

**FOR CHURCH USE ONLY**

*Novena*



*to*

*Saint Ann*

**St. Nicholas Catholic Church**

**701 N. 18th Street**

**St. Louis, Missouri 63103-1727**

**314-231-2860**

***Imprimatur:*** In accordance with Canon 827, permission to publish has been granted on April 19, 2012, by the Most Reverend Edward M. Rice, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis.

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### **THE 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.*

### **THE HAIL MARY**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst 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.*

### **THE GLORY BE**

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



### St. Ann Shrine History in St. Louis

(Adapted from the Novena to St. Ann Booklet, Commemorative Copy, July 2016)

Devotion to St. Ann in St. Louis began in the St. Ann Church on the corner of Page and Whittier in 1903 with 3 days of special prayers to St. Ann prior to her feast day. Fr. James I. Douglas inaugurated the first semi-annual novena in 1926. Numbers grew from 30 to over 5,000 in the early 40's, back down to about 100 in the 80's and 90's.

The year 1992 brought the merger of St. Ann's Parish with Visitation Parish. Relics and other devotions were carried to the new home of the Shrine on Taylor and Evans. The original St. Ann statue with part of its marble stand is at the entrance to the lower chapel in the All Souls Mausoleum at Calvary Cemetery. The St. Ann Shrine was moved to St. Nicholas Church in the summer of 2016 where the legacy of devotion to St. Ann in St. Louis will continue.

#### **Aids to Prayer Available:**

**Novena Booklets, Rosaries, Medals, Blessed Oil, Water, Petition Slips and Votive Candles are available at the Shrine.**

*Donations for the upkeep of the Shrine and parish ministries will be gratefully accepted and acknowledged.*

#### **St. Nicholas Catholic Church**

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## **How to Make a Novena to Saint Ann**

**The term “novena” applies to nine days of private or public devotion during which one seeks a special grace from God or favor from the angels and saints. Novena prayers are often prayed prior to a particular event or feast day. We read in the Acts of the Apostles (*Acts 1:13f*) how Mary, the Mother of Jesus, the apostles and other men and women prayed together for nine days, preparing themselves for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.**

**Praying to St. Ann for her guidance has long been a pious custom within the Church. Through our devotion to Saint Ann, we acknowledge her greatness and womanly influence before the Divine Mercy of God. There is no one prayer or set of prayers that must be said while making a novena. The following are offered as a humble resource, prepared in her honor and for the glory of God.**

#### **July 26th is the Memorial of Saint Ann**

*The Solemn Novena is held St. Nicholas Catholic Church, home of the St. Ann Shrine in St. Louis on July 18th through July 26th.*

*Weekly, prayers are prayed in honor of Holy Mary, Mother of God, and her mother, St. Ann at weekday liturgies.*

*Monthly, on the fourth Sunday, grandparents are blessed at the 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses.*

## **Novena Prayers**

### ***Prayer to Saint Ann***

**Leader:** Glorious Saint Ann, we rejoice at the favors which God, in His infinite goodness, has bestowed upon you. God selected you to be the mother of Mary, who brought into our world the Savior of all humankind. God has endowed you with the special grace of assisting those who invoke you in their troubles and needs, both spiritual and temporal.

Relying on your powerful intercession, we come to you and place ourselves under your motherly care. Receive us as your children. Refuse not to hear us, but show us your never-failing goodness. Dear Mother, plead on our behalf. Be our advocate before the infinite mercy of God. Assist us to ask forgiveness for our sins and for the grace of a sincere, humble and lasting repentance.

Saint Ann, we also ask for the grace of a true and lasting devotion to your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, that we may ever seek Christ with pure and humble hearts. Strengthen us against temptation. Deliver us from all evil. Console us in our afflictions. Assist us in our needs. Help us to lead holy lives, die a happy death, and obtain eternal happiness.

