

Order of The Sword of St. George



**Archdiocese of Newark
Boy Scouts of America**



Two drawings of Scouts in the role of St. George
From Baden-Powell, *Scouting for Boys* (1908)

St. George, Patron Saint of Scouting

"Prepared and alert a Scout follows the lead of our Patron Saint George and his spirited steed." - Baden-Powell in "*Scouting for Boys*"

SAINT GEORGE AND SCOUTING FOR BOYS

In *Scouting for Boys*, Baden-Powell wrote of chivalry and the knights of old. He tried to show Scouts a new path to chivalry and honor. Saint George was the Patron Saint of England, and of the Knights of the Garter, the oldest order of chivalry in Europe. They were familiar subjects to most English boys when B-P was writing. Here is what he wrote:

ST. GEORGE

They (the knights of the Round Table) had as their patron saint, St. George, because he was the only one of all the saints who was a horseman. He is the Patron Saint of cavalry from which the word Chivalry is derived, and the special saint of England.

He is also the Patron Saint of Boy Scouts everywhere. Therefore, all Scouts should know his story.

St. George was born in Cappadocia in the year AD 303. He enlisted as a cavalry soldier when he was seventeen, and soon became renowned for his bravery.

On one occasion he came to a city named Selem, near which lived a dragon who had to be fed daily with one of the citizens, drawn by lot.

The day St. George came there, the lot had fallen upon the king's daughter, Cleolinda. St. George resolved that she should not die, and so he went out and attacked the dragon, who lived in a swamp close by, and killed him.

When he was faced by a difficulty or danger, however great it appeared—even in the shape of a dragon—he did not avoid it or fear it, but went at it with all

Fourth Sorrowful Mystery

Carrying of the Cross

A Scout is Brave

Think of The heavy Cross, so willingly carried by our Lord, and ask Him to help you to carry your crosses without complaint.

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.

Fifth Sorrowful Mystery The Crucifixion

A Scout is clean

Think of The love which filled Christ's Sacred Heart during His three hours' agony on the Cross. In this moment we are washed clean of sin and given a new heart.

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.

Hail! Holy Queen

First Glorious Mystery The Resurrection

A Scout is Cheerful

Think of Christ's glorious triumph when, on the third day after His death, He arose from the tomb. What joy and cheer should fill our lives.

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.

Second Glorious Mystery

The Ascension

A Scout is Trustworthy

Think of The Memorial Acclamation of Mass. "Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again. Put your trust in the promise of the Lord and wait with hope for the coming of the Lord.

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.

Third Glorious Mystery The Descent of the Holy Spirit

A Scout is Thrifty

Think of The descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the Apostles, and filling them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. To use these gifts wisely is to be thrifty.

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.

Fourth Glorious Mystery

The Assumption

On my Honor I will do

my duty to God and Country

Think of The glorious Assumption of Mary into Heaven, when she was united with her Divine Son after a life of doing the will of God.

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.

Fifth Glorious Mystery The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

I will keep myself physical, strong, mentally awake and morally straight

Think of The glorious crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven by her Divine Son, to the great joy of all the Saints. And the crown that awaits us for a life in which we have fulfilled our reason for being created.

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.

Hail! Holy Queen

O loving! O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

First Joyful Mystery **The Annunciation**

A Scout is Friendly

Think of the relationship Mary had to have with God. Jesus says, "I call you friend" Mary's Friendship with God led to Angel Gabriel greeting her with these words "Hail full of grace."

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.

Second Joyful Mystery **The Visitation**

A Scout is Helpful

Think of Mary's charity in visiting her cousin Elizabeth and remaining with her for three months before the birth of John the Baptist.

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.

Third Joyful Mystery **The Nativity**

A Scout is Kind

Think of the kindness of God in choosing to redeem us by inviting us to experience His strength and glory in the Infant Jesus, in a manger in the stable of Bethlehem.

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.

Fourth Joyful Mystery **The Presentation**

A Scout is Obedient

Think of Mary's obedience to the law of God in presenting the Child Jesus in the Temple.

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.

Fifth Joyful Mystery **Finding Jesus in the Temple**

A Scout is Courteous

Think of the Child Jesus following Joseph and Mary back to Nazareth after being in the midst of the Teachers in the Temple sharing His Father's business.

