

**\* Pictures of the  
CHILD JESUS  
As He grew!**



**And she gave birth to her first born Son...**



**...going into the house they saw the child and  
worshipped Him**



**...the Child grew and  
became strong**



**He often spent time working with His foster father,  
St. Joseph....**



**Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at  
the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years  
old, the boy Jesus stayed behind. After three days  
they found him in the Temple sitting among the  
teachers. His mother said to Him, "Son why have  
you treated us so? "How is it you sought me? Did  
you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"**

\*(excerpted from: (my.homewithgod.com)

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## **DEVOTIONS TO THE CHILD JESUS**

*A 40 DAY DEVOTION  
DECEMBER 25TH - FEBRUARY 2ND*



**The Christ Child**

### ***THE CHRIST CHILD PRAYER***

***\*Remember in the Sacrifice of Your one and only Child,  
grant all children everywhere throughout the world,  
like Your Son, as they increase in years,  
that they may grow in grace and wisdom before You,  
and in the sight of all,  
for the improvement and saving of the world.***

***O Jesus, the Friend of little children,  
bless the little children of the whole world.  
Amen.***

\*(excerpted from [www.christchildssocietyakron.org](http://www.christchildssocietyakron.org))

## **EFFICACIOUS PRAYER TO THE HOLY CHILD JESUS**

**\*O** Child Jesus, I have recourse to Thee by thy Holy Mother.

I implore Thee to assist me in this necessity, for I firmly believe that Thy Divinity can assist me I confidently hope to obtain Thy holy grace. I love Thee with my whole heart and my whole soul. I am heartily sorry for my sins and entreat Thee, O good Jesus, to give me strength to overcome them. I am firmly resolved never to offend Thee again and to suffer everything rather than displease Thee. Hence forth, I wish to serve Thee faithfully. For love of Thee, O Divine Child, I will love my neighbor as myself. O Jesus, omnipotent Child, I entreat Thee again to come to my assistance in this necessity... (make your request). Grant me the grace of possessing Thee eternally with Mary and Joseph and of adoring Thee with Thy holy Angels and Saints. Amen. + + +

This novena prayer comes to us from a revelation said to have been made by the Blessed Mother to the Venerable Servant of God, Father F. Cyril O.C.D., a Mater Dei. It was on an Infant of Prague pamphlet dated Jan. 2, 1942. That was during World War II, at a time when many Catholic women were saying it for their loved ones in combat.

\*(excerpted from: www.catholicwomen.com).

### **WHY IS THERE A DEVOTION ?**

**\*\*It** is not hard to understand why canonized saints and so many others have recognized the need of devotion to the Infant King. As far back as in the Old Testament times the prophet Isaiah spoke of a little “shoot” that was to bud from the stock of Jesse (Is. 11).

**The** spirit of the Lord would rest on this one of David’s line and at His coming there would be messianic peace throughout the land, for “a little child shall lead them.” The evangelists of the New Testament see this prophecy fulfilled in Christ. He is the true Prince of Peace so long awaited. Son of Mary, who is of David’s line, He is at the same time the eternal Son of God.

God has placed in men’s hearts an instinctive response to the helplessness of childhood. It is His will that this response, as all others, be made to His Son, who “being rich, became poor for your sake, in order that by His poverty you might become rich” (2 Cor. 8,9). God ordained that Jesus should know all of life’s stages: infancy, childhood, youth, that He should be like us in everything, except sin.

Our Lord knew the frailty of babyhood. He had to be nursed and carried about in Mary’s arms, to watch with wondering eyes the world unfading to His growing intelligence. There is no stage of growth that Jesus has not sanctified for us by living it Himself. It seems as though Childhood holds a special place in His heart.

As a grown man, it was a child whom Jesus took in His arms to hold up as a model for His disciples: “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” they had

asked Him. Christ’s answer was: “I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven at all! Anyone, therefore, who is as unassuming as this child is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven” (Mt. 18:1-5). This teaching should not be misunderstood. Jesus is not commending childishness, timidity, or lack of spiritual maturity.

**The** Child of Bethlehem was born with a mission of salvation. Being a follower of Christ demands courage, decisive action, and maturity. Coupled with these must always be humility, candor, and confidence. These are the virtues of childhood. It is these virtues that Jesus is recommending.

**Love** of our Infant Savior teaches us to accept - as He did - our littleness, and, our poverty as creatures. It also teaches us, as St. Paul was taught, that “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in infirmity” (2 Cor. 12, 9). This devotion to the Infant Jesus shows us that God’s power is attracted by our very weakness, for when dealing with our human frailty, God’s power is mercy. The proud and arrogant, God scatters, “He has put down the mighty from their thrones,” as our Lady sang in her Magnificat. But the little and humble He loves. “He has exalted the lowly” (Lk. 1, 52).

**The** devotion to the Christ Child also teaches us a daring confidence in our heavenly Father. He shows His power most of all, as the Collect prayer for the 10th Sunday after Pentecost reminds us by pardoning and granting mercy.

**It** is from His Son that we learn how much our Father yearns to show us His love and hear our prayers. “If one of you asks his Father for a loaf, will he hand him a stone, or for a fish, will he hand him a serpent, or if he asks for an egg, will he hand him a scorpion? Therefore, if you, evil as you are, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give...” (Lk. 11: 11-13).

\*\* (excerpted from: www.infantjesus.com)

**\*\*\***Through the depiction of the Christ Child, we have a greater appreciation for the Divine Infancy of Our Lord, which we can contemplate to assist us in our own lives. As Dom Guerange writes in the Liturgical Year, Christmas, Book I: “We apply the name of Christmas to the forty days which begins with the Nativity of Our Lord, December 25th, and ends with the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, February 2nd. It is a period which forms a distinct portion of the Liturgical Year... One same Mystery is celebrated and kept in view during the whole forty days... The custom of celebrating the Solemnity of our Savior’s Nativity by a feast or commemoration of forty days duration is founded on the holy Gospel itself; for it tells us that the Blessed Virgin Mary, after spending forty days in the contemplation of the Divine Fruit of her glorious Maternity, went to the temple, there to fulfill, in most perfect humility, the ceremonies which the law demanded of its daughters of Israel, when they became mothers.

\*\*\* (excerpted from www.catholictraditions.org).