**All:** *Amen*

### ***Prayer to Saint Ann for a Happy Death***

**Blessed Saint Ann, comfort of the afflicted and refuge of the dying, I choose you, with Saints Joachim and Joseph, to be my special patroness at the hour of my death.**

**Please receive me as your child.  
Assist me to grow in holiness.  
Be with me when my earthly journey is ended.  
Help me to die in the friendship of God.  
Welcome me into your heavenly home,  
where every tear will be wiped away and all sadness gone.**

**I ask this in faith, trusting in the  
Divine Mercy of God.**

**Amen.**

*Petitions*

**My Jesus Mercy!**

**Jesus, meek and humble of heart,  
make our hearts like Your Heart.**

**O Mary, conceived without sin,  
pray for us who turn to you in prayer.**

**Mother of love, of sorrow and of mercy,  
pray for us.**

**Good Saint Ann and Saint Joachim, grandparents of Jesus,  
pray for us and for our children.**

*Prayer to Obtain a Special Favor*

**Blessed Saint Ann / filled with compassion for those who invoke you / with love for those who suffer / heavily laden with the weight of my troubles / I place myself in your presence / and ask you to take my present need / under your special protection.**

*(Pause—Silently voice your prayer request.)*

**Present my request to your daughter / and place it before Jesus. Continue to intercede for me / and for my needs. Obtain for me the grace of one day / seeing my God face to face / and with you, Mary and all the saints / praising God for all eternity.**

*Leader: Good Saint Ann, mother of her who is our life, our sweetness and our hope.*

*All: Pray to her for me and obtain my request.*

*Leader: Good Saint Ann, mother of her who is our life, our sweetness and our hope.*

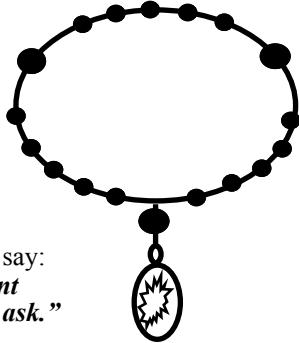
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*Leader: Good Saint Ann, mother of her who is our life, our sweetness and our hope.*

*All: Pray to her for me and obtain my request.*

**Chaplet of Saint Ann**

Pray the *Lord's Prayer* on each of the single beads and the *Hail Mary* on the five beads of each group.



After each *Hail Mary*, say:  
*“Jesus, Mary and Saint Ann grant the favor I ask.”*

Pray the first group in honor of *Jesus*, the second group in honor of *Mary* and the third group in honor of *Saint Ann*.

*(Chaplets can be obtained from the Shrine here.)*

**First Day of the Novena  
for Creation**

**Blessed Saint Ann / in your honor we begin the first day of our Novena. We are mindful of your goodness and love for all God's people. We are also aware of the importance of new beginnings. The Book of Genesis reminds us / that God is a God of creation / who created and continues to make all things new, beautiful and good. We are gifted, for "the earth is charged with the grandeur of God." (Gerard Manley Hopkins)**

**Blessed Saint Ann / enable us to be good stewards of God's creation. Obtain for us new eyes / to see clearly the beauty around us / and where we find none / to place some there. Help us to reverence the earth and to meditate upon it / as a sacrament of God's love. As we journey through life, may we step lightly upon the earth / and touch the rain as it refreshes the soil. In our busy world, remind us to watch the butterflies / and stop to pet an animal.**

**Christ reminds us of God's loving care for us. In the Gospel, He tells us to / "Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns / yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Mt. 6:26-34)**

***Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...***

**Practice: Read Psalm 148 - (A Hymn of Creation)**

***Prayer to the Grandparents of Jesus,  
Saints Ann & Joachim (her husband).***

**Saints Ann and Joachim, loving parents of Mary and grandparents of Jesus, we seek your intercession. Direct our prayers and works to the greater honor and glory of God and the salvation of all people.**

**Strengthen us when we are tempted.  
Console us during times of hardship.  
Help us when we are in need.  
Journey with us during life, and please  
stay with us at the time of our death.**

**Saints Ann and Joachim, intercede for us in our many needs, and for the intentions of this Novena. (Pause) As models of living well, enable us to live our lives with faith, patience and fidelity to God's Will. Grant us the grace to serve God well.**