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.
Hail! Holy Queen

First Sorrowful Mystery **Agony in the Garden**

A Scout is Reverent

Think of Our Lord Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, suffering a bitter agony, turning everything over to His Father in Heaven.

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.

Second Sorrowful **Mystery**

Scourging at the Pillar

A Scout is Loyal

Think of all the friends of Jesus who left Him alone, afraid that they too would be scourged.

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.

Third Sorrowful **Mystery**

Crowning with Thorns

A Scout is Prepared

Think of how we too must be prepared to bear our sufferings with patience and trust and endure until the end for what is right.

Say 1 Our Father. 10 Hail Marys.
Glory be to the Father, etc.

the power he could put into himself and his horse. Although inadequately armed for such an encounter, having merely a spear, he charged in, did his best, and finally succeeded in overcoming a difficulty which nobody had dared to tackle.

That is exactly the way in which a Scout should face a difficulty or danger, no matter how great or terrifying it may appear to him or how ill-equipped he may be for the struggle.

He should go at it boldly and confidently, using every power that he can to try to overcome it, and the probability is that he will succeed.

St. George's Day is April 23rd, and on that day all Scouts remind themselves of their Promise and of the Scout Law. Not that a Scout ever forgets either, but on St. George's Day he makes a special point of thinking about them. Remember this when April 23rd comes around.

From a Sermon by Saint Peter Damian.

Saint George was a man who abandoned one army for another: he gave up the rank of tribune to enlist as a soldier for Christ. Eager to encounter the enemy, he first stripped away his worldly wealth by giving all he had to the poor. Then, free and unencumbered, bearing the shield of faith, he plunged into the thick of the battle, an ardent soldier for Christ.

Clearly what he did serves to teach us a valuable lesson: if we are afraid to strip ourselves of our worldly possessions, then we are unfit to make a strong defense of the faith.

Dear brothers, let us not only admire the courage of this fighter in heaven's army, but follow his example. Let us be inspired to strive for the reward of heavenly glory.

We must now cleanse ourselves, as Saint Paul tells us, from all defilement of body and spirit, so that one day we too may deserve to enter that temple of blessedness to which we now aspire.

St. George, Soldier and Martyr

April 23, 303

George is a soldier and martyr who suffered around 303 at Lydda (Diospolis) in Palestine. The earliest surviving record of him is a church inscription in Syria, dated about 346. Commemorations of him are numerous, early, and widespread. However, no details of his life are known. In 495 his name appears on a list of "good men, justly remembered, whose good deeds are known only to God." The best-known story about him is that he rescued a beautiful princess in Libya by killing a dragon. It should be noted that this story is unknown before the appearance in 1265 of a romance called the Golden Legend (Legendum Aureum), translated into English in 1483.

When the soldiers of the First Crusade were besieging Antioch in 1098, they had a vision of George and Demetrius (a deacon of Sirmium in Serbia, martyred under Maximian, and referred to as a "soldier of Christ," from which

he was often understood to be a literal soldier) encouraging them to maintain the siege, which ultimately proved successful. Richard I ("the Lion-Heart") of England, who fought in the Holy Land in 1191-1192, placed himself and his army under George's protection, and with the return home of the Crusaders, the popularity of George in England increased greatly. Edward III founded the Order of the Garter in 1348 under his patronage, his banner (a red cross on a white field) began to be used as the English national flag in 1284, and in 1415 Henry V spoke of him to rally the troops before the battle of Agincourt ("Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more, or close the wall up with our English dead!"), and in the years following George was regarded as the special patron of England, of soldiers, and of the Boy Scouts, as well as of Venice, Genoa, Portugal, and Catalonia. He is also remembered with enthusiasm in many parts of the East Orthodox Church. He is a principal character in Edmund Spenser's allegorical poem *The Faerie Queene*, written in the late 1500's.

