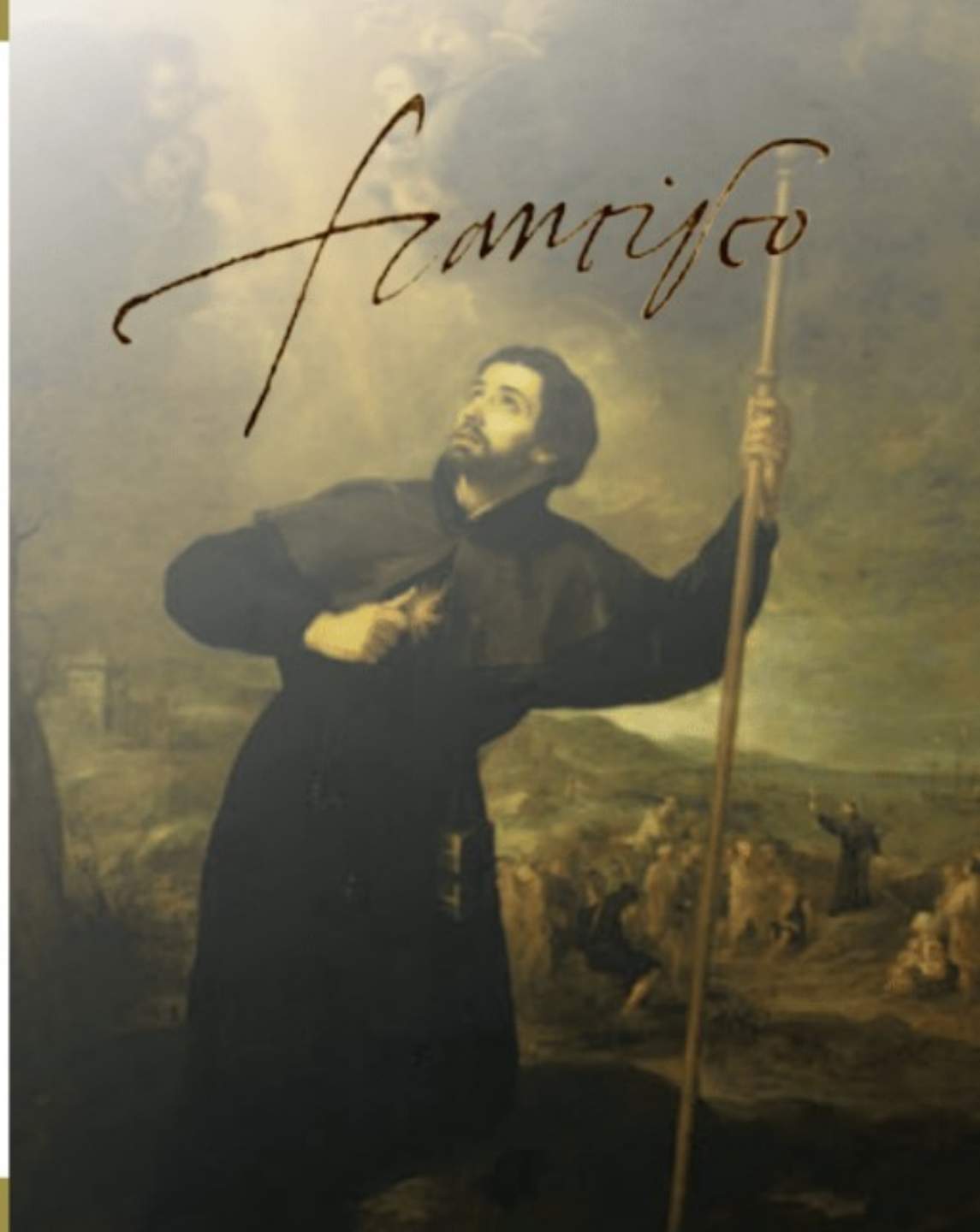


# NOVENA OF GRACE

**Preparing for the  
Feast of St. Francis Xavier**

**November 24<sup>th</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup>**



# NOVENA OF GRACE DAY 1

**Celebrant:** “May our Lord increase the days of [your] life for many years, and may he grant you to feel in this present life his most holy will and the spiritual strength to fulfil it, so that you do and accomplish that which at the hour of your death you will wish to have done.”

