



Easter and St. Peregrine Novenas 2026

Dear Friends of St. Jude,

The great Dominican theologian, St. Thomas Aquinas, famously defined hope as the desire for a future good that is difficult to obtain. Through the Resurrection, we have been shown what this good is: eternal life with God. And we know that, while it is difficult to attain in this life, it is possible with the grace of God. Christian hope is that reaching toward this future eternal good; it is striving to obtain it despite the difficulty.

This may seem simple enough, but in reality it is often very challenging. We are confronted with a myriad of obstacles—financial troubles, brokenness in families, addictions, loss of faith, serious or even terminal illness, and so much more. In these moments, it can be hard to hold onto our desire for the eternal good, which feels distant and difficult to pursue amid so much darkness.

The only way we can persevere is through God's grace. The hope that comes from ourselves might carry us only so far, but it is not enough. We need divine hope—the hope that God infuses into our souls, what we call the theological virtue of hope.

I encourage you, therefore, to ask God for this virtue through the two novenas we have upcoming. The first is our regular **Easter Novena, which will run from April 5–13**. During these days, we can beg our risen Lord to impart this theological hope to us, because the hope that Christ gives does not disappoint.

I also invite you to participate, a little later, in the **St. Peregrine Novena**, patron saint of those suffering from cancer. We have moved it from its usual dates in June to **April 23–May 1** so that it will conclude on his feast day, May 1. Through St. Peregrine's intercession, may God grant hope—and healing—in the darkness of illness, especially for those suffering from cancer.

Feel free to include your petitions on the slips provided with this letter and mail them to us using the enclosed return envelope.

I pray that these final days of the Lenten season may bear abundant spiritual fruit.

In Christ,

Fr. Elias Guadalupe Ford, O.P.



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