

# A NOVENA TO ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

Nine days of Prayer for healing and atonement  
for the clerical sexual abuse crisis

April 20 – 28, 2021

a journey to St. Catherine of Siena's feast day on April 29

Hosted by Catholic Communities in Vicariate II of the Archdiocese of Chicago

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**“The devil fears hearts on fire with love of God.”** —St. Catherine of Siena

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## Welcome

Welcome to **A Novena for Healing, Atonement, and Guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

Welcome, everyone joining us online, and those of you present. Thank you, Father and your community, for hosting the Novena.

Our journey to St. Catherine of Siena's Feast Day on Thursday April 29 is the second Petition Novena by Catholic laity to prayerfully unite the faithful for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in healing and atonement for the clergy sexual abuse crisis.

In 1347 during a plague in Italy, St. Catherine of Siena<sup>1</sup> was born the 23rd child of a loving and devout family. She first experienced spiritual visions of Jesus when she was six or seven years old. Years later Catherine received stigmata; the wounds representing the ones on Jesus' body from His crucifixion. Her ministry cared for people who were poor or sick. Catherine's actions and writings were extraordinarily effective with moral practices, leading sinners to repent, and matters concerning the church.

Let us join our hearts and voices with our Gathering Hymn:

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Gathering Hymn<sup>2</sup>

**Prayer of Saint Francis** (Make me a channel of Your peace...)

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## Penitential Act

I confess to Almighty God and to you my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
To pray for me to the Lord our God.

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy	<b>Lord, have mercy</b>
Christ, have mercy	<b>Christ, have mercy</b>
Lord, have mercy	<b>Lord, have mercy</b>

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## Collect<sup>3</sup>

Heavenly Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, source of all consolation and hope. By Your Son's dying and rising He remains our light in every darkness, our strength in every weakness. Be the refuge and guardian of all who suffer, as we seek healing and atonement of the clergy sexual abuse crisis.

Comfort them and send healing for their wounds of body, soul and spirit. Rescue them from bitterness and shame and refresh them with Your love. Heal the brokenness in all victims of abuse and revive the spirits of all who lament this sin.

Help us to follow Jesus in drawing good from evil, life from death. Make us one with You in Your love for justice as we deepen our respect for the dignity of every human life.

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, in the bond of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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## Responsorial Psalm

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### Scripture (New Testament)

A reading from \_\_\_\_\_

The Word of the Lord.      All: **Thanks be to God.**

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### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia.

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### Gospel Reading

A reading from the Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_

The Word of the Lord.      All: **Thanks be to God.**

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## LIGHT THE CANDLE OF ATONEMENT

### Into the Light of Peace Prayer

Heavenly Father, You know our crushed hearts and traumas caused by abuse. Comfort our hearts and give us the courage to turn from our ways to the guidance of Your Holy Spirit. Open our eyes to see and follow Your path out of this darkness, and into the light of Your loving peace.

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, in the bond of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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## Prayer to Follow St Catherine of Siena<sup>4</sup>

Heavenly Father, Your glory is in Your saints. We praise Your glory in the life of the admirable St. Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor of the Church. Her whole life was a noble sacrifice inspired by an ardent love of Jesus, Your unblemished Lamb. In troubled times she strenuously upheld the rights of His beloved spouse, The Church.

Father, honor her merits and hear her prayers for each of us. Help us to pass unscathed through the corruption of this world, and to remain unshakably faithful to the church in word, deed, and example. Help us always to see Jesus as an anchor in the storms of life, and a beacon of light to the harbor of Your Love. Grant also our petitions:

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### Intentions of the Faithful<sup>3</sup>

Our Response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the victims of clerical sexual abuse and their families who have experienced extraordinary trauma and agony ... may available services, our prayers and support ease their suffering and bring them comfort.

We pray to the Lord.           All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For persons deeply distraught and grief stricken by clergy who committed crimes of sexual abuse ... may the Holy Spirit guide them on the path to give them peace.

We pray to the Lord.           All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Church leaders around the world who were involved with cover-ups and failure to grasp the extreme seriousness of clergy sexual abuse ... may the Holy Spirit transform their shepherding as they learn from the past.

We pray to the Lord.           All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the clergy who had no involvement in these tragedies yet carry the shame ... may our prayers and support lift them up.

We pray to the Lord.           All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For persons around the world affected by any type of abuse; physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or economical ... may the clergy sexual abuse crisis enlighten our awareness of responsibility as we reach out with compassion, services and healing prayers.

We pray to the Lord.           All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all the prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts.

We pray to the Lord.           All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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### St. Catherine of Siena's Intercession Prayer<sup>5</sup>

O Saint Catherine of Siena, God our Father enkindled the flame of holy love in your heart as you meditated on the Passion of Jesus His Son. Moved by His grace, you devoted your life to the poor and the sick, as well as to the peace and unity of the Church. Through your intercession, may we also come to know the love of Jesus, bring His compassion to all, and work for the unity of His Church.

