

## **Maronite Christmas Novena**

### **Glory to the Voice**

Glory to the Voice, the Word made flesh, who has come to earth to dwell with us. We have heard and seen and touched our Lord; our mouths have received his flesh and blood.

Let us thank our Lord who came to save us. He gave hope and life. He saved the world. Jesus, Mary's child, spoke not a word; though, as God, he knew the tongues of all.

The Eternal Word, the Ancient One, Joseph's arms embraced with joy and love. Christ was but a child, so meek and poor; yet so wise and strong, Our King and God.

### **God sent his Only Son**

1. God sent his only Son from the heavens to the earth as the Light for all the world. God's word has hid himself in the Virgin Mary's womb, and from her, he took his flesh. His star was seen on high, shining brightly in the East, as foretold in my Balaam's words. Wise men, led by the star to the place where Jesus lay, honored him with finest gifts. Hal-lel. Hal-lel. Hal-lel-loo-noh!

(Praise him! Praise him! Praise him, our Lord!)

2. This child Isaiah called "Wonderful and Mighty God" and proclaimed him as the Lord: "Upon his shoulders rest full authority and power over all the universe. In truth, he is the Word and the Voice of God above, roaring with a lion's strength. Yet, as a gentle lamb, silently and peacefully, he now dwells in Mary's womb. Hal-lel. Hal-lel. Hal-lel-loo-noh! (Praise him! Praise him! Praise him, our Lord!)

3. Nine months within her womb, Mary carried Christ, our Lord, he, who holds the universe. She felt no weight at all while she bore the mighty One. Truly he is God and man! Amazement filled the earth, since she had been made so pure, keeping her virginity: before the child was born, and at birth, and afterwards, and for all eternity. Hal-lel. Hal-lel. Hal-lel-loo-noh! (Praise him! Praise him! Praise him, our Lord!)

4. His soul and body joined in a perfect unity when he made the womb his home. The oil of joy was poured by the Father from above to anoint him as the Christ. His life in Mary's womb, his conception, and his birth, these were great and wonderful. We see the Spirit's work in the Son of God made man, as portrayed in Ephrem's words. Hal-lel. Hal-lel. Hal-lel-loo-noh! (Praise him! Praise him! Praise him, our Lord!)

5. We sing to you, O Lord. From your mother you appeared; truly God and truly man! In you two natures dwell; and in you two wills reside; yet you are, in person, one. We praise and give you thanks, God the Father, and the Son, and the Spirit, three in one. O Strong and Holy God, undivided Trinity, you are blest from age to age. Hal-lel. Hal-lel. Hal-lel-loo-noh! (Praise him! Praise him! Praise him, our

Lord!)

Holy, holy, holy mighty Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your great glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who has come and will come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Have mercy on us, Almighty Father, have mercy on us. We praise you. We bless you. We adore you. We glorify you. We profess our faith in you and we ask you: have compassion on us, O God. Have mercy on us and hear us.

**First prayer- Dec. 15**

O most beautiful of all children, out of your great love for us, you wished to become man to show us the hidden beauty of your Divinity in the splendor of your visible body. Through it you have drawn people to your divine love. O Beloved of the father and the sole joy of his heart, we implore you, through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your mother and Saint Joseph, your chosen one, to inflame our hearts with your love, and to enlighten our minds with the heavenly rays of your grace, so that we may love you with all of our hearts, and love everyone through you and for you, for you alone deserve the love of our hearts. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...

