

# A Parent's Novena for Perseverance



A novena is a special form of prayer, where on nine successive days, a prayer is said for some special occasion or intention. The practice of saying novenas is scripturally based, modeled after the nine days of consecutive prayer that the apostles, Blessed Mother, and other followers of Jesus prayed together in the upper room between Jesus' ascension into heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Prayed in communion with the saints, novenas often petition the intercession of specially selected saints (our exemplary role models in faithful living) for a particular request. This novena is written for parents of children experiencing same sex attraction and living a gay lifestyle. These mothers and fathers have a **calling of perseverance**, and this novena invokes heavenly assistance for the perseverance needed in the often long and painful parental journey they travel with their beloved child.

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Plano, TX  
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## Directions:

On each day of the novena, pray:

### 1. Opening Prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen. Holy God, Mighty God, Benevolent Creator and Lover of All Life, I praise You and I glorify You. Calm my mind and still my body. Bring me to a deep awareness, O My Father in Heaven, of Your presence to me right here, right now . . . above me, below me, behind me, before me, around me, beside me, within me . . . as I lovingly contemplate Your goodness and as I humbly bring my petitions to You for the special intentions within my heart today.

### 2. A Prayer to the Specially Selected Saint for the Day: (prayers attached for each of nine days of the novena)

### 3. An Our Father, A Hail Mary, and a Glory Be

### 4. A Concluding Litany:

St. Jude, patron saint of perseverance, pray for me.

Holy Family of Nazareth, model for all families, guard my family.

Jesus, Son of Man, truest lover of every soul, have mercy on every member of my family.

Jesus, Son of God, teacher of humility, have mercy on me.

Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Families, pray for my family.

St. Joseph, patron saint of fathers, pray for the father of my family.

St. John Vianney, patron saint of priests, pray for holy and chaste priests.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, fount of all life and holiness have mercy on my family.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, patron of those devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for me.

St. Michael the Archangel, our safeguard against the snares of the devil, protect my family.

St. Augustine, restless until you found rest in God, pray for my restless child.

St. Frances de Sales, teacher of the devout life, pray for my family.

St. Monica, patron saint of mothers, pray for the mother of my family.

St. Monica, mother of so many tears, pray for me.

St. Monica, whose prayers for your son were answered, pray for my children.

St. Andrew, who brought Peter to Jesus, pray for all those who bring my children to Jesus.

St. Ambrose, exemplary life companion to St. Augustine, pray for the companions of my children.

St. John Bosco, patron saint of young people, pray for my children.

St. Thomas Aquinas, brilliant doctor of the Church, pray for Holy Mother Church.

St. Charles Lwanga, defender of chastity, pray for my children.

St. Margaret of Cartona, patron saint against sexual temptation, pray for my children.

St. Toribio, defender of God's truth forgotten in worldly customs, pray for my family.

Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, who persevered through so much sorrow, pray for peace within my family.

Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, who knew grief, pray for me in my grief for my child.

St. Bridget of Sweden, graced with heavenly visions, pray for my family.

Blessed John Paul II, devoted to Mary, families, and youth, pray for my family.

Jesus the Good Shepherd, who leads us beside restful waters, have mercy on my family.

Jesus the Good Shepherd, who leaves the ninety nine to go after one who goes astray, have mercy on my child.

Jesus the Good Shepherd, meek and humble of heart in whom I place my trust, have mercy on me.

Amen.

Day 1

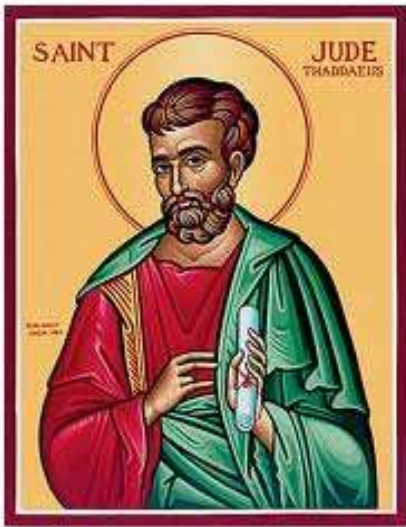
# Prayer to St. Jude Thaddeus

Patron Saint of Perseverance

Feast Day: October 28

**With special focus on the virtue of fortitude**

*“I appeal to you beloved to contend for the faith. . . . build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourself in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” (Jude 3, 20-23)*



