



## Christmas 2024

### Dear friends and supporters of the Shrine of Saint Jude!

I hope that you have been doing well during this season of Advent, as we await for the coming of our Lord on Christmas! Towards this end, **I'd like to invite you to enroll your prayer petitions in our Christmas Novena, which runs from December 25 until January 2, which you can do using our slip attached.**

But in preparation for this, I'd like to tell you about a prayer that you can do in preparation for our Christmas novena, which my mom taught me when I was a child. My mom, you see, is *really* into novenas, be it the standard nine-day novena, or the veteran fifty-four-day rosary novena. But one my mother has been doing *every* year since as long as I can remember is this one:

*Hail and Blessed be the hour and the moment when the son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary in a stable, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe I beseech thee, oh my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and His Most Blessed Mother.*

This prayer traditionally is repeated 15 times each day during Advent. It is a simple but beautiful meditation on how God *actually* became man, being born on a historic date, in the human condition, and even bearing the physical suffering of that condition (namely, the cold!). My mom would often try to get the whole family to do this with her, but would always be the only one in the end finishing the marathon. Her perseverance has paid off. Thirty years of doing this, my mother has endured great trials in her life, including surviving cancer ten years ago. Through all of that, she has never wavered from her faith, and this novena is a beautiful symbol of that.



So as I enroll in our Christmas novena, I'm going to "pre-game" it during Advent with this prayer, and you can join me as well, so that we can be prepared to welcome our Lord this Christmas. Please enroll below, and we'll offer all your intentions during our Christmas Novena.

And as always, **thank you so much** for your generous contributions to the Shrine. Everything you provide goes towards helping to support devotion to St. Jude and the formation of our student friars studying in preparation for ministry.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas!

In Christ and St. Jude,

*Rev. Br. Elias Guadalupe Ford op.*

Rev. Br. Elias Guadalupe Ford, O.P.  
Director



<https://stjude-shrine.org/enroll-in-the-christmas-novena>

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(415) 931-5919 [www.stjude-shrine.org](http://www.stjude-shrine.org)



## Christmas Novena Spiritual Bouquet

Dear Fray Elias,  
Please pray for my intentions and enroll the names of my loved ones written below in your Christmas Novena from December 25 to January 2, 2025, at the Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus.

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Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to: St. Jude Shrine • PO Box 15368 • San Francisco, CA 94115-0368 • Or drop it off at the Shrine.