**Reflection:**

**Celebrant:** What are the things in my life of which I am most proud?

*(Pause - Reflect)*

**Celebrant:** Which of these things will I be most pleased to place before God at the close of my life?

*(Pause - Reflect)*

**Celebrant:** What do I need to do more of, or less of, if I am to present my best self to God my Lord?

*(Pause - Reflect)*

**All Together:**

Lord,

each day you give me new life,

new graces,

new opportunities to feel your presence.

Give me the gift of attentiveness

to notice you in the people and things which surround my life;

that I may grow in faith,

and hope,

and love.

Amen.

## Traditional Novena Prayer

O most kind and loving saint,  
in union with you I adore the most divine majesty.  
The memory of the favours with which God blessed you during life,  
and of your glory after death,  
fills me with joy.

And I unite with you in offering to him  
my humble tribute of thanksgiving and praise.

I implore of you to secure for me,  
through your powerful intercession,  
the all-important blessing of living and dying in a state of grace.

I also ask you to obtain the favour I ask in this novena.  
(Here pause to ask the favour you seek.)

Continue ->

But if what I ask is not for the greater glory of God,  
or the good of my soul,  
obtain for me what is most conducive to both.

Amen.

O God, who was pleased to gather to your Church  
the peoples of the East  
by the preaching and miracles of St Francis Xavier,  
mercifully grant that we,  
who honour his glorious merits,  
may also imitate the example of his virtues,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father

## NOVENA OF GRACE DAY 2

**Celebrant:** “I therefore ask God our Lord to grant us to know and experience his most holy will and, once we have experienced it, great strength and much grace to fulfil it with charity in this life.”

**Reflection:**

**Celebrant:** What does God ask of me in my day-to-day life?

Ask God for the strength to do and to be this.

(Pause - Reflect)

**Celebrant:** Who or what do I find it most difficult to be charitable towards, even to love?

(Pause - Reflect)

## All Together:

**Father, each day you show me  
the love of a parent  
for its child:  
watchful of my every step,  
eager for me to thrive.**

Continue ->



**You are delight  
in my happiness  
and patient consolation  
in my sadness.  
May the constant love  
in which you enfold me,**

Continue ->

**give me the confidence  
to show that same love  
to friend and foe,  
family and stranger, alike.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Traditional Novena Prayer

**O most kind and loving saint,  
in union with you  
I adore the most divine majesty.  
The memory of the favours with  
which God blessed you during life,  
and of your glory after death,  
fills me with joy.**

Continue ->

**And I unite with you  
in offering to him  
my humble tribute  
of thanksgiving and praise.**

Continue ->

**I implore of you  
to secure for me,  
through your powerful intercession,  
the all-important blessing  
of living and dying  
in a state of grace.**

Continue ->

**I also  
ask you to obtain  
the favour I ask in this novena.**

**(Here pause to ask the favour you  
seek.)**

Continue ->

**But if what I ask  
is not for the greater glory of God,  
or the good of my soul,  
obtain for me  
what is most conducive to both.  
Amen**

Continue ->

**O God,  
who was pleased  
to gather to your Church  
the peoples of the East  
by the preaching and miracles of  
St Francis Xavier,**

Continue ->



**mercifully grant that we,  
who honour his glorious merits,  
may also imitate  
the example of his virtues,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father**

## NOVENA OF GRACE DAY 3

**Celebrant:** May God our Lord grant us in time the gift to perceive his holy will.

He wishes that should always be ready to fulfil it whenever he manifests it to us and lets us feel it within our souls.

**To fare well in this life,  
we must be pilgrims  
ready to go wherever we can  
serve God our Lord the more.**

**Reflection:**

**Celebrant:** Do I look for signs of what God wants of me: in my prayer, in moments of silence, in what others say to me?

