus, You can do everything.

I praise You.

Jesus, You are very, very good.

I thank You.

Jesus, You have given me all.

I offer You all in return.

My mind to think of You.

My heart to love You,

My body to work for You.

My soul to praise You

for ever and ever.

Amen.

## I Talk With My Guest

Jesus, You have really come  
into my heart today.

I am so happy

I do not know what to say.

Oh how can I ever thank You, Jesus!

I will never, never forget

this First Communion Visit.

You are all my own, sweet Jesus.

I want to be all Yours too.

I want everyone to love You.

Please, dear Jesus,

do not let one soul be lost today.

Open the gates of heaven wide

to dying sinners,

and to the Poor Souls.

Let people who have been bad

come back to You.

Pity the little pagan children;

send them priests and sisters

to tell them of Your love.

## I Pray for Others

Oh make me love You so much  
that I will never, never offend You.  
Bless my father and my mother  
and make them very happy today.

Please give them  
everything they need  
for body and soul.

Bless our whole family  
and take us to heaven,  
when we die.

Bless my friends and relatives too.

Dear Jesus, bless our pastor;  
help him and all priests and sisters.

Guide our President and his helpers.

Take our soldiers, marines, and sailors  
under Your special care.

Bless and protect our country.

Remember, dear Jesus,  
that America is  
"Our Lady's Land."



## Prayer Before a Crucifix

See, O kind and most sweet Jesus!  
I kneel down before You.

I ask You please, to give me  
more faith,  
more trust,  
more love,

and more sorrow for my sins.

Help me not to want sin any more.

I love You.

It makes me sad

when I see

Your five holy Wounds.

I think of the words

which David said of You,  
good Jesus:

“They have made holes

in My hands and My feet;

They have hurt all My bones.”

(Say an Our Father, Hail Mary,  
and Glory be, for the Pope.)

## PRAYER BEFORE I RECEIVE THE SCAPULAR

### I Give Myself to My Mother

Dearest Mother Mary!

Today, my heart

is as pure and white

as a beautiful Easter lily.

I want to give it to you.

Please, dear Mother Mary,

will you keep it for Jesus?

Never let me take it back again.

And, dear Mother,

remember I give my whole self

to you on this happy day.

I am your child in life,

in death, forever.

Take care of me now.

And when I die,

take my soul to heaven.

It belongs to Jesus,

the Guest of my First Communion.

## PRAYER AFTER I RECEIVE THE SCAPULAR

Now I am all yours,  
dearest Mother.

It is sweet to know  
that you have given me  
your badge.

I will wear it always.

The scapular will help me  
remember this happy day.

It will help me remember  
that I belong to you.

My body is yours,  
keep it pure.

My heart is yours,  
keep it brave.

My soul is yours,  
keep it for heaven.

Help me to be true to you,  
and to wear your badge  
all the days of my life.

## TO THE FIRST COMMUNICANT

The prayers in this little booklet have been taken from the First Communion prayer book, *Welcome, Jesus*. They are presented here so as to acquaint you with prayers you will need on your First Communion Day, and whenever you receive Holy Communion.