Prayer of St. George

Almighty God, who gave to your servant George boldness to confess the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world, and courage to die for this faith: Grant that we may always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us, and to suffer gladly for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Order of the Sword of St. George

With this in mind, the Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Archdiocese of Newark. is forming a special Patrol called the Order of the Sword of St. George. We invite Scouts of all ages each year to join this unique Patrol with St. George as our Patrol leader and guide. Pictures of St. George usually show him killing a dragon to rescue a beautiful lady. The dragon stands for wickedness. The lady stands for God's holy truth. St. George is slaying the dragon because he has won the battle against the devil.

We have chosen the Sword of St. George as our Crest because we all have some "dragon" we have to conquer. It might be selfishness or anger. It might be laziness or greed, or something else. We can ask St. George to help us fight against these "dragons". He will help us if we ask.

To join the Order of the Sword of St. George as in days of old, each Scout or Scouter must accomplish a quest. This quest will consist of a list of items that must be completed within one year. The sword will be awarded at the Cathedral on Scout Sunday.



Do I tell lies that make another person look bad or get them in trouble?

IX. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

Do I allow my parents to spend time with one another, or do I get jealous and want them to pay attention only to me?

Do I get mad when I have to share my friends?

Are there kids I will not play with or be mean to, because they look different?

X. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Am I jealous or envious of the things or abilities that others have?

Am I thankful to God and my parents for what they have given me?

Do I share the things I have with my family, friends and poor people?

The Act of Contrition

Oh my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to sin no more, to amend my life, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.

The Prayers of the Rosary

The Our Father

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 this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace! the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Glory be to the Father

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 without end. Amen

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

The Hail! Holy Queen

Hail! Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, O most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement!

The Sacrament of Confession

An Examination of Conscience for Children

Using the Ten Commandments

I. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.

Do I give time every day to God in prayer?

Do I put my trust in superstitions, good luck charms, rather than God alone?

Have I rejected any Church teaching or denied that I was a Catholic?

II. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have I used the words "God" or "Jesus" in anger or irreverently?

Have I used foul or ugly language? Have I wished evil on another?

III. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

Have I missed Mass on Sunday or any holy day of obligation?

Do I arrive at church late or leave early? Do I try to be reverent and pay attention during Mass?

Do I avoid unnecessary work on Sunday?

Do I make Sunday a day of prayer or rest?

IV. Honor your father and your mother.

Do I respect and obey my parents? Have I dishonored or mistreated them by word or deed?

Am I willing to help around the house or must I be nagged a hundred times?

Do I try to get along with my brothers and sisters? Am I a tattletale

or bully?

Do I give a good example, especially to younger siblings?

Do I respect others in authority: priests, nuns, police, old people, baby-sitters?

V. You shall not kill.

Do I beat up others or hurt their bodies?

Do I say cruel things, or make fun of others to hurt their feelings?

Do I say mean things about others behind their backs?

Have I stopped speaking to anyone? Do I encourage others to do bad things?

Do I try to love all people, born and unborn?

VI. You shall not commit adultery.

Do I treat my body and other people's bodies with purity and respect?

Do I look at television shows, movies, or pictures that are not appropriate for my age?

Am I modest in my speech and the clothes I wear?

Am I overly concerned with sexual things at my age?

Do I touch or let someone touch me in a way that is not appropriate for my age?

VII. You shall not steal.

Have I taken things that were not mine from a store or another person?

Have I destroyed or misused another person's property for fun?

Do I return things that I borrow? In good condition?

VIII. You shall not commit false witness against your neighbor.

Am I honest in my schoolwork?

Do I tell lies to make myself look good?

Do I tell lies to protect myself from punishment?

The Quest

The following Tasks are to be accomplished during a one year period. This quest can be done by Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venture Scouts, and Adult Scouters. Each year that these tasks are accomplished you may receive the Sword of St. George