Holy Saint Jude, Christ looked upon you favorably when He chose you to be one of His twelve apostles. You sat beside our Lord along the shores of Galilee. Your ears heard the very words spoken by The Great Teacher Himself. You participated in the Last Supper. The Lamb of God washed your feet. Present in the upper room at Pentecost, you were inflamed with the Holy Spirit and you went out and preached the Gospel to foreign lands. In your letter to believers, you spoke strong words of perseverance, encouraging your persecuted brothers in Christ to hold strong to the faith in those treacherous days -- to earnestly agonize for their faith -- and to faithfully persevere despite false teachings that threatened Holy Church. So on fire was your faith in those perilous days of the early Church, that you earned the victorious crown of martyrdom. St. Bridget of Sweden, in a vision, was

encouraged by Jesus to turn to you in confidence because He said you would show yourself most willing to give help. Millions of people around the world have turned to you over the centuries in their despair and when they have felt the most hopeless. You have proven time and again to be a powerful intercessor and a beacon of hope to those who call upon you. O Holy Apostle and Most Willing Intercessor, false teachings threaten our world and Church today, negatively affecting many children of God, including members of my family. I turn to you in confidence and implore your holy assistance. As you now rest your eternal gaze upon the radiant face of God in Heaven, I implore your intercession. Ask that Christ Our King rain down graces upon His Holy Church so that all members of the Body of Christ will have faithful fortitude in obedience to God's laws when barraged with the pervasive sexual immorality, the culture of death, and the widespread disregard for the sanctity of marriage that afflicts our world today. As a parent in these difficult days, I implore your most willing intercession for my family. O Good St. Jude, you who were so blessed to have known and loved Christ personally on this earth, you who so exhorted believers to persevere in faith, petition Our Gracious Lord to bring me, my spouse, and each of my children to a deep, abiding relationship with Jesus, and to live out holy and chaste lives. Ask Our Father in Heaven to grant me and my spouse steadfast perseverance as we endeavor to be His loving instruments to each of our children. Ask that God grant us the virtue of fortitude in our calling as parents, which is a calling in perseverance . . . to speak God's truth to our children in all our words, to reflect God's love to them in all our actions, and to never let despair or hopelessness creep into our hearts. Holy St. Jude, apostle and martyr, most willing intercessor, patron saint of perseverance, pray for us. Amen.

Day 2

## Prayer to The Holy Family

The Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated on the Sunday in the octave of Christmas  
The month of February is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Family

**With special focus on the virtue of faith**

*“I turn to you, dear parents, and implore you to imitate the Holy Family of Nazareth.”  
- St. John Vianney*

O Holy Family of Nazareth, God so loved us that He sent his Only Son into our world . . . . through a human family, your family! In your protective arms, Joseph and Mary, our Holy Redeemer was welcomed into this harsh world. And it was in your hearts that He was first loved by humanity. Our Sovereign God placed His beloved Son into your humble home where your deep faith and your devoted love to each other was richly constant. For thirty years, Jesus Our Savior, grew and matured under your holy care and example. Cardinal Sean O'Malley called those thirty years, “Jesus’ longest sermon.” It was a sermon about family, and how family is where every person first learns to receive and give love. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, model for all families, help us to learn from that sermon. As a parent to whom God has entrusted **two** of His beloved children, I ask you to pray today for my family -- help each member grow in the faith and love that you so beautifully exemplified. Holy St. Joseph, patron saint of fathers, guardian of the Redeemer, protector of Our Lady, spouse so chaste, patron saint of the universal church, you were a holy and righteous man. You were completely obedient to whatever God asked of you, without ever knowing where your obedient acts would take you or what the outcomes of your obedience would be. I implore your intercession today for my family, whom I love so much. Pray to our Heavenly Father that each member of my beloved family will follow your holy example of complete faith and obedience to God’s will – especially in instances where God’s commandments seem outdated or absurd by current custom, and when it is unclear where holy obedience will lead. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Mother Most Pure, Mother Most Sorrowful, Queen of Families, most blessed among women, mankind’s solitary boast, you have been crowned in Heaven by your beloved Son as our Queen of Peace. Mary, most powerful intercessor to Christ, ask your Son on behalf of my family to teach each of us to receive and give love as He designs, and to cherish Christ above all else, no matter the pain or sorrow this may sometimes bring as we obediently and faithfully persevere in this fallen world. Dear Blessed Mother, wrap your protective mantel around each of my children, for they live amongst many powers of evil. Help me as their earthly parent to always direct them to Your Son who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and who is the Prince of Peace. And Jesus, my Savior, Son of Man, look graciously down upon my family from Your throne in Heaven. Draw me, my spouse, and my children ever closer to you, because it is You who are the truest lover of each of our souls. Grant we all join You together someday in paradise, where we will look radiantly upon Your holy face in the fullness of salvation. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, watch over us. Amen.