**O Divine Savior, we thank You for having chosen Saints Ann and Joachim to support You, Mary and Joseph. Grant us the grace to imitate them in what we say and do. We ask this in faith, trusting in Your Divine Mercy. We place our children, grandchildren and ourselves under their loving protection. Enable us each to grow in our love for God, our neighbor and ourselves. Amen.**

## **Additional Prayers to Saint Ann**

### ***Daily Prayer to Saint Ann***

**With deep love we come before you, Saint Ann. You were blessed by God and called to be the mother of Mary whom Scripture honors, through the Angel's greeting, "Blessed among all Women." Compassionate Mother, enable us to be counted among your faithful followers. Open our eyes to our sinfulness and help us to have sincere and repentant hearts.**

**Grant us a lasting affection for Jesus and help us to be faithful in living out the Christian vocation, to which we have been called in Baptism.**

**Intercede for us during the dangers of life and stay with us at the time of our death. May we then be united with you, proclaiming that Jesus Christ is Lord!**

***Our Father... Hail Mary ... Glory be...***

**We honor Jesus, Mary, Ann & Joachim.**

**Blessed Saint Ann, pray for us!**

### **Second Day of the Novena *for Vocations / Leaders***

**Blessed Saint Ann / today we recommend to your maternal care / a generous response to vocations to the married, single, religious and priestly way of life. Each is a divine call / a means to great holiness and filled with surprises along the way. Assist women and men to respond to their call / with faith and generosity / as they live lives of goodness and truth.**

**May the Spirit of understanding, compassion and love / fill the hearts of our church and world leaders. May they lead us from bondage to freedom / by promoting human dignity / and assisting people with their spiritual and physical needs. Obtain for them the courage to ask / as did Solomon of old / for wisdom / for "an understanding mind / to govern your people and to discern what is right..."  
*(1 Kings 3:5-14)***

**With Christ as their model / may they proclaim in deeds His words / "I have come not to be served, but to serve...." *(Mk. 10:45)***

***Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...***

**Practice: It is not only the fitting thing to do, but we have an obligation to pray for our leaders. Let us pray that God will raise up courageous women and men - unafraid to seek justice in their quest for lasting peace. May we be mindful of Christ's words to forgive our enemies. In forgiveness we find peace.**

**Third Day of the Novena  
for Our Elderly**

**Blessed Saint Ann / beloved grandmother of Jesus / we turn to you to ask your intercession. Watch over our elderly. Provide comfort and safety to grandparents / and the elderly members of our community. Intercede for those struggling with their physical limitations / and daily facing the challenges of the aging process.**

**Through your intercession / obtain for them the gift of patience / with themselves and with others. Strengthen them in their weakness. Be a companion to them in their loneliness / and send to them the spirit of joy / when depression draws near. Help them to remember the “good times” of life. Prepare them for their final journey home / by uniting their present bed of suffering with that of Christ’s / as He hung upon the “bed” of the Cross. Assist us to support all caregivers as they offer loving service to those / who at times find it so difficult to receive. Enable them to realize the goodness and importance of their ministry.**

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...*

**Practice: Continue to ask, through the intercession of Saints Ann and Joachim, that the needs of the elderly may be met. Remember all who labor in the medical field and inspire them to value and to hold all life precious and dear.**

**Hymn to Saint Ann  
(Melody of Immaculate Mary)**

**We come to your altar, in faith we draw near,  
Led onward by Mary, your daughter so dear.**

*Chorus:*

**O Good Saint Ann! We call on your name.  
Your praises now, your children proclaim.**

**Help all of our children, those far and those near.  
To live lives of service and joy without fear.**

*Chorus:*

**O Good Saint Ann! We call on your name.  
Your praises now, your children proclaim.**

**Our world needs your guidance, please show us the way.  
To reverence creation, God’s gift of this day.**

*Chorus:*

**O Good Saint Ann! We call on your name.  
Your praises now, your children proclaim.**





***Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...***

**Leader: God so loves Saint Ann,  
All: and delights in her beauty.**

**Leader: Let us pray:**

**Almighty and Eternal God, You chose Saint Ann to be the Grandmother of Jesus. May she obtain for us, fidelity to prayer and the grace to lovingly serve and care for our sisters and brothers in times of need. We ask this in faith and in Your Holy Name we pray.**

