

NOVENA TO ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, Patron Saint of Lost and Stolen Things, "The Wonderworker" – to be prayed on each of the nine days leading to his feast day, June 13 (June 4-12). St. Anthony was born in 1195 in Lisbon, Portugal. His parents were rich, but he wanted to be poor for the sake of Christ so he joined the Franciscan Order. He was a great preacher and missionary who brought many sinners back to God. He is the Patron Saint of Lost and Stolen Things because of an event in the friary. St. Anthony had a book of psalms that was very important to him. A novice who had grown tired of religious life left the community, and took St. Anthony's book! St. Anthony prayed for the book's return, and the novice was moved to return the book to St. Anthony, and to return to the Order. The Order accepted the novice back, and the stolen book is now preserved in the Franciscan friary in Bologna. St. Anthony died in Padua in 1231. Many miracles took place after his death, prompting fellow Franciscan St. Bonaventure to nickname him the "Wonderworker." St. Bonaventure said: "Ask the Wonderworker with confidence, and you will obtain what you seek."

Biography adapted from Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D., *Favorite Novenas to the Saints* (Catholic Book Publishing Co. 1992); and St. Anthony Shrine, "Who is St. Anthony of Padua?" (<https://www.stanthony.org/who-st-anthony/>). *Novena adapted from* National Shrine of St. Anthony, *Devotions in Honor of St. Anthony* (Church and Friary of St. Francis of Assisi, New York, New York, www.stfrancisnyc.org).

Each day, recite the prayers below, inserting the appropriate reading from the reverse side.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord is the strength of his people; the saving refuge of his anointed. *Save your people, O Lord, and bless your inheritance.*

Hear, O Lord, the sound of our call; be our helper; do not forsake us, O God, our Savior. *Though we walk amid distress, you preserve us, O Lord; your right hand saves us.*

Our help is in the name of the Lord. *Who made heaven and earth.*

O heavenly Father: We beg you through our Lord Jesus Christ, whom you have made the sacrifice that takes away our sins, to receive our prayers and offerings; and through him, to give us the grace to be reconciled to you and to one another. Then, being at peace with you and each other, we may be able to offer sacrifices of praise with the holy angels before your altar in heaven above. This we ask of you, who are blessed forever. **Amen.**

Read the reading for each day, on the reverse, followed by silent reflection. Then continue here:

O holy St. Anthony, we come to invoke your help, confident of experiencing your goodness and your power. The consolation of so many people, pray for us to the father of mercies. In our name, speak to him that we may obtain the particular graces we need.

True follower of St. Francis, help us to imitate your life and work for God, and for our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Put into our hearts the flame of your love,

that we may love our merciful father in heaven, and our neighbors as ourselves.

Pray that we may fulfill the will of our heavenly Father, and live the way Jesus shows us in the gospels. Be a guide for us this day, that we may recognize the opportunities God gives us to be selfless and not selfish.

Assist us in keeping the promises we made at our baptism. Help us to obtain the grace to walk in the light of faith, and to proclaim that faith by the way we live. Guide our devotion so that we may live with you in the gospel of Christ and grow with you in his love. **Amen.**

St. Anthony, light of the Holy Church, lover of God's Law and Doctor of the Gospel: Pray for us to the Son of God.

Let us pray to the Father in the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.

CLOSING PRAYER:

May the Lord bless us and keep us. **Amen.** May the Lord let his face shine upon us and have mercy on us. **Amen.** May the Lord look upon us with kindness and give us his peace. **Amen.** May the Lord bless us: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DAILY READINGS and THEMES

Day 1, June 4th: SILENCE AND SOLITUDE

A reading from the sermons of St. Anthony.

Alas, how many disturbing thoughts go through the heart. As a result, we lack the leisure to enjoy the bread of heavenly delights and to taste the joys of interior contemplation. For that reason, the good Master invites us: Come apart from the restless throng into a desert place, into solitude of mind and body, where we withdraw from the turbulence of the world, and rest in quiet and solitude, tasting the bread of tears as we think over our sins. Then does the Lord make himself known to us.

Day 2, June 5th: THE CALL TO REPENTANCE

A reading from the sermons of St. Anthony.

The sinner who has recovered the grace which he has lost has three reasons for being full of joy. He should rejoice that he did not die in his sins and face everlasting punishment. He should be glad because he has been restored to God's favor though he merited it not. He should rejoice that he will be brought to glory if he perseveres in his new-found friendship. Let him sing then with Isaiah: "I will exult for joy in the Lord; in my God is the joy of my soul."

Day 3, June 6th: FACING OUR SINS

A reading from the sermons of St. Anthony.

The sinner must unhesitatingly put all works squarely before his mind's eye and regard them often and attentively with sorrow of heart. In this way he will be able to produce from them the fruit of penance. Were one courageously to set his inner self before his eyes, he would find nothing there but reason for true sorrow of heart and the desire to return to the ways of God.

Day 4, June 7th: THE SPIRIT OF PENANCE

A reading from the sermons of St. Anthony.

The spirit of penance and contrition of heart, which as a breath of new life God breathes into the sinful soul of man, his image and likeness defiled by sin, becomes in turn a sacrifice the humbled sinner may offer to God to obtain pardon and reconciliation. For God will not spurn a heart contrite and humbled.

Day 5, June 8th: CHRIST ACTS IN HIS CHURCH

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (Jn 10: 14-15, 16b). *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me, in the same way that the Father knows me and I know the Father; for these sheep I will

give my life. I will lead them, and they shall hear my voice. There will be one flock then, one shepherd." The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Day 6, June 9th: PRAYER OF THE HEART

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 7: 7-11). *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Ask, and you will receive. Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door shall be opened for you. For the one who asks, receives. The one who seeks, finds. The one who knocks, enters. Would one of you hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf, or a poisonous snake when he asks for a fish? If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to anyone who asks him. The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Day 7, June 10th: DOING THE WILL OF THE FATHER

A reading from the letter of St. James (Jas 2: 14-17). What good is it to profess faith without practicing it? Such faith has no power to save anyone, has it? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and no food for the day, and you say to them, "Good-bye and good luck! Keep warm and well fed!" but you do not meet their bodily needs, what good is that? So it is with faith that does nothing in practice: It is thoroughly lifeless. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Day 8, June 11th: FEEDING CHRIST IN THE POOR

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah (Is. 58: 6-8a). Thus says the Lord: This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those unjustly bound, setting free the oppressed, sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own. Then, your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall be quickly healed. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Day 9, June 12th: IMITATING THE SAINTS

A reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews (Heb. 12: 1-3). Since we for our part are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every encumbrance of sin which clings to us, and persevere in running the race which lies ahead. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who inspires and perfects our faith. Remember how he endured the opposition of sinners; hence, do not grow despondent or abandon the struggle. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*