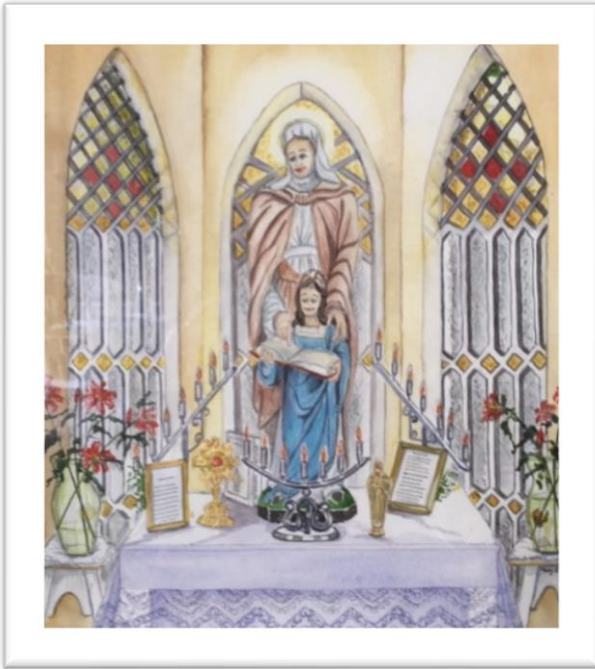


## NOVENA TO ST ANNE



*St Anne's feast day is on July 26<sup>th</sup>, so the Novena to St Anne is traditionally started on July 17<sup>th</sup> – but you can pray it anytime.*

### FIRST DAY

When we meditate on St Anne we cannot help thinking of her goodness. Because she is the ancestress of Jesus, she has, like all grandmothers, a heart overflowing with tenderness and solicitude. On earth her life was spent doing good around her. In working for the happiness of the predestined beings among whom she lived with what an abundance of joy she did fill the heart of her husband, St Joachim, of her daughter Mary, and her Divine Grandson. And since her blessed death and entrance into Heaven, she has been busy with other bounties. With this difference, that now is no longer a few privileged by her solicitude, but all souls who need her.

GOOD ST ANNE, PRAY FOR US.

### SECOND DAY

The number and fame of the shrines dedicated to St Anne proclaim eloquently how good she is. Beaupre, among others, is especially the spot where she pours out her bounties. Not one pilgrim raises from his/her knees at the foot of her miraculous statue without feeling consoled, fortified and enlightened, without feeling a new joy. We also know that, wherever she is invoked, her generosity can be counted on. St Anne is constantly occupied in thinking of us, to loving us, and in preparing to succour us whenever our prayers rise towards her. And how can she not love us, since she loves so deeply God and the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose children we are, since she loves so much her Divine Grandson, whose brothers and sisters we are, and who himself went so far as to give his life and shed his blood for our salvation and happiness. Let us confide to St Anne our troubles, our sorrows and worries, confident that she will do for all we love more than we could possibly hope for.

GOOD ST ANNE, PRAY FOR US.

### THIRD DAY

When we need assurance that we can count on St Anne in our necessities, when we wish to measure the astounding extent of her power over the Heart of God, we should stop and consider that she is the Grandmother of Jesus. Grandchildren, once they have grown up, can refuse nothing to satisfy the desires of their grandmothers. It is their way of returning the thousand caresses and kindnesses that, in their childhood, they receive from them. With what unutterable tenderness St Anne must have surrounded her adorable Grandson! There must have been nothing she would not do to satisfy His least desire. And, now, today, it is her turn to call upon Him. The needs and desires of all who

invoke her are her own needs and desires. And there is nothing Jesus can refuse her.

GOOD ST ANNE, PRAY FOR US.

### FOURTH DAY

If we are poor and lacking in everything, St Anne has only to say one word and we shall have the food, the clothing and the lodging we need for ourselves or those who are dear to us. If we are sick, infirm, the inestimable treasure of health can be restored to us through her intercession. If we are weak in the presence of evil and its enticements, through her we can obtain strength to remain faithful to our Heavenly Father. St Anne has the power needed to conquer all the enemies of our temporal or internal happiness. There is no weakness in the architecture of our bodies which she cannot repair, no moral stress which she cannot succour. But her power is most efficacious when there is question of teaching us the Love of her Divine Grandson and helping us increase in that love, when there is question of making us true Christians, loving and docile disciples, of Christ Jesus. It is this fast favour that we should especially implore of St Anne. We may, of course, beg her to make up for all our other needs. But, what we should expect from her more than anything else is a pure love, for Jesus, and a love which will transform our lives and make them unto His.

