

**\*Start each day of the Novena with  
Opening Prayer**

Ever Loving God, you called St. Katharine Drexel to teach the message of the Gospel and to bring the life of the Eucharist to the Black and Native American peoples.

By her prayers and example, enable us to work for justice among the poor and oppressed. Draw us all into the Eucharistic community of Your Church, that we may be one in You.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

\*After Opening Prayer, go to the Reflection/ Prayer for that day.

***“All spiritual  
victories are won by  
persevering prayer.”  
- St. Katharine Drexel***

**\*Then end using  
Closing Prayer**

“I wish to be one who conscientiously takes part in the unfolding of God’s plans, and eventually have a glorious part in the final unfolding of time into the glory of God’s Kingdom in heaven. If we are disciples (of Jesus) we shall be happy to spend ourselves and be spent for the salvation of souls.”  
- St. Katharine Drexel



*Brief pause for reflection  
St. Katharine Drexel,  
pray for us.*

**Saint Katharine Drexel  
Nov. 26, 1858 – Mar. 3, 1955**

Born a wealthy, educated Philadelphia socialite of the late 19th century, Katharine Drexel could have made of life what she chose. Her choice came out of her strong Catholic faith and deep compassion for the poor and oppressed among Black and Native Americans.

On February 12, 1891, Katharine professed her first vows as a religious, founding the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament dedicated to sharing the message of the Gospel and the life of the Eucharist. Saint Katharine established many ministries among the poor and led a life devoted to Eucharistic prayer and outreach to the poor.

In November 2018, St. Katharine’s sacred remains were translated to The Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, PA.

For more information/public visitation times, go to:  
[www.saintkatharinedrexelshrine.com](http://www.saintkatharinedrexelshrine.com)



Canonized on October 1, 2000  
Feast Day: March 3rd

For more information, visit our website:  
[www.KatharineDrexel.org](http://www.KatharineDrexel.org)

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*Printed with ecclesiastical approval.*

**SAINT  
KATHARINE  
DREXEL  
FEAST DAY  
NOVENA**



Opening and Closing Prayers  
with a Daily Reflection



Feb. 23 – Mar. 2, 2024  
[www.KatharineDrexel.org](http://www.KatharineDrexel.org)

## DAY ONE: EUCHARIST

The Eucharist is a never-ending sacrifice. It is the Sacrament of love, the supreme love, the act of love. Help me each moment today and always to communicate myself to You by doing Your will.

– St. Katharine Drexel



*Brief pause for reflection.  
St. Katharine Drexel, lover of  
the Eucharist, pray for us.*

## DAY FOUR: SERVANT OF THE POOR

Kindness is the natural fruit of goodness of heart. He (Jesus) loved every human being as the image of God ... and so all that came within range of His benevolence were treated kindly for God's sake and their own.

– St. Katharine Drexel



*Brief pause for reflection.  
St. Katharine Drexel, lover of the  
poor, pray for us.*

## DAY SEVEN: DEVOTION TO MARY

Teach me, O my dear Mother, the lesson of sacrifice. Help me, Mother, to take from the hands of Jesus, in the spirit of humble love, devotion to my daily crosses.

– St. Katharine Drexel



*Brief pause for reflection.  
St. Katharine Drexel, daughter of  
Mary, pray for us.*

## DAY TWO: EVANGELIZATION

I looked up in wonder at God's wonderful ways and thought how little we imagine what may be the result of listening and acting on a desire He puts into the heart. Nourish before Him great desires... May our desire be to bring Him hearts, for all are His by right, having been purchased by every drop of His blood.

– St. Katharine Drexel



*Brief pause for reflection.  
St. Katharine Drexel, model for those  
who evangelize, pray for us.*

## DAY FIVE: SUFFERING OF CHRIST

Often in my desire to work for others I find my hands tied, something hinders my charitable designs, some hostile influence renders me powerless. My prayers seem to avail nothing, my kind acts are rejected, I seem to do the wrong thing when I am trying to do my best. In such cases I must not grieve. I am only treading in my Master's steps.

– St. Katharine Drexel



*Brief pause for reflection.  
St. Katharine Drexel, follower of the  
suffering Christ, pray for us.*

## DAY EIGHT: BUILDING FOR ETERNITY

Out of our common todays and yesterdays we are building for eternity. No thought, no work of ours ever dies. We shall meet them all again, and in the world to come shall find our gathered harvest.

– St. Katharine Drexel



*Brief pause for reflection.  
St. Katharine Drexel,  
woman of vision, pray for us.*

## DAY THREE: PEACE

Peacefully do at each moment what at that moment ought to be done. If we do what each moment requires, we will eventually complete God's plan, whatever it is. We can trust God to take care of the master plan when we take care of the details.

– St. Katharine Drexel



*Brief pause for reflection.  
St. Katharine Drexel, steadfast in  
trust, pray for us.*

## DAY SIX: THE CROSS

(Christ) may be leading me out to a cross. If so, I can have no hesitation about following Him! I must follow Him closely, so that ... I shall be near Him, my Good Shepherd, Who will help me to carry it, for He still bears His Cross in each one of His children.

– St. Katharine Drexel



*Brief pause for reflection.  
St. Katharine Drexel, bearer of the  
cross, pray for us.*

## DAY NINE: PRAYER AND WORK

The active life to be productive must have contemplation. When it (contemplation) gets to a certain height it overflows to active life and gets help and strength from the heart of God. This is the way the saints produced so much fruit, and we're all called to be saints.

– St. Katharine Drexel



*Brief pause for reflection.  
St. Katharine Drexel, model for the  
union of prayer and work, pray for us.*  
Recite the closing prayer located  
on the fold-over panel.

## Our Lady of Lourdes Wind Down Pre-Retreat Questions Week 1

Hi Lourdes!

I look forward to being with you in a few weeks for Notes of Rest. Notes of Rest is a Spirit-led ministry that invites the weary to practice God's gifts of rest played in the Bible and Black music. As we prepare to rest together in God on March 16th, I'll be asking you a question a week as pre-work for the retreat. May the Holy Spirit draw you into the kind of reflection that opens onto life for you and for others.

### **Question 1: Do you think of rest as a gift?**

In the tagline for Notes of Rest I invite us to think of rest as a gift because our life in God happens through grace, which is God's good gifts to us. Gifts come not from what we have done for someone, but because of who we are to the gift-giver. That is the difference between a gift and a wage. A wage is what a worker is owed; it's what makes transactions just. But we do not earn God's gift of rest. God has come to give us rest freely ever since the beginning of creation, and ultimately through Jesus. This is the good news of Jesus according to rest. He freely gave and gives rest for our souls and bodies as well as for the souls and bodies of others. Our response to God's good gift is to practice opening the gifts of rest, cherishing them, and then sharing them with a weary world in need of rejoicing.

**Practice:** Take this week to think about how rest is discussed around you in your everyday environment. Pay attention to the extent to which it is regarded as a gift given versus as a wage earned. What would happen to your relationship to yourself, to your family, to Lourdes, to Atlanta, to this country, if more people saw rest as a gift to give rather than as a wage to distribute?

**Listen:** [Thank You, Lord](#) sung by E. Dewey Smith

abundantly,  
Julian