Day 3

## Prayer to The Sacred Heart of Jesus

Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: 19 days after Pentecost

June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

**With special focus on the virtue of love**

*"Loving Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ, You move hearts that are harder than rock, You melt spirits that are colder than ice, and You reach souls that are more impenetrable than diamonds. . . . Lord Jesus, let my heart never rest until it finds You, who are its center, its love, and its happiness. . . . Place my weak heart in Your own divine Heart, continually under Your protection and guidance, so that I may persevere in doing good and in fleeing evil until my last breath."*

*-- St. Margaret Mary Alacoque*

Heart of Jesus, the surest way for me to love my children, is to continually grow in deeper love of You . . . . You who are fount of all life and holiness, You who are king and center of all hearts, You who are the source of all consolation. Draw me into Your Most Sacred Heart, O My Jesus, and teach me to love each of my children with a heart like Yours. In the joyful days of my parenthood, when my heart laughs and rejoices happily with my beloved children, may I always turn to You in loving thanksgiving and humble recognition that You are the source of all good. In the more challenging days of my parenthood, when my heart is frustrated or disappointed, may I always turn to seek guidance, consolation and strength in Your Most Sacred Heart. May I never forget to remove the log from my own eye before I try to remove the spec from the eyes of my children. Help me remember that You are all-wise and all-powerful in Your providence . . . . that You have a plan for each of my children to prosper and have a future full of hope. And if ever in my parenthood, I experience moments of agony or despair within my heart, if ever I feel weak or lost as a parent, if ever I feel worn down by this marathon journey, Heart of Jesus, let me always trust in You. In Your mercy, remind me that sometimes You will lead me into the wilderness, and there You will speak to my heart. In those desolate moments, join my heart to Your holy heart, assuage my grief, open wide my ears so that I may clearly hear Your voice, open wide my eyes that I may plainly see the path You illuminate for me as a parent to my children, and pour Your graces upon my heart so that I can humbly and lovingly persevere in my vocation as a parent. Help me always remember that Your Sacred Heart unceasingly burns like a furnace with love for each member of my family. May my heart always be sincerely contrite for the outrages Your holy heart has suffered, and may I be diligent in offering reparation for indignities inflicted upon it. O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto Thine. O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my children's hearts like unto Thine. Heart of Jesus, I trust in You. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Amen.



Day 4

# Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

Feast Day: September 29

**With special focus on the virtue of justice**

*“It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels.”*

*– St. Augustine*

*“Make friends with the angels, who though invisible are always with you.*

*Often invoke them, constantly praise them, and make good use of their help and assistance in all your temporal and spiritual affairs.”*