(Pause - Reflect)

**Celebrant:** Am I ready to follow where God leads?

(Pause - Reflect)

**Celebrant:** Or do I always set the agenda for everything I do?

(Pause - Reflect)

**All Together:**

**Father,**

**you speak to me in the silence  
and in the empty spaces of my life.  
Give me ears to hear your voice in  
stillness and in the gentle breeze;**

**eyes to see your presence in things  
that seem so insignificant at the time.  
Free me from the relentless whirl of  
activity,**

**from the obsessions**

**which so limit me**

**and snatch away my freedom to**

**answer your call.**

**Like St Francis, may I too become a**

**pilgrim,**

**called to walk the path you set  
before me, wherever it may lead  
but always safe in the knowledge  
that Christ walks beside me  
unseen.**

**Amen.**



## Traditional Novena Prayer

**O most kind and loving saint,  
in union with you  
I adore the most divine majesty.  
The memory of the favours with  
which God blessed you during life,  
and of your glory after death,  
fills me with joy.**

Continue ->

**And I unite with you  
in offering to him  
my humble tribute  
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Continue ->

**I implore of you  
to secure for me,  
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**I also  
ask you to obtain  
the favour I ask in this novena.**

**(Here pause to ask the favour you  
seek.)**

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**But if what I ask  
is not for the greater glory of God,  
or the good of my soul,  
obtain for me  
what is most conducive to both.  
Amen**

Continue ->

**O God,  
who was pleased  
to gather to your Church  
the peoples of the East  
by the preaching and miracles of  
St Francis Xavier,**

Continue ->

**mercifully grant that we,  
who honour his glorious merits,  
may also imitate  
the example of his virtues,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father**

## NOVENA OF GRACE DAY 4

**Celebrant:** I have decided to go to the Moro Islands to assist the Christians in spiritual matters, exposing myself to every danger of death, placing all my confidence and hope in God our Lord, desiring to conform myself, in keeping with my slight and feeble strength,



**to the saying of Christ our Redeemer  
and Lord that  
'whoever wishes to save  
his life will lose it,  
but whoever loses his life for my sake  
will save it.**

**Reflection:**

**Celebrant:** What activities, pastimes, possessions, relationships in my life are non-negotiable?

(Pause - Reflect)

**Celebrant:** Do any of these things get in the way of my relationship with God?

(Pause - Reflect)

**Celebrant:** What do I need to relinquish to be free to be my true self in following God's calling?

(Pause - Reflect)

**All Together:**

**Lord,**

**before I ever came into being**

**you knew me and loved me.**

**You have knit me together the way I**

**am,**

**and given me life and laughter,  
friends and the faces of kind  
strangers,  
and a world of wonder and new  
discovery.**

**Grant me the freedom and the courage  
to discover you anew each day  
in the people I meet, in the places I go,  
in the sounds I hear and the things I see.**

**Through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## Traditional Novena Prayer

**O most kind and loving saint,  
in union with you  
I adore the most divine majesty.  
The memory of the favours with  
which God blessed you during life,  
and of your glory after death,  
fills me with joy.**

Continue ->

**And I unite with you  
in offering to him  
my humble tribute  
of thanksgiving and praise.**

Continue ->

**I implore of you  
to secure for me,  
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the all-important blessing  
of living and dying  
in a state of grace.**

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ask you to obtain  
the favour I ask in this novena.**

**(Here pause to ask the favour you  
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is not for the greater glory of God,  
or the good of my soul,  
obtain for me  
what is most conducive to both.  
Amen**

Continue ->

**O God,  
who was pleased  
to gather to your Church  
the peoples of the East  
by the preaching and miracles of  
St Francis Xavier,**

Continue ->

**mercifully grant that we,  
who honour his glorious merits,  
may also imitate  
the example of his virtues,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father**

**and given me life and laughter,  
friends and the faces  
of kind strangers,  
and a world of wonder  
and new discovery.**

**Grant me the freedom and the courage  
to discover you anew each day  
in the people I meet, in the places I go,  
in the sounds I hear and the things I see.**

**Through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## Traditional Novena Prayer

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who was pleased  
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St Francis Xavier,**

Continue ->

**mercifully grant that we,  
who honour his glorious merits,  
may also imitate  
the example of his virtues,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father**

## NOVENA OF GRACE DAY 5

**Celebrant:** God our Lord gives to all sufficient grace to serve him and to preserve themselves from sin . . . all our good and evil consists in making good or evil use of his grace.

