

The angel had told both Joachim and Ann to go to the Golden Gate in Jerusalem, which they did; there, they rejoiced over the angel's revelation that they would have a child.

Returning home to Bethlehem, the happy couple conceived and bore a daughter whom they named Mary. When the child was three years old, they traveled with her to the Temple in Jerusalem and dedicated the promised child to the Lord. Setting Mary down in front of the Temple, the couple watched as she climbed the fifteen steps up toward the Temple entrance. Ann and Joachim took this as a sign of their young daughter's desire to be close to God.

Devotion to St. Ann, the mother of Mary and grandmother of Jesus, can be dated back to the first shrine dedicated in her honor by Justinian I in the sixth century. Also, there is mention of the saintly parents being included on a vestment presented by Pope Leo III to the Basilica of St. Mary Major in the eighth century.

Another wave of devotion to Ann revolves around the belief that Mary Magdalene and Lazarus had transported her remains to France in the first century. A bishop purportedly had buried the remains in a cave at Apt beneath a church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. The area had all but been forgotten when the church was destroyed by invaders and left in ruins.

Some six hundred years later, miners uncovered the cave and, discovering the long-lost relics, took St. Ann as their patroness. The church was rebuilt and became a great shrine to St. Ann in Europe during the Middle Ages.

Pope Urban VI granted that a feast be celebrated by the English Church in 1382 after the English Catholics had petitioned for such a feast. The universal Church did not celebrate St. Ann's feast until 1584.



FOR OTHER NOVENAS AND PAMPHLETS

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.pamphletstoinspire.com

Novena to Saint Ann



***Saint Ann
Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Grandmother of Jesus***

NOVENA TO SAINT ANN

The following prayers are repeated once a day for nine consecutive days.

Make the Sign of the Cross.

Incline unto my aid, O God; O Lord, make haste to help me.

Let us pray:

O Almighty God, Father of mercies and Giver of all good gifts, we kneel before You to honor You in Your Saints; and to seek their intercession in our many needs. We are truly sorry for all our sins, and humbly ask Your pardon. Please grant our petitions and a full measure of the indulgences granted by Your Vicar, the pope, and draw us ever nearer to Your Divine Heart. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Ann

With a heart full of sincere and filial veneration, I prostrate myself before you, O Blessed St. Ann. You are that beloved and privileged creature who, because of your extraordinary virtue and sanctity, did deserve of God that chief of graces, of giving life to the treasury of grace, the blessed among women, the Mother of the Incarnate Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In consideration of such exalted favors, please, O most tender saint, receive me among the number of your truly devoted servants, for such I profess myself to be and wish to remain for the rest of my life. Surround me with your efficacious patronage and obtain for me knowledge of my sins and sorrow for them, an ardent love of Jesus and Mary, and a faithful and constant observance of the duties of my state in life. Save me from all dangers in life and assist me at the hour of my death that I may safely reach Paradise, there to praise with you, most happy Mother, the Word of God made man in the womb of your most pure daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Amen.

Recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Prayer to St. Ann to Obtain a Special favor

O Glorious St. Ann, filled with compassion for those who invoke you and with love for those who suffer, heavily laden with the weight of my troubles, I cast myself at your feet and humbly beg of you to take the present affair which I recommend to you under your special protection (*mention your request here*). Please recommend it to your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and lay it before the throne of Jesus so that He may bring it to a happy issue. Please continue to intercede for me until my request is granted. Above all, obtain for me the grace of one day beholding my God face to face and with you and Mary and all the saints praising and blessing Him for all eternity. Amen.

Say the following prayer three times.

Good St. Ann, Mother of her who is our life, our sweetness, and our hope, pray to her for us and obtain our requests.

Good St. Ann, *pray for us.*

+

History of the Devotion

The parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary are first mentioned in the late second-century apocryphal work called the *Protoevangelium of St. James*. According to that account, a man named Joachim was a shepherd in charge of raising the lambs that were used for the temple sacrifice in Bethlehem. He was married to Ann but was scorned by his fellow shepherds because the couple was childless after twenty years of marriage, which was considered a curse during Old Testament times.

Joachim, retiring to the desert, cried to God. An angel comforted him with a message that his sorrow was near an end. Ann, who had remained behind in Bethlehem, also received an angelic visitation. The angel told her that God had heard the prayer of the couple and that Ann would conceive and bring forth a child that would be spoken of throughout the world. Ann, for her part, replied to the angel that if such a child, whether male or female, were to be born, she would dedicate it to God's service.