



Christmas 2025

Dear friends and supporters of the Shrine of Saint Jude,

I hope this Advent season finds you well, as together we await the coming of our Lord at Christmas.

I usually refrain from listening to Christmas music during Advent, but I make one exception: the many musical settings of O Magnum Mysterium—“O Great Mystery.” The text, drawn from Matins in the traditional Divine Office (the prayer that Dominicans, along with other priests and religious, pray throughout the day), reads:



*O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger!
O blessed Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!*

What moves me most about this text is how beautifully it captures the paradox and wonder of the Incarnation—that God’s love would stoop so low, not only to become Man, but to become a poor man, born among animals in a manger. One of my favorite musical interpretations is by the French composer Francis Poulenc. His haunting setting conveys the awe and holy fear of this divine mystery: God reaching out His hand to you, calling you to let go of all that holds you back, to turn away from sin, and to respond to His boundless love.

This “great mystery” gives us much to contemplate amid the busyness of the Christmas season, which so easily becomes a time of distraction. As we prepare to celebrate our Savior’s birth, let us not lose sight of its heart: God is calling you to His love—so deeply that He became a helpless child, born to die for you and to lead you to Himself.

As we approach this holy feast, **I invite you to enroll your petitions in our Christmas Novena, which will take place from December 25 through January 2. You may do so using the attached slip.** 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.

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Director



Prayjude.org/current-novenas

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Christmas Novena Spiritual Bouquet

Dear Fr. Elias,
Please pray for my special intentions and for my loved ones during the **Christmas Novena** at the Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus **from December 25, 2025 to January 2, 2026.**

Donation: \$ _____ Name: _____

Please mail this form to **The Shrine of St. Jude • PO Box 15368 • San Francisco, CA 94115-0368**; or drop it off at the Shrine.