**Celebrant:** We are much consoled in seeing that God our Lord sees our intentions, desires and motives for going to Japan.

*Letter to the Jesuits of Europe from Malacca in Malaysia, 22nd June 1549*

## *Reflection:*

**Celebrant:** Reflect on the strengths of character with which God has blessed you.

*(Pause - Reflect)*

**Celebrant:** How do you use these strengths for the good? How do you sometimes use them for evil?

*(Pause - Reflect)*



**All Together:**

**Lord Jesus,**

**it is so easy to be tempted  
as you were tempted in the desert;  
to make poor decisions for quick  
gains and satisfaction;**

**to turn the wonderful gifts of your  
generosity  
to unworthy and selfish ends.**

**Give me, day by day, the same Spirit  
of strength  
with which you faced down those  
desert temptations of power,  
wealth and honour;**

**that my desire and motives,  
my words and actions,  
may always be to the greater glory  
of God my Lord.  
Amen.**

## Traditional Novena Prayer

**O most kind and loving saint,  
in union with you  
I adore the most divine majesty.  
The memory of the favours with  
which God blessed you during life,  
and of your glory after death,  
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**And I unite with you  
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**But if what I ask  
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Amen**

Continue ->

**O God,  
who was pleased  
to gather to your Church  
the peoples of the East  
by the preaching and miracles of  
St Francis Xavier,**

Continue ->

**mercifully grant that we,  
who honour his glorious merits,  
may also imitate  
the example of his virtues,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father**

## NOVENA OF GRACE DAY 6

**Celebrant:** At night before you go to sleep, you should retire to some place and examine the things which happened to you that day, your thoughts, words and actions, examining your conscience with great diligence . . .

**Celebrant:** and at the end you should say an Our Father and a Hail Mary. After this has been finished, you should lie down, occupying yourself with the thought of how you are to amend yourself on the following day.

*Letter to Jesuit Novice, Joao Bravo, from Malacca to Malaysia, 23rd June 1549*

***Reflection:***

**Celebrant:** Take a few moments to think back over your day.

***(Pause - Reflect)***

**Celebrant:** What were the thoughts, the words and the actions of which you were most proud? ***(Pause - Reflect)***

**Celebrant: What were the thoughts, the words and the actions which you regret?**

*(Pause - Reflect)*

**All Together:**

**Father,**

**as I look back on this day,**

**there are so many teeming thoughts,**

**such a babble of words,**

**and such a blur of activity,**



**that it is difficult to see your gentle  
and faithful presence amid it all.  
Show yourself to me today, and  
every day.  
Amen.**

## Traditional Novena Prayer

**O most kind and loving saint,  
in union with you  
I adore the most divine majesty.  
The memory of the favours with  
which God blessed you during life,  
and of your glory after death,  
fills me with joy.**

Continue ->

**And I unite with you  
in offering to him  
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Continue ->

**I implore of you  
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**I also  
ask you to obtain  
the favour I ask in this novena.**

**(Here pause to ask the favour you  
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Continue ->

**But if what I ask  
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Amen**

Continue ->

**O God,  
who was pleased  
to gather to your Church  
the peoples of the East  
by the preaching and miracles of  
St Francis Xavier,**

Continue ->

**mercifully grant that we,  
who honour his glorious merits,  
may also imitate  
the example of his virtues,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father**



## NOVENA OF GRACE DAY 7

**Celebrant:** There is reason for giving infinite praise and thanks to God at the sight of a king who is so well and piously inclined towards the things of God, and to such an extent that if I were not a witness of it all, as I am, I would not be able to believe what I have seen in him.