Concluding Prayer

We have offered you, O Wonderful Child and only begotten Son, the perfume of our incense, the desires of our heart, the submission of our souls, the adoring reverence of our bodies, and the prayers of our lips. May this be a proper preparation for your pure Nativity. May we be found worthy, on that holy day, for you to dwell in us through the mystery of your sacred Body and Blood, as you dwelt in your mother's womb for nine months. May we be enlightened by the announcement of your holy angels, as were the humble Shepherds. May we worship you with true spiritual adoration, as did the blessed Magi, when we offer you, not gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but faith, hope, and warm love. May these virtues flourish in us and bring forth good works, pleasing to your will. To you be glory and thanks, to your blessed Father, and to your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

**Second prayer- Dec. 16**

O Hope of the Fathers and Expectation of the People, through your birth you have given us hope. By the sweetness of your hope, you have drawn the shepherds, the magi, and all who believe in your holy name to give the adoration that is due to you. We implore you, through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your Mother and St. Joseph, your chosen one, to keep us, by your grace, from attachment to earthly things, and from false reliance on our personal works, and from unnecessary worries. May we rely only on your fatherly direction and your divine providence. Draw our hearts and minds to contemplate on heavenly gifts, so that we may place all our desires only on them. Amen.

**Third prayer- Dec. 17**

O Admirable Leader, you have guided the people to obey you, not by harshness but by the tenderness of your love. We implore you, through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your Mother and St. Joseph, your chosen one, to teach us perfect obedience to your holy commandments and to our superiors, not for fear of punishment, or constraint, or external force, but by the assent of our minds, the surrender of our hearts, the enthusiasm of our spirits, and the joy of our souls. Amen.

**Fourth Oration - Dec. 18**

O Wine of Virgins and Lily of Purity, Who by a touch of Your hand heals the body and cleanses the soul;

Who by dwelling in the womb of Your Mother has made her the purest of the pure and most admirable among virgins;

We beseech You, through Your Pure Nativity and through the intercession of Your Mother and Saint Joseph, Your Chosen One, to grant us to be pure in soul and body and clean in act clean and thought, that we may serve You with a clean heart and pure body all the days of our lives. Amen

Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory be

**Fifth Prayer- Dec. 19**

O Mighty One, seated in the heavenly heights, you left the glory of your divinity and loved the lowliness of our human nature to become our model of humility and lowliness. We implore you through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your Mother and St. Joseph, your chosen one, to give us humility of heart and the denial of ourselves, that we may remove all pride which prevents us from knowing you. We would then realize the weakness of our condition and glorify you, for you alone are holy and great is your name. To you be glory, power, and strength. Amen.

**Sixth Prayer- Dec. 20**

O Word of God, you have come from the mouth of God to be the life for all people. You became the living bread and were born in Bethlehem, "the House of Bread", to satisfy our hunger. We implore you, through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your Mother and St. Joseph, your chosen one, to grant us an insatiable hunger for your pure Body and Blood. May we approach your altars and with proper preparation receive your Sacred Mysteries for our salvation and eternal life. Amen

**Seventh Oration - Dec. 21**

O You Who are One person but also have the Nature of man;

You Who have told us what You have heard from the Father;

We beseech You, through Your Pure Nativity and the intercession of Your

Mother and Saint Joseph, Your Chosen One, to grant us an ardent belief in Your teachings and good acts to harmonize with them. Do not permit us to lose the reward of our faith because of our own wrong doings. Rather, make our lives fruitful in beliefs and good works. Amen

Our Father; Hail Mary;

Glory Be...

#### **Eighth Oration - Dec. 22**

O King of Great Counsel, You joined Your admirable power with the prudence of human judgment when You, the Mighty and All-Powerful God, fled into Egypt from the face of Herod.

We beseech You, through Your Pure Nativity and through the intercession of Your Mother and Saint Joseph, Your Chosen One, to grant us good judgment in all our actions, that we may think and act wisely all the days of our lives as we subject ourselves to Your divine service. Amen

Our Father; Hail Mary;

Glory Be...

#### **Ninth Prayer- Dec. 23**

O Lord, though you are rich by nature, you loved the poverty of our humanity when you became a man like us. Though you were the descendent of kings and the heir of David, the venerable, you were satisfied with a grotto and a humble manger. We implore you, through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your Mother and St. Joseph, your chosen one, to give us a love of voluntary poverty, that we may be satisfied only with what is necessary for our existence, avoiding waste and the love of an easy life, all the days of our lives. Amen.