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St. Augustine of Canterbury Church
1910 West Belle Street
Belleville, IL 62226

**Pray
together.**

St. Augustine of Canterbury 2005 Parish Novena for Life & Stewardship of Prayer

Friday, January 14 – Saturday, January 22, 2005



Your Prayer Commitment

“Unless you remain in me and I in you,
you can do nothing.
If you remain in me and I in you,
You will bear much fruit.”

STEWARDSHIP

A LIFE WELL LIVED

A Novena is nine consecutive days of prayer for a special intention, and may be prayed privately or with others. It is also highly suitable for use in families.

“Lord, teach us to pray...” Luke 11:1

“But you must help us with your prayers,
so that on our behalf God may be thanked
for the gift granted us through the prayers of so many.”
2 Corinthians 1:11

Daily Schedule

Beginning Prayer
Meditation
Scripture Reading
Ending Prayers

Beginning Prayer -
+God, come to my assistance
+Lord, make haste to help me

Meditations
(The Meditations are listed under each day of prayer.)

Scripture Readings -
(Printed Readings under each day of prayer.)

Day 1 - Luke 7:11-15
Day 2 - Matthew 1:18-23
Day 3 - Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
Day 4 - John 19:25-27
Day 5 - Luke 2:33-35
Day 6 - Colossians 3:12-17
Day 7 - Psalm 40:7-10, 17
Day 8 - John 11:21-27
Day 9 - Psalm 85:8, 10-14

Ending Prayers -
Psalm 139*
Glory Be*
*Refer to Prayer card insert.

Saturday, January 22, 2005 Day Nine

Intentions of the Day:

***Universal Church: That the Church be faithful in
it's witness.***

***Parish: That we entrust the future of our parish to
God.***

Individual: That I have complete trust in God.

Beginning Prayer

+God, come to my assistance

+Lord, make haste to help me

Meditation -

Pray On this Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

**For a Reversal of this U. S. Supreme Court Decision and
For An End to All Forms of Violence Which Threaten Life**

We pray to our Father, Creator and Giver of all life, the Author of Justice, the Source of love and mercy: Although it is deserving of his anger and punishment, we pray that He looks with mercy on our nation which has offended Him by condoning the killing of millions of innocent children, His precious sons and daughters, who, like all of us, were created in His image and likeness, and whose only offense was their very existence. We pray to Mary, Mother of Jesus, entrusted to be the mother of God's only-begotten Son, Our Savior, who through her obedient consent to God's Will, and who thus became for all people and all time the model of faith and of self-giving love and devotion of Motherhood: take into her motherly arms all the babies who are victims of abortion that they may receive eternally the comfort of a mother's love.

Scripture Reading—Psalm 85:8, 10-14

Show us, O Lord, your kindness, and grant us your Salvation. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land. Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven. The Lord himself will give his benefits, our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and salvation, along the way of his steps.

Ending Prayers - *Refer to Prayer card insert.

Friday, January 21, 2005
Day Eight

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Intentions of the Day

Universal Church: For the poor souls in purgatory

Parish: For the deceased of the parish and those
who grieve

Individual: That we might have a happy death

Beginning Prayer

+God, come to my assistance

+Lord, make haste to help me

Meditation -

Pray for God's Mercy On the Living and the Dead

We pray for God's mercy. We pray that God may forgive the sins of our brothers and sisters. We pray that they may praise God forever in the joy of his presence. We pray that the Church may be faithful in its witness. We entrust the future of our parish to God. We pray that we may have a wholehearted, complete trust in God. Each time we pray, we are called to join our prayers with Christ's perfect prayer upon the cross. From the vantage of the cross, we are able to see the world more clearly. We pray that Jesus will come to our aid.

Scripture Reading — John 11:21-27

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. [But] even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you. Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day. Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

Ending Prayers - *Refer to Prayer card insert.

Friday, January 14, 2005
Day One

Intentions of the Day

Universal Church: Intentions of the Holy Father,
Pope John Paul II

Parish: Intentions of Father Andy, our Pastor

Individual: That I/We might be given a prayerful heart

Beginning Prayer

+God, come to my assistance

+Lord, make haste to help me

Meditation -

Pray for the Suffering Women of the World

We use the word "labor" to describe the first work which brought each one of us to birth: those first hours of maternal sacrifice which brought us into the world. It's too easy to forget that and all the other sacrifices which the vocation of motherhood entails. Pray for the mothers "in labor" today, for those who give birth, for those who work two jobs to support their children, for those who "go without" so that their children's needs are met, and for those whose patient endurance is a sign of God's love upon the cross on Good Friday. Let us also pray for all widows.

Scripture Reading — Luke 7:11-15

"Soon afterward he journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you, arise!' The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Ending Prayers - *Refer to Prayer card insert.

**Saturday, January 15, 2005
Day Two**

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Intentions of the Day

Universal Church: For the peace in the world that only Christ can bring

Parish: For Christ's peace to bring about the reconciliation of alienated parishioners

Individual: That I might be able to show Christ's mercy and compassion forgive those that wrong me.

