Christmas Novena 2026

The Mercy Made Flesh

Dear friends and supporters of the Shrine of Saint Jude,

On Christmas, we will do something at Mass that we always do on Sundays and solemn feasts: we will recite the Creed—but with one difference. At the words "and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man," we will all genuflect. This line of the Creed refers, of course, to the **Incarnation**: the truth that God Himself took on human flesh, that He became man in order to save us. It is this great mystery that we celebrate at Christmas.



We do not do the same thing on other feasts. On Pentecost, the feast of the coming of the Holy Spirit, we do not genuflect at the words "I believe in the Holy Spirit." We do not even genuflect on Easter Sunday at the words proclaiming that our Lord "rose again on the third day." Why, then, do we genuflect at the Creed on Christmas? **Because on this day we celebrate the truth that lies at the very heart of our faith: that mercy has broken into human history, into our very flesh; that Love Himself humbled Himself to become a Son of Man, so that we might become sons and daughters of God.**

And this truth calls for a response. **We bend our knees before Christ in humility, acknowledging the astonishing mercy of a God who has humbled Himself for our sake.**

As the Gospel tells us, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). The darkness of evil, the darkness of suffering, the darkness of our sins, has not overcome the light of Christ. Mercy has broken into time, into our world. Our God, who sustains all things in existence, took on human flesh and dwelt among us, to call us to Himself. He called out to you from the crèche. He called out to you from the Cross. And today, in His glory, He still calls out to you, two thousand years later, in the silence of your heart.

I invite all of you to respond to this call by participating in our Christmas Novena, which will take place from December 25 through January 2. You may do so using the enclosed slip. Take advantage of this sacred season and respond to **Mercy made flesh** by bending your knees before the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, bringing before Him your prayers, your burdens, and your intentions.

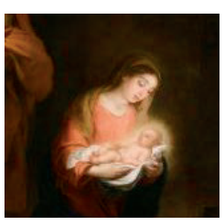
May your participation in this novena help you experience anew the tender love of the Lord who has come to dwell among us.

In Christ and Saint Jude,

Fr. Elias Guadalupe Ford, O.P.
Director

prayjude.org/current-novenas

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Christmas Novena - Spiritual Bouquet

The Mercy Made Flesh

Dear Fr. Elias,
Please pray for my loved ones during the **Christmas Novena** at the Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus **from December 25, 2026, through January 2, 2027.**

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Donation: $_____ Name: _____

Please mail this form to **The St. Jude Shrine • PO Box 15368 • San Francisco, CA 94115**; or drop it off at the Shrine.