GOOD ST ANNE, PRAY FOR US.

### FIFTH DAY

The most beautiful thing that can be said of Mary is that she is the Mother of God. In like manner, the most beautiful title we can apply to St Anne is that of Mother of the Mother of God. This thought should plunge us into ecstasy without end. If the glory of the child reflects back on its mother, which must be St Anne's

glory given to her child born. She was to give birth to the Son of God himself! The first pages of the Bible tell us what solicitude the Lord set about preparing for the first man a universe which would be a dwelling place worthy of Him and his supreme destiny. Is it possible for us even to imagine with what care the Son of God set about forming the body and soul of St Anne, which was to become the dwelling of His Immaculate Mother?

GOOD ST ANNE, PRAY FOR US.

#### SIXTH DAY

Mary, because she is the Mother of the Eternal, has all power in Heaven and on earth. She has been called the All-Powerful Supplicant; a title which signifies the infinite riches, the Creator produces from his own Being, at the prayer of Mary becomes hers and is dispensed by her, at her own choice, to those whom she wishes to help. And what more successful way can there be to interest Mary in our lot than to have recourse to her through the intermediary of St Anne, her beloved mother? If there is one voice in the whole of creation which is irresistible to the Mother of God, it is surely that of her own mother St Anne. How great is our privilege, therefore, thus to hold the key which can open for us the most precious treasures of Our Lord. We have but to turn to St Anne, who will transmit our prayer to her Immaculate Daughter, who bends the ever ready omnipotence of God in favour of whom ever wishes. But what we wish to obtain especially today, through the intercession of the Mother of Mary, is a most tender and faithful devotion to her incomparable daughter. We believe that on this devotion depends our eternal felicity. May we finally, thanks to Good St Anne, come to love truly Mary, her child, and our Mother!

GOOD ST ANNE, PRAY FOR US.

#### SEVENTH DAY

Some of the most beautiful pages of the Gospel show us our Lord restoring sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and speech to the mute and free use of the limbs of the paralysed. This is the miraculous virtue from Jesus. And Jesus went out and healed; and from his goodness and teaching, all infirmities and even the most stubborn diseases yielded. St Anne had received some of the healing powers of her Divine Grandson. Whenever an invalid turns to her, he can be sure that he may hope for her wonder-working intervention. And so, the sick have absolute confidence in her. They turn to her as all invalids cried out in other days to Jesus. The cures we owe to St Anne are, like those of Jesus, destined far more for the conversion and sanctification of souls than for the restoration of human bodies. And so, if we implore our cure through St Anne's intercession, let us above all expect from her the health of our poor souls.

GOOD SAINT ANNE, PRAY FOR US.

#### EIGHTH DAY

Christian life is the life of grace. And sanctifying grace is God living in us and transforming us into Himself. St Peter teaches us that, by grace, we participate in the very nature of God, "Consortes envirae naturae". This explains the astounding affirmation of St John: "we are in truth sons of God... filii Dei nominamur et sumus". Our Lord has already stated that, through grace, we become temples inhabited by the Holy Trinity. "He who loves me my Father will love him, and We shall come into him and establish in him our dwelling". According to St Paul, grace is in some sort the anticipation of Heaven; it makes Christians heirs of Christ and of his kingdom: "cohaeredes Christi". It is Heaven already begun in us, a seed of the light of glory which, one day, will reveal

to us the face of God and plunge us for eternity into unspeakable felicity.

GOOD SAINT ANNE, PRAY FOR US.

#### NINTH DAY

The purest marvels of the creation cannot even lead us to suspect what the splendour of sanctifying grace is. Mountains of diamonds are merely handfuls of mud in comparison with the soul of the child freshly sanctified by Baptism. May we obtain, through St Anne's prayers, that our principle and dearest preoccupation be that of keeping this grace within us and increasing it! May she give us the strength to set aside everything that might attack the reign of grace in our souls? No human pleasure, no fortune, no honour can enter into comparison with an ounce of grace. Let us pray Good St Anne to grant that every one of our days may bring us closer to Heaven, where, with her and our Mother Mary, we may see and love God eternally.

GOOD SAINT ANNE, PRAY FOR US.

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