*--Saint Francis de Sales*

St. Michael the Archangel, messenger of God and protector of the Church, mankind is served well by you as you battle the powers of Satan and all his evil works in this world. O Mighty Angel, the world is in great need of your protection . . . as countries, leaders, families, and many children of God are being led away from the justice of God’s perfect law. Today tolerance is falsely preached as the virtue that will amend injustices of yesterday. Moral boundaries are viewed as inconvenient and irrelevant in this era where worldly happiness (not holiness) is often seen as life’s goal. Religious freedoms are being eroded, and children are often viewed as burdens instead of blessings. Many souls now seek a religion without a cross. Loneliness and isolation are rampant, and the devil cunningly seduces many lonely people down the road to perdition with his false claims that materialism, pornography, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and transgenderism will fill lonely hearts. Mankind still hungers for God, but much of modern thought blocks many from seeing and tasting the goodness of the Lord. O Prince of Heavenly Hosts, God in His wisdom has commanded you and all the angels of heaven to guard us in all our ways. I entreat you today to make haste, rise up, and by the power of God, defend Holy Mother Church, this world, my country, my family, and most especially, each of my children from all evil that prowls this world seeking the ruin of souls. Guard over Pope Francis and our holy priests as they stalwartly preach, in the service of souls, love of God’s law. Be ever at their sides. Keep them holy and chaste. Light and guard them as they labor to rekindle a burning love in people’s hearts for what God commands and to desire what He promises. Mighty Angel of God, defend all lonely souls from the malicious enemy. Be at my side as well, as I persevere in upholding the magisterial teachings of the Church. And, O Holy Angel of God, as a loving parent, I implore you . . . cast your protective shield around my children so that they do not become prey to evil, but rather stand stalwartly in love of God’s law. St. Michael the Archangel, defender of justice, pray for us. Amen.



Day 5

## Prayer to St. Monica

Patron saint of married women and mothers

Feast Day: August 27

**With special focus on the virtue of hope**

*“Nothing is far from God.”*

*-- St. Monica*

*“I can find no words to express how intensely she loved me:*

*with far more anxious solicitude did she give birth to me in the spirit than ever she had in the flesh.”*

*-- St. Augustine, Confessions, about his mother*

St. Monica, you who were such a gift to your family, gift to the Church, and model of parental perseverance, I look to you for inspiration. In a life replete with tears, your pious faith never waned, your



gracious love for others never diminished, your persistence in bringing loved ones into communion with the Church never faltered, and hope never left you. You labored in pain for a few hours to give your son Augustine life in the flesh, but that was little in comparison to the many, many years you labored in anguish to give him life in the spirit. You always knew Augustine was a tremendous blessing to you, no matter how many reasons he gave you to cry. You remained with him -- his restless heart, his winding search for truth -- ever hopeful, until he found rest in the Lord, and truth in God's laws. O Sainly Mother, I ask your holy intercession for me today. Pray to our Gracious Father in Heaven that I too may be granted the gift of holy perseverance that was granted you, so that no matter the circumstances I may face as a parent, that I never falter in my faith or stop persisting in leading my children, who are one of

God's greatest gifts to me, into deeper union with Him. When my children's hearts are restless, send forth your prayers from heaven asking God that I may be made ever stronger and more effective, in word and action, in steering them to find their rest in Our Lord, who made us for Himself. Pray that God draw me close to Himself so that I may, like you, live a life of prayer, sacrifice, and holy example . . . and live to see all my children enter into the light of God's truth. O saintly mother of so many tears, pray for me that my heart will be always full of hope. O holy patron saint of married woman, pray for my marriage and ask God's blessings always upon it. O holy patron saint of mothers, pray for me (or the mother of my children) in all my (her) joys and sorrows of motherhood. Holy Saint Monica, whose powerful and persistent prayers were answered, pray for my children. Amen.

Day 6

## Prayer to St. Andrew and St. Ambrose

St. Andrew: Patron saint of fisherman    Feast Day: November 30  
Saint Ambrose: Patron saint of learning    Feast Day: December 7

**With special focus on the virtue of prudence**

*“If you keep good companions, I can assure you that you will one day rejoice with the blessed in Heaven.” – St. John Bosco*

*“There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship.” – St. Thomas Aquinas*



