



Concluding Prayer

Grant me, O Lord my God,
a mind to know you,
a heart to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
conduct pleasing to you,
faithful perseverance in waiting for you,
and a hope of finally embracing you.

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A Novena with Saint Thomas Aquinas



A novena is a nine-day commitment of prayer, modeled on the experience of the disciples of Jesus, who waited and prayed after the Lord's Ascension into heaven, and before the experience of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Focusing on our patron saint, Thomas Aquinas, this novena will help you pray over nine days, starting on January 21st, and concluding on the weekend we observe Thomas' feast day, January 29th.

Spend a few minutes each day with the opening prayer, a scripture passage to read and meditate upon, an intercession, and a closing prayer. If you wish a longer prayer time, you might engage in *Lectio Divina* with the Scripture passage, or offer additional intercessions, or unite this prayer with another practice, such as daily Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, the Rosary, or one of your personal devotions.

Begin each prayer time with this opening prayer:

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world with end.
Amen.

Day 1: (Baptism)

Scripture

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:3-6)

Intercession

Loving God, as Thomas was adopted through Jesus Christ in his baptism, open me to pursue the baptismal call in my life, to seek holiness, and to strive toward union with You.

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Day 9: (Doctor of the Church)

Scripture

The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb. (Psalm 19:8-11)

Intercession

Loving God, as you inspired Thomas to teach to the generations to follow, open all minds and hearts to the sweetness of God, and allow our faith community to flourish under his patronage, as faith seeks understanding among believers and seekers alike.

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Day 8: (Saint)

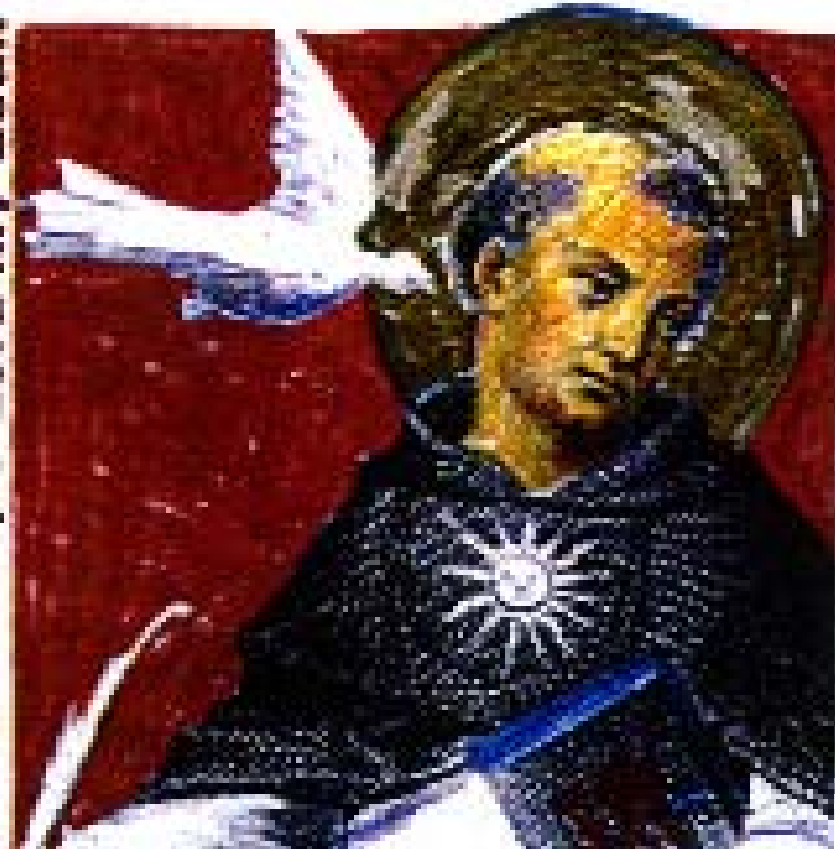
Scripture

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' (Revelation 7:9-10)

Intercession

Holy God, as you received Thomas to the glory of sainthood, challenge me to imitate the sanctity of my brothers and sisters in heaven.

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Day 2: (Student)

Scripture

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

Intercession

God of all Wisdom, as Thomas received the nourishment of grace, help me seek knowledge, and assist me to order my life to spread the Gospel.

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Day 3: (Teacher)

Scripture

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

Intercession

God of Light, as young Thomas tutored his sisters, and later, taught university students, guide me to show my faith to others in both my words and my life's example.

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Day 4: (Priest)

Scripture

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. (Hebrews 5:1-3)

Intercession

God of all Grace, as Thomas served the Church as a priest, direct my prayers as intercessions for others, and help me seek and find your overflowing grace.

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Day 5: (Preacher)

Scripture

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe betide me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. (1 Corinthians 9:16-18)

Intercession

God and Source of the Word, as Thomas fulfilled the Dominican charism of preaching, move me to witness my faith with family and friends, and also to those who do not yet know Christ.

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Day 6: (Eucharist)

Scripture

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Intercession

God of Life, as Thomas was sustained by the Bread of Life, nourish me through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

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Day 7: (Keeping Vigil)

Scripture

In the path of your judgments, O LORD, we wait for you;
your name and your renown are the soul's desire.
My soul yearns for you in the night,
my spirit within me earnestly seeks you.
For when your judgments are in the earth,
the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. (Isaiah 26:8-9)

Intercession

Hidden God, as Thomas waited for you in the unfolding of his life, calm me in uncertain times, and settle my doubts as I keep vigil with your saints and holy ones.

Concluding Prayer (turn to the final page)