Starting day _____

Ending day _____

Scout Signature _____

Scoutmaster Signature _____

_____ Celebrate the Novena of St. George with a particular personal intention.

_____ Celebrate the Novena of St. George for your personal vocation.

_____ Celebrate the Novena of St. George for priests around the world.

_____ Celebrate the Sacrament of Confession during one of the Novenas.

_____ Participate in First Saturday Devotion or Participate in First Friday Novena.

_____ Set aside one day of fast and abstinence.

_____ Learn to say the Rosary and do a decade a day for 15 days.

_____ Complete Signs of God's presence task.

_____ Share in 4 of the 7 Corporal Works of Mercy in your school, troop, parish or community.

_____ Share in 4 of the 7 spiritual works of mercy.

_____ Set aside time on a camping trip for morning and evening prayer and a Spiritual Communion

_____ Stop in at your local parish Church and do the Stations of the Cross (other than Sunday).

_____ Stop in at your local parish Church and pray before the Blessed Sacrament. (other than Sunday).

The following can assist you in completing your quest

Novena in honor of Saint George

The novena is a form of devotion popular in many countries. The history goes back to the 17th century when novenas became a devotion preparing major feast days or festivals or important decisions in one's life. During nine days, people, individually or collectively, say specific prayers depending on the scope or meaning of the novena. Novena, (derived from the Latin "novem", meaning nine) has biblical roots and reflects the nine days of preparation the apostles and Mary underwent before they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 1, 13f). The purpose of novenas is one of preparation, purification and concentration. They help us to better celebrate an important feast day or to better make decisions with the help of God and in full possession of our spiritual strength. It is an opportunity to live a specially graced time, and is like a spiritual pilgrimage to a center of even greater grace.

Novena of St. George (*To be prayed for nine days*)

Preparatory Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven with great love and a desire to know you better, I come before you this day as your child made in your image and likeness. I thank you for the love you have given me and grace you daily set before me. This day I ask that you open my eyes that I may see your blessings, my ears that I may hear your word, my heart that I may experience your love. As I recall and contemplate the great virtues and merits of Saint George in whose honor I make this novena, help me to follow his example and imitate, like him, the life of Thy divine Son.

As I ask St. George to join me this day in prayer I remember that Jesus said, "if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father." I asked that you grant graciously, through the merits and intercession of this powerful Helper, this petition, which we together humbly place before You, devoutly saying, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Amen.

Prayer For Choosing A State Of Life

From all eternity, O Lord, You planned my very existence and my destiny. You wrapped me in Your love in baptism and gave me the faith to lead me to an eternal life of happiness with You. You have showered me with Your graces and You have been always ready with Your mercy and forgiveness when I have fallen. Now, I ask You for the light I so earnestly need, that I may find the way of life in which lies the best fulfillment of Your will. Whatever state this may be, give me the grace necessary to embrace it with love of Your holy will, as devotedly as Your Blessed Mother did Your will. I offer myself to You now, trusting in Your wisdom and love to direct me in working out my salvation and in helping others to know and come closer to You, so that I may find my reward in union with You forever and ever. Amen.

XIII Jesus is taken down from the cross

The Cross of Jesus

Now Jesus' lifeless body is taken down from the cross. No more pain or suffering for Jesus; all the pain is over. Mary, Jesus' mother, holds Him tenderly in her arms. How sad she is.

And how sad Jesus' friends are. They are crying as they hold his body.

The Cross I carry

Is there someone you love who has died? When you remember that person, how does your heart look?

You can show your heart to Jesus, and show Jesus what you miss about the person who died. Jesus knows what your heart looks like, and loves you when you show Him your heart. He can even help your heart become more like his.

XIV Jesus is buried

The Cross of Jesus

Jesus' friends wash his body and wrap it in a clean sheet. They touch his body gently, and then they put his body into a tomb. When they are finished, they push a very large stone over the entrance, so that no one can go inside.

Now there is darkness in the tomb where Jesus' body lies, and all of his friends go home because they are very sad and tired.

The Cross I carry

Can you remember a time when you were very sad to say "Good-bye" to someone. Maybe you were leaving the person for only a short time, or maybe it was for a long time. Maybe you said "Good-bye" to someone you loved when that person died.

Take a few moments to think about one of those times you were sad saying "Good-bye," and show Jesus how your heart felt then. Try to picture Jesus loving you, and being with you with your sad heart. Let Jesus love you a lot; Jesus knows how sad your heart is.

XV Jesus is raised from death. Jesus is alive!

The Cross of Jesus

What a wonderful surprise for his friends when they see that He is alive. His body is like a new kind of body -- full of light! And He is no longer tired, sad, or suffering. He has no more pain.