**All: Amen.**

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## **Veneration of the Relic of Saint Ann**

The Shrine at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Saint Louis, Missouri is in possession of two relics of Saint Ann. They have been revered for many years at the original Shrine and at Visitation-St. Ann Shrine Church before being housed at the current location.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says (1674-1675) *“The religious sense of the Christian people has always found expression in various forms of piety surrounding the Church’s sacramental life, such as the veneration of relics, visits to sanctuaries, pilgrimages, processions, the stations of the cross, religious dances, the rosary, medals, etc.*

*“These expressions of piety extend the liturgical life of the Church, but do not replace it. They ‘should be so drawn up that they harmonize with the liturgical seasons, accord with the sacred liturgy, are in some way derived from it and lead the people to it, since in fact the liturgy by its very nature is far superior to any of them.’”*

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**Fourth Day of the Novena  
for Our Children**

**Blessed Saint Ann / in confidence we come before you / aware of the role you played in the design of the Holy Family. As parents of Mary and grandparents of Jesus / you and your husband Joachim / valued and lived joyful and caring lives. Family life is a gift / one of true value.**

**Today, family life is threatened in every society. Due to child abuse, parent separation and neglect / our world cries out for healing. The negative messages of the media seek to harm God’s precious ones. Continued violence done to children / brings overwhelming suffering into their lives. Mindful of Christ’s words we pray / “Let the little children come to Me / and do not prevent them / for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Mt. 19:14)**

**With you, Blessed Saint Ann / we thank God for the children who are lovingly cared for each day. Protect them as they grow / and instill into their hearts a deep love for God and for one another. May they learn to share from the richness of their lives / and develop a true and lasting relationship / with their Guardian Angels.**

***Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...***

**Practice: Pray for the healing and health of all children and the blessing of Christian families.**

**Fifth Day of the Novena  
for Christian Unity**

**Blessed Saint Ann / how far Christians are from being united. Christ prayed / “Father, that all may be one.” (Jn. 17:22) Yet, we still remain a Christian Church broken and divided. Assist us to recognize, listen to and respect one another / as sisters and brothers of our one Lord and Savior / Jesus Christ. Enable us to hear the Spirit who dwells in our hearts.**

**“Fear not” was the angelic message voiced at the Annunciation (Lk. 1:13) and surrounded the Birth of Christ. (Mt. 1:20)-(Lk. 2:10). Because Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds trusted God / fear was lifted from their hearts / and Christ’s presence was made visible. Fear impedes our journey to Christ and to Christian unity.**

***Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...***

**Practice: Let us pray to Saint Ann that through her intercession we may be mindful of our obligation to heed the words of John regarding the gift of eternal life. “Now this is eternal life, to know You, the only true God and Jesus, the Christ whom You sent.” (Jn. 17:3) Let us daily pray—That all may be one!**

**Litany in Honor of Saint Ann**

Lord, have mercy on us...***Lord, have mercy on us.***  
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.***

Saint Ann, mother of Mary, the Immaculate Mother of God....  
***pray for us.***

Saint Ann, spouse of Saint Joachim....  
Saint Ann, grandmother of Christ....  
Saint Ann, joy of Angels....  
Saint Ann, model of mercy....  
Saint Ann, model of womanhood....  
Saint Ann, guardian of creation....  
Saint Ann, guardian of children....  
Saint Ann, example of mothers....  
Saint Ann, support of the family....  
Saint Ann, comfort of the sick....  
Saint Ann, provider of the poor....  
Saint Ann, consolation of widows....  
Saint Ann, consolation of the afflicted....  
Saint Ann, inspiration for the elderly....  
Saint Ann, inspiration for unity and peace....  
Saint Ann, inspiration for vocations....  
Saint Ann, helper of all who call on you....



