



My dear Little Flower,

We celebrated a great weekend here at Little Flower. I am happy to see our usual parishioners, those who have been with us to worship at Mass throughout the summertime. But I am extra delighted to see that people and families are coming back from the summer vacation! I am hoping to have another great “journey” ahead of us. TGIS! Thank God it is September!

From September 19-28, I am blessed to participate on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I am excited to take you with me virtually! I invite you to sign up using the link on our website to receive a daily update from me and the group through Flocknote. It will be a journey in mind and heart from your own home! Embark on this virtual pilgrimage with people who will explore the nature of Christian Pilgrimage, encounter the places of the Holy from a biblical, historical, meditative, and prayerful perspective. This digital pilgrimage to the Holy Land promises to be an education and a transforming spiritual experience. I hope to be with you in spirit!

We are kicking off Little Flower’s Feast Month (October) with the Novena to St Therese of Lisieux. The Catechism Column in our bulletin this week explains what a Novena is. Our Novena for St Therese, the Little Flower, will be prayed everyday (beginning September 22th through September 30th) before every Mass; it will also be available on the website, and it will go LIVE daily on our social media (YouTube Channel Facebook and Instagram) with Fr Matt and I at 12 noon everyday. I am looking forward to praying with you and with our whole faith family, with St Therese as our patroness saint and great intercessor.

**Your parish priest,
Fr JC Merino**



Catechism of the Catholic Church

What is a prayer novena?

Fr. Greg Friedman of the Franciscan Order explained that prayer is one of the most personal experiences in the life of a believer. Prayer is being in relationship with God. A novena is a type or a way of prayer whereby a Catholic believer asks for the intercession of a favorite and powerful saint. The Novena comes from the Latin word novem, which means “nine”; it is a nine-day prayer that is often used to ask for special intercession from a saint (our family in faith in heaven).

A novena prayer to God reveals the charisms and gifts of the chosen saint, with whom we choose to pray.

The Novena to St Francis for example highlights his gift towards the care for creation, while a prayer novena to St Jude is “popular” to Catholic believers who are asking intercession to God for “difficult or impossible cases”.

In the Philippines, we do have a version of a novena prayer around Mass where we celebrate the birth of our Lord from December 16 through the 24, where believers wake up at early dawn to go to church before the sunrise. Traditionally, here at the Church of the Little Flower, we pray the novena prayer to St Therese before every Mass nine days before her feast day on October 1, to bless God for the gift of our little patroness and to ask for her intercession for the particular intentions of our parish community.

NOVENA TO ST THERESE

Begins September 22nd

Three Ways to Pray

- 1 - Prior to all Masses in person or streaming on our website.*
- 2 - Daily at noon, live with Fr JC and Fr Matthew on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram*
- 3 - On your own, download the Novena from our website.*

“All of the spiritual life is a pilgrimage to the heart of the Father.”



Go to our website for the Family Novena to St. Therese. Created for families with young children.