Yes, He is alive in a new and special way. Jesus will live forever, now, in this new and special way.

The Cross I carry

Have you ever taken time to thank God for your life, for some of the good things you have been able to do, for some of the people in your life, or for some of the good things that people have done for you? When you get up in the morning, do you say "Thanks" to God for your life and for the wonderful things you can see, hear, feel, taste, or smell?

How does your heart look when your heart is full of thanks? Take time to show your thankful heart to Jesus, and let Jesus let his love touch you.

Can you remember a time when you felt this tired in your heart, when you seemed to be having a sad or hard time with someone or something? Look at how your heart felt, and show your heart to Jesus. When you are ready, ask God to help you when you feel this way.

X Jesus' clothes are taken away

The Cross of Jesus

Finally Jesus reaches the hill that is the end of the road He has to walk. Jesus knows that He will die here. But before He dies, the soldiers will do more to Him. They pull off his long robe, and almost all his clothes are taken from Him.

Jesus stands in front of the crowd with only a small piece of cloth covering part of his body. Jesus asks God to help Him remember that He is not alone, that God is with Him through all this.

The Cross I carry

Is it hard for you to share or to give away something that you like? Do you sometimes like to keep everything for yourself? Do you ever let something of yours be the reason for bad feelings or bad words between you and someone else?

If you remember a time when something like this happened, remember how your heart felt. Then, show your heart to Jesus. You can ask Jesus to help you to have a heart that is like his heart.

XI Jesus is nailed to the cross

The Cross of Jesus

How much Jesus hurts as the soldiers nail Him to the cross. He hurts all over; He is tired and thirsty; He

knows that He is going to die. But He looks at the people who have hurt Him and, instead of saying bad things to those people, Jesus asks God to forgive them.

He looks at his mother and tells her to take care of others. Even when He is dying, Jesus is thinking of other people.

The Cross I carry

Can you think of a time when someone hurt you with unkind words or actions? Was it hard for you to forgive that person?

Jesus knows that forgiving is hard to do. That's why Jesus will help to change your heart when you ask Him to help you to forgive someone. See how your heart looks after you ask Jesus to do this.

XII Jesus dies on the cross.

The Cross of Jesus

Finally, after the long walk, after falling three times, after having the men beat Him, after being nailed to the cross and suffering on the cross, Jesus bows his head and dies.

Now this part of his life is over. There is nothing left for Jesus to give or to do. Jesus has given his life for all of us.

The Cross I carry

Did you ever feel that you wanted to make something better, or that if you only tried harder, something would change that you want to change? Or maybe you felt that you did not try hard enough at something, and something bad happened.

If you can think of a time like that, then show Jesus your heart, and let Him love you. When you are ready, you can ask Jesus to help your heart be more like his heart.

Prayer in honor of Saint George

Father, who granted to Saint George the strength and the courage in the various torments which he sustained for our holy faith; we ask You to preserve, through his intercession, our faith from wavering and doubt, so that we may serve you with a sincere heart faithfully unto death. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Invocation of Saint George

Saint George, faithful servant and friend of Jesus who willingly died a martyr's death. You were favored by God with the gift of faith, and inflamed with an ardent love of Christ, you fought valiantly against the dragon of pride, falsehood, and deceit. Neither pain nor torture, sword nor death could part you from the love of Christ. I ask you for the sake of this love to help me with your prayers to overcome the temptations that surround me, and to bear bravely the trials that oppress me, so that I may patiently carry the cross which is placed upon me; and let neither distress nor difficulties separate me from the love of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Valiant champion of the Faith, assist me in the combat against evil, that I may win the crown promised to them that persevere unto the end. Amen.