**Ninth Day of the Novena  
for Our Sanctification**

**Blessed Saint Ann / we choose you today as our spiritual mother and guide. We desire to dedicate ourselves to your loving and maternal care. We promise to honor and serve you always.**

**Saint Ann / adopt us as your children. Assist us in our spiritual and physical needs. Obtain for us the grace to live holy lives / being faithful to the vocation to which we have been called. May we always be ready to listen to the gentle voice of God / and know that Christ dwells within us.**

**In the words of the Prophet Micah / may we do what the Lord requires of us -  
to act justly /  
to love tenderly / and  
to walk humbly with God. (Micah 6:8)**

**Then, Blessed Ann / at the time of death be with us / prepare us for that last hour. We pray that with God's grace and mercy / we may embrace the fidelity of God's Love forever.**

***Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...***

**Practice: Let us pray to Saint Ann for a deeper awareness of God's love for us and for victory over our daily struggles and temptations. We will grow in holiness as we love God, our neighbor and ourselves and seek the welfare of the poor and needy.**

**Sixth Day of the Novena  
for the Emotionally and Mentally Ill**

**Blessed Saint Ann / we ask you to intercede on behalf of those suffering / from emotional or mental illness. Clear their vision / that they may experience the virtue of Hope in their lives. Let them know that God is a God of love / who loves them as they are / and invites them to grow.**

**As Jesus, so long ago, calmed the stormy waters on the Sea of Galilee (Lk. 8:23-25) so too / through your intercession / may He calm minds and hearts / filled with anxiety, pain or confusion. May the victims of war, and those suffering from other forms of violence / experience the gentle touch of the Healing Christ / and your motherly protection.**

**Assist those who reach out to the sick with love. Let them feel the movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives / and in the lives of all they touch. Give them wisdom and a desire to serve joyfully.**

***Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...***

**Practice: Let us quietly pray for the person whose name the Spirit places into our hearts today. (Pause) May we also remember all prisoners who are justly or unjustly jailed and suffer from the lack of human dignity in our city, country and throughout the world.**

**Seventh Day of the Novena  
for Those Suffering Physical Pain**

**Blessed Saint Ann / helper of the infirmed / comforter of those who suffer from illness and disease. Turn your healing gaze upon them. Ease their suffering and assist them in uniting their pain / to Christ's redemptive suffering. Obtain for them the grace of patience, gratitude and joy. May they experience the nearness of the Lord in their lives / and know of His continued love.**

**Bless medical personnel and others who care for the sick. May they understand the value of their dedicated service. We pray for those who are alone / and to whom no one comes to visit. Enable us to become aware and reach out to them.**

**While praying for physical healing / for others and for ourselves / we know that our spiritual union with God / is our greatest good. Saint Ann / obtain this grace for us and for those for whom we pray.**

*(Pause—Silently name the sick.)*

***Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory Be...***

**Practice: A positive way of modeling the virtuous life of Saint Ann is to pray for the weak and powerless, becoming their voice, their hands and feet.**

**Eighth Day of the Novena  
for the Gift of Reconciliation**

**Blessed Saint Ann / whose name signifies grace and mercy / we come before you eager to receive the grace of reconciliation / and the gift of forgiveness. Aware of our sinfulness we come. Mindful of your compassionate heart we pray. Saint Ann while your grandson, Jesus, hung upon the cross / He cried aloud / "Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing." (Lk. 23:34) Inspire us to seek forgiveness from those we have hurt / or to whom we have caused pain. Help us to truly forgive those who have harmed us. Purify our hearts / that we may be reconciled with our sisters and brothers / wishing them good and not evil. May we care as you care / for God's people. Open our hearts to the New Commandment, "Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also must love one another." (Jn. 13:34)**

***Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory be...***

**Practice: In the silence of our hearts, let us ponder the words of Christ, "If coming to the altar you remember that your brother or sister has a grievance against you, leave your gift before the altar and go, first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift." (Mt. 5:23)**