Saint Andrew, it was you who first brought your brother Peter to Christ -- and from thenceforth, the world was evermore changed as Jesus built up his Church upon the rock of your brother. St. Ambrose, it was you who catechized the restless, searching St. Augustine, in a way even his saintly mother couldn't -- and from thenceforth, the Church was evermore changed by this brilliant pupil of yours. Because of the faith in God that you both radiated to companions in your life, because of your prudent invitations to them, because of seeds you planted in their hearts, you O holy saints Andrew and Ambrose, blessed the world. Much gratitude is due you for the many souls won for Christ because of your faithful actions. As a parent, I implore your blessed intercessions today. O Holy St. Andrew and St. Ambrose, you know this can often be a harsh, confusing, and lonely world, and humans rely on each other for companionship during our earthly pilgrimages. As you now rejoice with the blessed in Heaven, I ask you to petition our Gracious God and King, to send good companions and faithful friends into the lives of my children as they make their way in this world. Ask that my each of my children will be graced to prudently choose virtuous people as their life's companions . . . . people who will be of holy influence and happy company in their life journeys . . . . holy people whose words and actions mirror yours in saying: "Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Follow Him" . . . . faith-filled people who will provide sturdy shelter to my children in the storms of life . . . . and friends with whom they can sharpen their understanding of divine truths. Saints Andrew and Ambrose, most excellent companions in life to your brothers and friends, pray for my children and all their life's companions. Amen.





Day 7

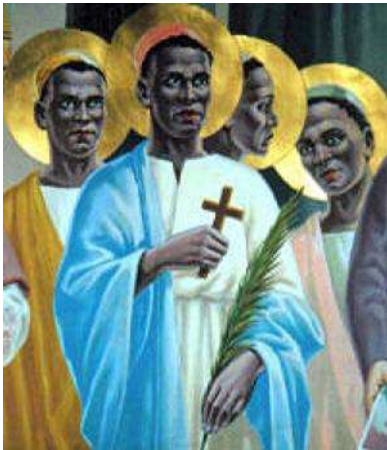
# Prayer to St. Charles Lwanga & St. Margaret of Cartona

St. Charles Lwanga: Patron saint of converts    Feast Day: June 3

Saint Margaret of Cartona: Patron saint against sexual temptation    Feast Day: Feb. 22

**With special focus on the virtue of obedience**

*Christ said, "I am the Truth." He did not say, "I am the custom." -- St. Toribio*



St. Charles Lwanga and St. Margaret of Cartona you are both exemplary inspirations for obedience to the law of God that commands we live chaste lives within whatever vocation we are called. St. Charles, you were blessed with renown athletic ability, handsomeness, and a position of authority within the court of the king of your land (modern day Uganda). You converted from paganism and wholeheartedly adopted the Catholic faith and all its tenants, so much so that you catechized and baptized others in the short time you lived. Knowing sexuality is a gift from God to be honored within His commands, you courageously protected your young charges in the king's court from immoral sexual behavior and from the homosexual advances upon them by the king. Because of these, your faithful acts of obedience to God's commands, you were martyred. And St. Margaret of Cartona, you were blessed also with beauty, physical vitality, and a generous heart. However, after suffering a lonely youth, you sought to fill your loneliness in the arms of a man, with whom you lived unwed for 9 years, and with whom you bore a child. When your lover was murdered, you were shaken to your core; you repented of your sins, and thereafter lived a chaste life. You had great difficulty in overcoming your temptations of the flesh, but found strength and perseverance in prayer, fasting, penance, and the sacraments. O holy saints Charles Lwanga and Margaret of Cartona, we live in a sexually permissive day where the commandments of God are routinely cast aside. I urgently implore your holy intercessions today for my children whose generation witnesses so much sexual sin. Pray God bless my children with resolute belief that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, that sexuality is a blessing from God, and that His laws concerning that gift to them are perfect. Pray that the angels who guarded you in your temptations will guard my children as well, so that they will remain obedient to Our Father's designs for their bodies, and that they will find the strength they will need for this obedience . . . in prayer, fasting, and the sacraments. Holy St. Charles Lwanga and St. Margaret of Cartona, pray for my children. Amen.