Litany of St. George

St. George man of HONOR	Pray with us
Pray with us	St. George man of COURTESY
St. George man of DUTY	Pray with us
Pray with us	St. George man of KINDNESS
St. George man of GOD	Pray with us
Pray with us	St. George man of OBEDIENCE
St. George man of COUNTRY	Pray with us
Pray with us	St. George man of CHEER
St. George man of PHYSICAL STRENGTH	Pray with us
Pray with us	St. George man of THRIFT
St. George man MENTALLY AWAKENED	Pray with us
Pray with us	St. George man of BRAVERY
St. George man of MORALLY STRAIGHTNESS	Pray with us
Pray with us.	St. George man of CLEANLINESS
St. George man of TRUST	Pray with us
Pray with us	St. George man of REVERENCE
St. George man of LOYALTY	Pray with us
Pray with us	St. George man WHO WAS PREPARED
St. George man of HELPFULNESS	Pray with us
Pray with us	St. George man WHO DID A GOOD TURN DAILY
St. George man of FRIENDSHIP	Pray with us

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

Signs of God's presence

When I walk into the home of a hunter, I see trophies on the wall. The homes of athletes have trophies on the shelves. Hummel collectors love to display their love of fine porcelain. Movie buffs will have pictures and other memorabilia. Sports card collectors will evidence their prizes. There is something about humans that causes us to share. What good is a victory, or a hobby, unless it can be displayed, commented on, relived, reloved? If Jesus Christ means anything to those who believe, then sooner or later he will find ways to show up in our lives, homes and conversations. People will notice books on our desk or a picture on our wall. Time will be used differently; words will be chosen with greater care and potential for love.

_____ Check your room for a sign

_____ Create a sign for your room or create an altar in Oct or May for Mary

_____ Use the sign or altar for prayer time

Spiritual Works of Mercy Corporal Works of Mercy

Help the sinner.
Teach the ignorant.
Counsel the doubtful.
Comfort the sorrowful.
Bear wrongs patiently.
Forgive injuries.
Pray for the living and the dead.

Feed the hungry.
Give drink to the thirsty.
Clothe the naked.
Shelter the homeless.
Visit the sick.
Visit the imprisoned.
Bury the dead.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I know you have already come. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

First Saturday Devotions

This devotion was revealed to the three shepherd children of Fatima, (Lucy, Jacinta, and Francisco) as well as the magnificent promises connected with it, when the Blessed Virgin Mary, as Our Lady of the Rosary, appeared to them in 1917.

The devotion consists in this: During five months on the first Saturday to receive Jesus in communion, recite a rosary and keep our Lady company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary.

something that you thought was very small or unimportant: bringing a glass of water or juice to someone, or even giving someone a helping hand with a chore. Maybe you just smiled at someone who looked sad!

As you think of the times you helped, show Jesus your heart. As you picture Jesus loving you, maybe you can also picture Jesus leaving a picture of his face on your heart. What a wonderful heart you have!

VII Jesus falls a second time.

The Cross of Jesus

How very tired, weak, and sad Jesus is now. Even though He keeps trying to walk with the heavy cross, He just can't keep going.

The noise from the crowd and from the soldiers makes Him feel even worse. Then Jesus falls, because He just can't take another step.

The Cross I carry

Have you ever had a hard time with something? Maybe you can't do something the way you want, or you feel as if you keep messing up on something? How does your heart feel when that happens? Maybe your heart feels the way Jesus' heart felt when He fell this second time.

When you show Jesus how your heart felt, picture Jesus loving you. Jesus knows how your heart felt; his heart probably felt the same way.

VIII Jesus meets women who are crying.

The Cross of Jesus

After Jesus gets up, He continues on the road carrying his heavy cross. He passes some women who are crying because they are so sad to see Jesus suffer.

But instead of thinking only of himself and how bad He feels, Jesus tells the women not to keep crying because of Him. He tells them, instead, to take care of others, and especially to take care of their children.

The Cross I carry

Sometimes it is easy to just think about ourselves -- about what is not going the way we want it, or about problems that we have. It is very hard, then, to think about other people. How does your heart look when you do that, when you think only about yourself?

Show your heart to Jesus, and picture Jesus loving you with your heart that way. When you are ready, can you ask Jesus to help you have a heart like his, a heart that thinks about other people and remembers other people? That's the kind of heart Jesus has.

IX Jesus falls a third time.

The Cross of Jesus

Jesus is so tired now that He can hardly take another step. It is hard for Him to breathe. He has been walking a long time along the dusty road, and He has no energy left. He just can't go on anymore.

Then Jesus falls down in the street for the third time. He is so very tired. Jesus asks God to help Him. And Jesus gets up again, even though it is hard for Him to do.

