Biography

St. Catherine of Alexandria was born to noble parents in Alexandria, Egypt. She devoted herself to study and was interested in philosophy. She converted to Christianity after a vision in which she saw the Mother of God and the Child Jesus.

When Emperor Maxentius persecuted Christians, she went to him to rebuke his cruelty. Initially the emperor tried to persuade her to renounce her religion, but she refused. The emperor then summoned fifty of the most learned men to refute her, but she converted many of the learned men instead.

She was imprisoned, and during her imprisonment she was able to convert many visitors, including Emperor Maxentius' wife Velaria Maximilla. The emperor proposed marriage to her, but she refused, having consecrated her virginity to her divine Spouse. She was initially ordered to die on the breaking wheel, often called "Catherine's wheel." Legends argue that the wheel broke by her touch. Eventually, she was beheaded, although her body was translated to Mt. Sinai and a monastery was later built there.

St. Catherine of Alexandria's feast day is November 25, and she is the patroness of many professions and places, most notably unmarried women, and philosophers. She is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers.

NOVENA to SAINT CATHERINE of ALEXANDRIA



November 16 through November 24

V. In the Name (✠) of the Father... R. Amen.

Novena Prayer

V. **Almighty and Eternal God,**

R. With lively faith and reverently worshiping Thy divine Majesty, I prostrate myself before Thee and invoke with filial trust Thy supreme bounty and mercy.

V. Illumine the darkness of my intellect with a ray of Thy heavenly light,

R. And inflame my heart with the fire of Thy divine love, that I may contemplate the great virtues and merits of St. Catherine of Alexandria, in whose honor we make this novena, and following her example, may we imitate the life of Thy divine Son.

V. Moreover, I beseech Thee to grant graciously, through the merits and intercession of this most powerful and holy Helper, St. Catherine,

R. The petition which through her we humbly place before Thee, devoutly saying, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Vouchsafe graciously and generously to hear it, if it redounds to Thy greater glory and to the salvation of my soul.

(Pause and state your intentions)

Prayer in Honor of St. Catherine

V. O God, Who did distinguish Thy holy Virgin and Martyr Catherine by the gift of great wisdom and virtue, and a victorious combat with the enemies of the Faith,

R. Grant us, we beseech Thee, through her intercession, constancy in the Faith and the wisdom of the Saints, that we may devote all the powers of our mind and heart to Thy service. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Invocation of St. Catherine

V. St. Catherine, glorious Virgin and Martyr, resplendent in the luster of wisdom and purity,

R. Thy wisdom refuted the adversaries of Divine truth and covered them with confusion; thy immaculate purity made thee a spouse of Christ, so that after thy glorious Martyrdom Angels carried thy body to Mount Sinai.

V. Implore for me progress in the science of the Saints and the virtue of holy purity,

R. That vanquishing the enemies of my soul, I may be victorious in my last combat and after death be conducted by the angels into the eternal beatitude of Heaven. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

V. My Lord and God,

R. I offer up to Thee my petition in union with the bitter passion and death of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, together with the merits of His immaculate and blessed Mother, Mary ever virgin, and of all the Saints, particularly with those of the holy Helper in whose honor I make this novena.

V. Look down upon me, merciful Lord!

R. Grant me Thy grace and Thy love, and graciously hear my prayer. Amen.

V. Praise be Jesus Christ!

R. Now and forever. Amen.

V. In the Name (✠) of the Father... R. Amen.