St. Catherine of Siena, **Pray for us.**

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### MOMENT OF SILENCE

#### Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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### Prayer for Healing<sup>3</sup>

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong:  
Your only Son was delivered into the hands of the wicked,  
yet forgave and healed us with the blood of His cross.

May the gentle Jesus join to His own suffering,  
the pains of those abused by clergy.  
May Jesus hear and answer the cries of those abused  
and all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit.

May Jesus calm their restless fears  
with faith in Your protection,  
their doubt, with confidence in Your love,  
and all rage with trust in Your healing mercy.

Grant all Shepherds of His Church  
the compassion to protect His lambs,  
the strength to faithfully guide His flock,  
and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit  
to model their lives on Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

God of justice and compassion,  
protect us from all types of abuse,  
guide us with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit,  
comfort our hearts with hope,  
and transform our brokenness to find peace in You.

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, in the bond of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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### Candle of Atonement Prayer<sup>3</sup>

Lord, forgive us our many sins. We grieve and repent with all our hearts for having offended You, for our great failings and neglect of the young and vulnerable.

We place all of those who have been hurt by the Church in any way into Your loving hands and under the protection of Our Blessed Mother.

Lord, grant peace to our broken lives and guide our footsteps out of darkness and into the light of Your Word.  
May we as the children of God be more fully human, more fully Christ-like and more fully Your people. May we see the errors of the past and go forward in unity with renewed hope, faith and thanksgiving according to God's will. Amen.

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### Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God, my guardian dear,  
To whom God's love commits me here,  
Ever this day, be at my side,  
To light and guard, rule and guide. Amen.

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### Healing and Atonement Novena Prayer<sup>6</sup>

God, our Father, we thank You for sending Your Archangels to guide us during our pilgrimage on earth, especially in this time of heartache in our lives and crisis in our Church.

We pray to Michael, our Protector, to fight for us, for our loved ones, and for all who are in danger, and to protect them from harm of body and soul.

We pray to Gabriel, who brought us the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ, to open our crushed hearts to the forgiveness and reparation won for us by Jesus on the Cross.

We pray to Raphael, who brings healing, to restore to fullness of life, body, and soul, all who have been harmed, all of us who are suffering, and grief stricken.

We make our prayers, Father, as Your daughters and sons, one family united in the Spirit of Your Son, as we walk together in atonement towards healing and peace. Amen.

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Benediction

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**“Respond to the Holy Spirit who is calling you!  
I tell you: Come! Come! Come! Don’t wait for time because time isn’t  
waiting for you.”** —St. Catherine of Siena

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The members of the Abuse Crisis Response Team from Vicariate II of the Archdiocese of Chicago wish to thank the Most Reverend Mark Bartosic, Auxiliary Bishop and Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate II, and you for your participation in the Novena for Healing, Atonement, and Guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our heartfelt gratitude to the Priests, Staff and Communities hosting the Novena; the journey to Saint Catherine of Siena’s Feast Day on April 29.

April 20: Holy Child Jesus Parish  
April 21: Mary Mother of God Parish  
April 22: Saint Clement Parish  
April 23: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish  
April 24: Immaculate Conception and Saint Joseph Parish  
April 25: The National Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini  
April 26: St. Benedict Parish  
April 27: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Parish  
April 28: Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern University

#### **Acknowledgments**

- 1 Adapted from online sources:  
[christianitytoday.com/history/people/innertravelers/catherine-of-siena.html](http://christianitytoday.com/history/people/innertravelers/catherine-of-siena.html)  
[stcatherineville.com/about-st-catherine-of-siena](http://stcatherineville.com/about-st-catherine-of-siena)
- 2 Prayer of St Francis, copyright 1967, OCP GIA Publications, Inc., Missalette License
- 3 Adapted from *Pontifical Commission* for February 19, 2021  
[ardaghdioocese.org/friday-february-19th-day-of-prayer-for-victims-and-survivors-of-abuse/](http://ardaghdioocese.org/friday-february-19th-day-of-prayer-for-victims-and-survivors-of-abuse/)
- 4 Adapted from *A Prayer to Follow St Catherine of Siena*  
[praymorenovenas.com/st-catherine-of-siena-novena](http://praymorenovenas.com/st-catherine-of-siena-novena)
- 5 Adapted from *Prayer for St. Catherine of Siena’s Intercession*  
[heavenlydivinecustomrosary.com/st--catherine-of-siena-prayers.html](http://heavenlydivinecustomrosary.com/st--catherine-of-siena-prayers.html)
- 6 Novena for Healing and Atonement Prayer Card, 9/2019 Archdiocese of Chicago Vicariate II, Used with permission.

[protect.archchicago.org/offices-and-services/office-of-assistance-ministry](http://protect.archchicago.org/offices-and-services/office-of-assistance-ministry)