The Cross I carry

When we have really tried to do our best, and have not been able to succeed, it is easy to feel like Jesus did. Sometimes other people just keep yelling about something we do, or sometimes other people make fun of the way we do something.

feels like it is hurt.

Can you remember a time when you fell, when your heart felt hurt? As you remember that time, and The Cross of how your heart felt, show your heart to Jesus. See Jesus loving you as you show Him your heart. When you are ready, you can ask Jesus to help make your heart more like his.

IV Jesus meets his Mother.

The Cross of Jesus

As Jesus walks slowly with the cross on his shoulders, a woman comes up to Him. It's Jesus' mother, Mary. How sad for them to see each other now. Mary feels so sad because she sees how much He is suffering, and Jesus sees the sadness Mary feels. Even though they both know that God is with them, they can't even say anything to each other, because they are so sad.

The Cross I carry

Have you ever been very sad, or do you know someone who has been very sad? Being sad can really hurt someone's heart a lot, can't it?

Sometimes our hearts are sad because we cannot be with someone we love.

If you can remember a time when you were very sad, show Jesus what your heart looked like when you felt that way. Picture Jesus loving you when you show Him your sad heart. Then, when you are ready, you can ask Jesus to help make your heart more like his.

V A man, Simon, helps Jesus carry his cross.

The Cross of Jesus

Jesus is so tired that the soldiers know He cannot carry the heavy cross

by himself. So they look around and see someone who looks strong enough to help Jesus carry this cross. This person's name is Simon.

Jesus just looks at Simon and quietly whispers, "Thank you" to Simon. Then they continue on the long road, carrying the cross together.

The Cross I carry

Sometimes helping someone can be difficult, for so many different reasons. Maybe you haven't finished something that you like to do, when someone asks you for help. Or maybe you just don't feel like helping that person.

Can you think of a time when you were asked to help someone and did not want to help? Show Jesus what it was like when that happened, and picture Jesus loving you as you show Him your heart. Maybe you can even hear Jesus whisper, "Thank you for helping." When you are ready, you can ask Jesus to help you to have a helping heart.

VI A woman, Veronica, wipes Jesus' face.

The Cross of Jesus

Jesus is hot, tired, and sweating. His hair is all tangled, and He is covered in dust from the long walk.

Suddenly, a woman pushes her way out of the crowd and stands in front of Jesus. She takes a clean cloth and gently wipes Jesus' face. Jesus is so thankful that He leaves a picture of his face on her cloth.

The Cross I carry

Have you ever helped someone? Have you ever done something that helped someone feel better? Sometimes you may have done

First Friday Devotions

Since Jesus shared his great gift of love on Good Friday, Friday has a long tradition focusing on the Love and Passion of Jesus. For many years this love and devotion was transformed into a meditation on the Heart of Jesus. This devotion centered on the image of Jesus' heart ablaze with the fire of love. It is this Symbol of His Heart open for all to share and experience that became the focus of the tradition of nine first Fridays. The nine First Fridays are a commitment to perseverance and to prayer. During this novena, we ask God to help us experience the Love of Jesus. This love is so transforming that the final goal of the nine Fridays is to have a new relationship with Jesus in which we are transformed by his love. The devotion consists of this: During nine Months, on the First Friday of each month, receive communion and spend some time with the Blessed Sacrament meditating on the Sacred Heart of Jesus and his love for us.

Prayer of the Sacred Heart before Mass

Father, we rejoice in the gifts of love we have received from the heart of Jesus your Son, a symbol of Christ's triumph and a pledge of His love.

We have wounded the heart of Jesus your Son, but He brings us forgiveness and grace. Help us to be grateful in love and make amends for our sins.

Teach us to see Christ in the lives we touch. Open our hearts to share His life and continue to bless us with His love. Help us to offer Him living worship by a life filled with love in service to our brothers and sisters. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer of the Sacred Heart after Mass

Father as we have received Jesus in this Eucharist draw us closer to Him and help us to recognize Him in others. In this sacrament of love give us the strength and love of the heart of Your Son that by becoming one with Him, we may have eternal salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Morning Prayer

Be with me today, O Lord

Today is new, unlike any other day,
for God makes each day different.