Beginning Prayer

+God, come to my assistance

+Lord, make haste to help me

Meditation -

Pray for the Mothers Who Will Give Birth Today

Let us pray for all of those mothers who may be scared, excited, and filled with the most incredible expectation. It's like those words we hear at Mass: we wait in joyful hope. Think of all those women who feel the first kick, the stirrings of life deep within them. Pray for them that they will love their children, cherish their little babies, and know that by being a mother they are involved in something so much bigger than themselves. They have been chosen by God to be custodians of the mystery of life.

Scripture Reading – Matthew 1:18-23

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."

Ending Prayers – *Refer to Prayer card insert.

**Thursday, January 20, 2005
Day Seven**

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Intentions of the Day

Universal Church: For Catechumens and those preparing for reception into full communion of the church

Parish: That new area residents and others seek to join our parish

Individual: For faithfulness to our baptismal vows

Beginning Prayer

+God, come to my assistance

+Lord, make haste to help me

Meditation -

Pray for All Those Who Seek Eternal Life

We pray that all may come to know Jesus, love Jesus, and serve Jesus and thus may know the meaning of true freedom and true liberty which never destroys, but always serves and protects life.

Scripture Reading – Psalm 40:7-10, 17

Sacrifice or oblation you wished not, but ears open to obedience you gave me. Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not; then said I, "Behold I come; in the written scroll it is prescribed for me. To do your will, O my God, is my delight, and your law is within my heart!" I announced your justice in the vast assembly; I did not restrain my lips, as you, O Lord, know. But may all who seek you exult and be glad in you, And may those who love your salvation say ever, "The Lord be glorified."

Ending Prayers - *Refer to Prayer card insert.

Wednesday, January 19, 2005
Day Six

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Intentions of the Day

Universal Church: For all the sick, those with AIDS, Cancer, and incurable disease

Parish: For all the hospitalized and nursing home residents of the parish

Individual: For good health for family members and friends

Beginning Prayer

+God, come to my assistance

+Lord, make haste to help me

Meditation -

Pray for Holy Families

Prayer begins in the home. Families that pray together stay together. Gather your family every night to pray. Gather your children from their games and their grumbling to the couch in the family room to pray. Pray for those whom you love and those whom you have a hard time loving. Pray for the unborn and for little babies. Pray for the sick and the dying. Pray for the protection of marriage between one man and one woman. Pray for the Church and for our priests. It is those prayers that give us hope and peace and a good night's sleep.

Scripture Reading — Colossians 3:12-17

Put on then, as God's Chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Ending Prayers - *Refer to Prayer card insert.

Sunday, January 16, 2005
Day Three

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Intentions of the Day

Universal Church: For Missionaries abroad and in the U.S.

Parish: That we might bring all we encounter closer to Jesus

Individual: For the courage to share my faith in Jesus

Beginning Prayer

+God, come to my assistance

+Lord, make haste to help me

Meditation -

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday is a time to take stock. We look all around us at Church and see our parish family and welcome visitors. We may think they haven't a problem in the world! What if we really knew them? We would see the "secret sufferings" that mirror our own. That's the meaning of Sunday, after all. It is the gathering of those who have looked at their own brokenness through the lens of the cross, and live. Sunday is the perfect day to pray for all God's broken children and especially those who are tempted to break the lives of others.

Scripture Reading — Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

The Lord said to me: You are my servant, Israel, through whom I show my glory. Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, that Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; and I am made glorious in the sight of the Lord, and my God is now my strength! It is too little, the Lord says, For you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Ending Prayers - *Refer to Prayer card insert.

Monday, January 17, 2005
Day Four

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Intentions of the Day

Universal Church: For the environment, for the third world poor

Parish: For the unemployed in our area affected by the economic environment

Individual: For a willingness to reach out to those in need

Beginning Prayer

+God, come to my assistance

+Lord, make haste to help me

Meditation -

Pray for Fathers at the Birth of Their Children

Men may be petrified at the thought of becoming fathers. When it comes time for the delivery of their children, they may be afraid that they will faint or get in the way or not know what to do to help. The thought of becoming a father may be too overwhelming. We pray to Mary for her intercession and aid for fathers. Mary understood Saint Joseph more than anyone else. She probably saw the fear in his eyes and sensed the restlessness of his heart. She probably spent a lot of time praying for him as well. I am sure when we pray to Mary for our fathers and their children about to be born, she hears us, understands us and prays for them to her Son. Put everything into God's hands as Mary did all of her life.

Scripture Reading – John 19:25-27

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

Ending Prayers - *Refer to Prayer card insert.

Tuesday, January 18, 2005
Day Five

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Intentions of the Day

Universal Church: For the protection of the precious dignity of every human person from conception to natural death

Parish: That our parish continue to be a safe place for children and anyone who has suffered abuse in any way

Individual: For the grace to see when I harm others

Beginning Prayer

+God, come to my assistance

+Lord, make haste to help me

Meditation -

Pray for All Children

The eyes of a child are an infinite well of life, hope, and goodness. If you doubt the value of life, look into the eyes of a child. If you are worn by life's worries, look into the eyes of a child. If you want to see tomorrow, look into the eyes of a child. What you will see is the divine spark which brought beauty out of chaos, the infinite beauty, which is the presence of the creator in his creation.

Scripture Reading – Luke 2:33-35

The child's mother and father were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Ending Prayers - *Refer to Prayer card insert.