

Novena for the Church

The Men of St. Joseph invite all parishioners of Sacred Heart, St. Helena's, and St. Mary's to join us in praying a Novena for the Church.

We are praying the Novena in honor of St. Charles Lwanga¹ every day for 9 days:

- ▶ Start: **Tuesday October 2***
- ▶ End: **Wednesday October 10**

Fasting and other forms of penance are encouraged but left to each person's discretion.

** Join us at Sacred Heart at 6:30 PM to pray the Day 1 prayers together before Mass. For the rest of the Novena you can pray on your own each day at the time and place that works best for you.*

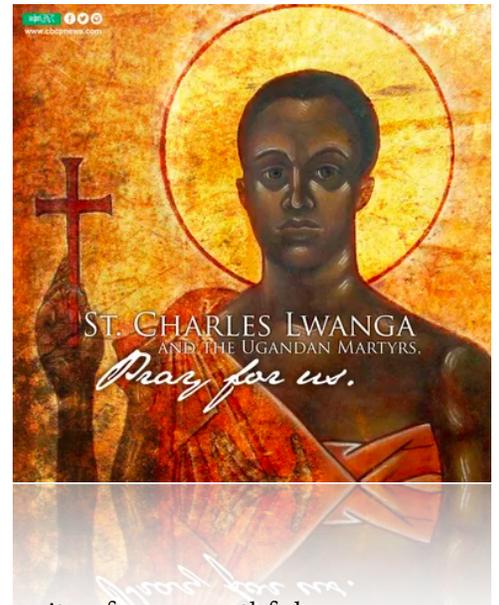
How to pray the novena

Start each day with a short prayer to St. Charles Lwanga to focus on a specific intention.

Pray: St. Charles Lwanga, you gave your life to protect the faith and purity of your youthful companions. We offer the prayers of this Novena...

- ▶ **Day 1:** ...for the victims of sexual abuse by clergy and employees of the Church.
- ▶ **Day 2:** ...for healing and renewal in the Church.
- ▶ **Day 3:** ...for those who have perpetrated abuses in the Church.
- ▶ **Day 4:** ...for those who have facilitated abuses in the Church by downplaying them or covering them up.
- ▶ **Day 5:** ...for the Church that continues to sustain so much damage as a result of these abuses.
- ▶ **Day 6:** ...for those tempted to leave or stay away from the Church due to the abuses.
- ▶ **Day 7:** ...for the faithful whose attempts to live their faith publicly have been undermined by their own shepherds.
- ▶ **Day 8:** ...for purity and wisdom and courage for the leaders of our Church as clergy and lay Catholics together strive to atone for the pain and damage done to so many in the Church's name.
- ▶ **Day 9:** ...for increased faith, unity, and integrity among clergy and lay Catholics in the future, and for perseverance to do the hard work that God is calling us to in order to root out the source of these sins within the Church.

End each day by praying a ***Chaplet of Divine Mercy***.



¹ see <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/st-charles-lwanga-and-companions-martyrs-of-uganda-488>

The Chaplet of The Divine Mercy

The Chaplet of Mercy is recited using ordinary Rosary beads of 5 decades. The Chaplet starts with 2 opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Faustina and ends with a closing prayer.

1. Make the Sign of the Cross

2. Opening prayers

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

recite 3 times: O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

3. Our Father

4. Hail Mary

5. The Apostle's Creed

6. The Eternal Father

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

7. On the 10 small beads of each decade

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

8. Repeat for the remaining decades

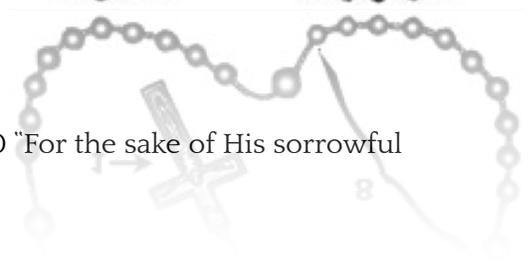
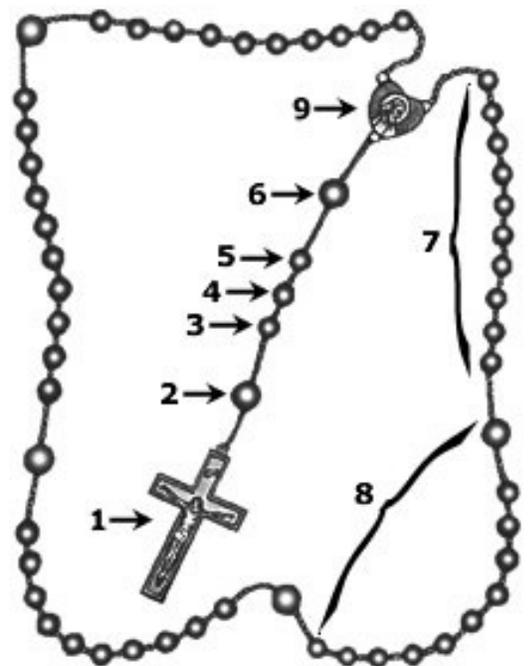
Say the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

9. Conclude with Holy God

recite 3 times: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

10. Closing prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your Holy Will, which is Love and Mercy itself.²



² source: <http://thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/praythechaplet.php>