Today God's everyday grace
falls on my soul like abundant seed, though I may hardly see it.

Today is one of those days Jesus promised to be with me, a companion on my journey, And my life today, if I trust him, has consequences unseen. My life has a purpose.

May all I do today begin with you, O Lord.

Plant dreams and hopes within my soul, revive my tired spirit: be with me today.

May all I do today continue with your help, O Lord. Be at my side and walk with me: Be my support today.

May all I do today reach far and wide, O Lord. My thoughts, my work, my life: make them blessings for your kingdom; let them go beyond today, O God.

Night Prayer

Canticle: Nunc Dimittis (Now dismiss me)

Keep us safe, Lord, while we are awake, and guard us as we sleep, so that we can keep watch with Christ and rest in peace. Alleluia.

Now, Master, you let your servant go in peace. You have fulfilled your promise: my own eyes have seen your salvation,

which you have prepared in the sight of all peoples. A light to bring the Gentiles from darkness; the glory of your people Israel.

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 without end. Amen.

In the quiet of this hour, before, I retire for the night, I come before you, Father to offer you the day that is past. I thank you for the laughter and joy that I shared this day. I am sorry for tears and sorrows I may have caused. I thank you for another day that you have given to me filled with friends and family and I am sorry for any misuse of my time or missed opportunities to please you.

Please give your Blessing to all those who are dear to me, especially (N) Father, watch over me during this night that I may sleep peacefully and wake ready to serve you better tomorrow.

Mary, Mother of God, prayer for me, that I may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

I confess to almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and what I have failed to do and I ask blessed Mary, ever Virgin, and the angels and saints and you my brothers and sisters to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to every lasting life.

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

Keep us safe, Lord, while we are awake, and guard us as we sleep, so that we can keep watch with Christ and rest in peace. Alleluia.

Stations of the Cross for Children

I Jesus stands before a judge, Pontius Pilate. The judge tells Jesus that He will die.

The Cross of Jesus

Jesus is standing before angry people who are yelling and saying mean, hurtful things to Him. They scream at Him. Some of them tell lies about Him, saying that He did bad things.

But Jesus stays quiet, even though He knows that He will be hurt. He knows that God is with Him. He even asks God to help Him forgive the people who are yelling and telling lies about Him.

The Cross I carry

Has anyone ever said mean or hurtful things about you, or has anyone ever told a lie about you? If someone did that to you, look at your heart and see how you felt. Maybe you were scared, or hurt, or maybe you felt very angry.

When you see how you felt, show your heart to Jesus. See Jesus loving you when you show Him what happens in your heart. Then, when you are ready, you can ask Jesus to help Him make your heart more like his. Maybe you want to ask Jesus to help you to remember that God is always with you.

II Soldiers put a heavy cross on Jesus' shoulders.

The Cross of Jesus

When the soldiers put a big, heavy cross on Jesus' shoulders, Jesus doesn't fight with them or say angry words to

them. He knows that He has to carry this cross a long way, and He knows that the way will be very hard for Him at times. But Jesus knows that God is with Him, and He asks God to help Him to carry this cross, even though it is heavy.

The Cross I carry

Have you ever had something happen that was very hard for you? Sometimes children are very sick, or someone in their family is very sick. Sometimes adults or older children do not treat younger children nicely. Sometimes we just can't have things the way we want them.

Take some time to feel what your heart is like when this happens. Then, when you see what your heart is like, show your heart to Jesus. See Jesus loving you when you show Him what happens in your heart. When you are ready, you can ask Jesus to help make your heart more like his.

III Jesus falls the first time.

The Cross of Jesus

Jesus is so tired as He walks along the road with the heavy cross on his shoulders. The cross keeps pushing into His shoulder, and the stones on the road hurt his feet. People yell and push Him; the soldiers shout for Him to move faster.

Then Jesus falls, and the soldiers yell at Him more. How tired Jesus is! Jesus prays in his heart, "God, help me remember that You are here.

The Cross I carry

Did you ever fall when you were playing, or when you were helping with something? Falling really hurts, doesn't it? When people make mistakes, it is like falling. And when that happens, their heart sometimes