*Reflection:*

**Celebrant:** Do I look for the goodness in other people?

*(Pause - Reflect)*

**Celebrant:** Do I take the trouble to give credit where credit is due?

*(Pause - Reflect)*

**Celebrant: Do I set out to copy the good example that others set for me?**

*(Pause - Reflect)*

**All Together:**

**God our Father,**

**praise to you!**

**I am surrounded by so many good**

**people,**

**if only I take the time to notice:**

**People who speak your word of**

**compassion and kindness;**

**people who act to give reality to your**

**justice and reconciliation;**

**people whose lives are good seed growing  
in rich soil.**

**Give me too the grace to live in your Spirit,  
and to be your presence for those I meet  
as I go about the business of my day.**

**Amen.**

## Traditional Novena Prayer

**O most kind and loving saint,  
in union with you  
I adore the most divine majesty.  
The memory of the favours with  
which God blessed you during life,  
and of your glory after death,  
fills me with joy.**

Continue ->

**And I unite with you  
in offering to him  
my humble tribute  
of thanksgiving and praise.**

Continue ->



**I implore of you  
to secure for me,  
through your powerful intercession,  
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of living and dying  
in a state of grace.**

Continue ->

**I also  
ask you to obtain  
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**(Here pause to ask the favour you  
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Continue ->

**But if what I ask  
is not for the greater glory of God,  
or the good of my soul,  
obtain for me  
what is most conducive to both.  
Amen**

Continue ->

**O God,  
who was pleased  
to gather to your Church  
the peoples of the East  
by the preaching and miracles of  
St Francis Xavier,**

Continue ->

**mercifully grant that we,  
who honour his glorious merits,  
may also imitate  
the example of his virtues,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father**

## NOVENA OF GRACE DAY 8

**Celebrant:** O my God, almighty and merciful Father, creator of all things of the world, I firmly believe in you, my God and Lord, since you are my entire good. You, Lord, created me and you have given me body and soul and all that I have.

**Celebrant:** And you, my God, have made me in your likeness. Thanks be to God!

*From the Short Catechism written by St. Francis Xavier for the people of Goa in India, May 1542*

*Reflection:*

**Celebrant:** Take time to consider the gifts  
God has given you.

*(Pause - Reflect)*

**Celebrant:** Count the blessings he has  
poured out on you.

*(Pause - Reflect)*



**Celebrant: Give thanks!**  
*(Pause - Reflect)*

**All Together:**

**Father,**

**you are entire goodness**

**and you are goodness for me.**

**Creator of all things,**

**who hold all things in being for me,**

**give me faith in you  
and in myself.  
Amen.**

**Traditional Novena Prayer**

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in union with you  
I adore the most divine majesty.  
The memory of the favours with  
which God blessed you during life,  
and of your glory after death,  
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Continue ->

**And I unite with you  
in offering to him  
my humble tribute  
of thanksgiving and praise.**

Continue ->

**I implore of you  
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of living and dying  
in a state of grace.**

Continue ->

**I also  
ask you to obtain  
the favour I ask in this novena.**

**(Here pause to ask the favour you  
seek.)**

Continue ->

**But if what I ask  
is not for the greater glory of God,  
or the good of my soul,  
obtain for me  
what is most conducive to both.  
Amen**

Continue ->



**O God,  
who was pleased  
to gather to your Church  
the peoples of the East  
by the preaching and miracles of  
St Francis Xavier,**

Continue ->

**mercifully grant that we,  
who honour his glorious merits,  
may also imitate  
the example of his virtues,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father**

## NOVENA OF GRACE DAY 9

**Reflection:**

**Celebrant:** Do you trust your own abilities and judgements more than you trust God?

(Pause - Reflect)

**Celebrant:** Have you noticed God raising you up and supporting you?

(Pause - Reflect)

Continue ->

**Celebrant:** If you look at your life and your personality in the polished mirror, do you see a person who is loved and completely accepted by God?

**(Pause - Reflect)**

All Together:

**God our Father,  
as St. Francis Xavier travelled to the  
ends of the earth,  
impelled by love of Christ and afire  
with his good news,**

Continue ->

**give me the trust  
and the grace to base all that I do  
entirely on you,  
safe in the knowledge  
that you raise up the lowly  
and fill us with good things.**

Continue ->

**Through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**Traditional Novena Prayer**

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in union with you  
I adore the most divine majesty.  
The memory of the favours with  
which God blessed you during life,  
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Continue ->



**And I unite with you  
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**O God,  
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**mercifully grant that we,  
who honour his glorious merits,  
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Amen.**

**Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father**