Day 8

# Prayer to Our Lady of Seven Sorrows

Feast Day: September 15

**With special focus on the virtue of humility**

*“From Mary we learn to surrender to God’s will in all things.*

*From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God!”*

*--Blessed John Paul II*

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ, Mother of Divine Grace, Mother Most Pure, Mother Most Chaste, Mother of Good Counsel, Cause of our Joy, Vessel of Honor, Gate of Heaven, Help of Christians, Queen of Angels, Queen of All Saints, Queen of Families, Queen of Peace, by honoring you, we honor your Son. Your life was a model of humility and perseverance, and we have much to learn from you. You revealed to St. Bridget of Sweden that graces are granted to souls who practice a devotion of meditating on the tears and sorrows of your life, because by joining our hearts to the sorrows of your heart, we join in deeper union with God. Today, I contemplate your seven sorrows:



The prophecy of Simeon

The flight into Egypt

The three day loss of Jesus in the Temple at Jerusalem

Mary meeting Christ on the way to Calvary

Mary standing at the foot of the cross

The taking down of Christ’s body from the cross

The burial of Christ

O Heart of Mary, you never faltered in your humble faith in God or in your undying love of your Son despite the many times your heart was pierced with sorrows unfathomably deep. Help me gain strength in my life by meditating on yours. Help me imitate your virtues, especially those of humility and faithful perseverance. Help me find renewed strength at the cross of Christ, so that I will come to share in His rising and that I may, by prayer and example, help my loved ones to do the same. And as I daily meditate on your sorrows, grant me, Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, the graces you promised in reward of this devotion – grant peace to my family, enlighten me about the divine mysteries, console me in my life’s pains, accompany me in my work, defend me in my spiritual battles with the infernal enemy, and be of great aid to me at the moment of my death. Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, pray for me. Amen.

Day 9

# Prayer to Jesus the Good Shephard

Good Shepherd Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Easter

**With special focus on the virtue of forgiveness**



**Lord, You are my shepherd.** You are the desire of my heart. You are my invitation to abundant life. You are the dispenser of love and forgiveness. I trust in You.

**Lord, You lead me to lie down in green pastures** – a rare place in Judea, a rare place in life. You call me away from thoughts of this world and lead me toward thoughts of heaven. You are the shepherd of peace and the teacher of humility. I trust in You.

**Lord, You lead me beside still waters** to hear a gentle whisper that invites me to be still and to know You are God. You give me living waters for my thirsty soul. You assuage my grief and are the source of calm in a world of tumult. I trust in You.

**Lord, You restore my soul.** You take away my worries and sorrows and remove my guilt. You gather me, my spouse, each of my children, and all those whom I love next to Your heart. You are the great gatherer of human-kind and the magnanimous inviter to the abundant life. I trust in You.

**Lord, You lead me in paths of righteousness for Your name's sake** for You are my light and my guide who calls me by name to lead me to the Father. You know me, and You know the right path for me. You call each of my children too by name; You know them far better than I do, and You know the right path for them as well. You are the way. I trust in You and I abandon myself to Your divine providence.

**Lord, even though I walk through the valley of death** and a vale of tears, you are always by my side in every difficulty, in every sorrow. You are the source of perseverance. I trust in you.

**Lord, I fear no evil for You are with me** always until the end of time. You have conquered sin and death and the powers of Satan. You leave the ninety-nine to go after the one lost sheep – you do not wish any to be lost. You, O Holy Redeemer who laid down your life for the sake of Your flock, are the source of all hope and the fount of all mercy. I trust in You.

**Lord, Your rod and staff comfort me** and keep me from all harm. In Your caring arms I find rest in this long journey, in Your powerful arms I resist every moment of pride and temptation, and in Your protective arms I dispel my anxiety. You are the source of consolation. I trust in You.

**Lord, You prepare a table before me . . . my cup overflows.** Your bounty is endless; graciously have You blessed my soul, and the souls of my children. You have given us the bread of life! Never let me lose sight of all my blessings. With utmost awe and gratitude, I trust in You.

**Lord, surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life** because You have deemed it to be so. You pour goodness into my life to supply my every need; You pour mercy into my soul to forgive my every sin. You are my all. I trust in You.

**Lord, I shall dwell in the house of the Lord** where you will hold me and all Your beloved children, the sheep of your flock, in Your love forever. Lamb of God, grant me, and all members of my family, perseverance throughout our pilgrim journeys on this earth so that each of us may one day come to dwell in the house You have prepared for us. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, meek and humble of heart, I place all my trust in You. Amen.