



Saint Augustin et Sainte Monique, 1846  
Ary Scheffer (1795–1858)

## **Novena to St. Monica** **Mother of Saint Augustine of Hippo**

St. Monica was born into a Christian family in Tagaste, Algeria, across the Mediterranean Sea from Rome, in 332 AD. She married a non-Christian, a minor Roman government official named Patricius. Christians were few and far between in those days. The marriage was blessed with three children; the oldest and most famous was Augustine. Patricius was not a model husband yet Monica prayed ceaselessly for his conversion. Her sweet piety, patience, and persistence paid off. One day, Patricius accepted baptism but he died a year after. Her son Augustine was a constant concern for Monica. Brilliant and likable, Augustine followed the example of his father. He refused to accept baptism and lived a passionate life with his mistress. For years Monica prayed, fasted, and cried silently for Augustine. God was listening. He heard and finally answered these prayers of this faithful mother. Augustine, abandoning his sinful ways, accepted baptism from St. Ambrose of Milan, on Easter Sunday, 387 AD. Augustine's mother, St. Monica, died shortly after at the age of 55 in Ostia, secure in the knowledge that her son had heard God's call and her work on earth was finished. In addition to lapsed Catholics, St. Monica is the patroness of troubled parents, battered wives and victims of abuse, difficult marriages, despondent mothers, widows, wayward children, alcoholics, and patience. Her feast is celebrated on August 27 and her earthly remains are in the Basilica of Sant'Agostino, Rome. St. Monica, pray for us! St. Augustine, pray for us!

## **Novena in Honor of St. Monica** **For All God's Children to Come Home to the Church**

### **Sign of the Cross**

### **Intention for each day**

- Day One: Today we pray for all God's people currently absent from our spiritual home, the Church. May the Holy Spirit open their ears and hearts so they may hear this invitation to come home. (See next page.)
- Day Two: Today we pray for those who were baptized Catholic, but whose families were unable to guide them to spiritual maturity. May the Holy Spirit guide them back to our Catholic family. (See next page.)
- Day Three: Today we pray for those who have been hurt by someone in the Church. May those of us in the Church today be a source of healing. (See next page.)
- Day Four: Today we pray for those who take issue with the Church's teachings. May the Holy Spirit open their hearts and minds to the truth and wisdom of those teachings. (See next page.)
- Day Five: Today we pray for those whose sins make them feel unworthy to come to God. May they feel the warm embrace of Our Father's loving forgiveness. (See next page.)
- Day Six: Today we pray for all those who believe in their hearts but are fearful of judgment or institutions. May they find the support and joy of belonging to our Church community. (See next page.)
- Day Seven: Today we pray for those who are resisting Your call due to pressures from friends, family members, and society. May the Holy Spirit give them strength in their convictions and may the Holy Spirit fill the hearts of their friends and family with love and support. (See next page.)
- Day Eight: Today we pray for those who feel abandoned by God. May they come to see God working in their lives, restore their faith in Him, and come home to His Church. (See next page.)
- Day Nine: Today we pray for those who are ready to come home and just need to be invited. May the Holy Spirit open our hearts and eyes to them that we may be the inviting and welcoming presence they seek. (See next page.)

## Daily Prayer:

Exemplary mother of the great St. Augustine, you perseveringly pursued your wayward son...not with wild threats but with prayerful cries to heaven. Intercede for all mothers in our day so that they may learn to draw their children to God.

Teach us to remain close to all God's children, even the prodigal sons and daughters who have sadly gone astray.

Dear St. Monica, troubled wife and mother, many sorrows pierced your heart during your lifetime. Yet, you never despaired or lost faith. With confidence, persistence, and profound confidence in God, you prayed daily for the conversion of your beloved husband, Patricius and your beloved son, Augustine.

Grant me that same fortitude, patience, and trust in the Lord. Intercede for me, dear St. Monica, that God may favorably hear my plea for (names of those you are praying for) and grant me the grace to accept His will in all things, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

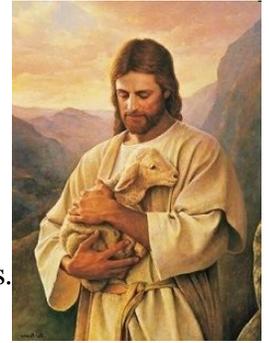
Pray Hail Mary 3 times  
Pray Glory Be 3 times  
**St. Monica, pray for us.**

Source (adapted): St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Dallas, Texas



## Prayer To Christ, the Good Shepherd:

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd  
who never leads His sheep astray.  
You promised that no one  
would ever snatch us out of your hand.  
You promised to look for the lost sheep  
and protect us from all that would ensnare us.  
You promised to lead us to verdant pastures,  
and to heal the wounds which bind us.  
You promised us to feed us with the Bread of Life,  
and allow us to drink of the Cup of Salvation.  
You promised us a share in your peace and joy,  
and one day, eternal rest in You.



Hear our prayers for all your children.  
Bring them home to You and your Church.

For those who, through no fault of their own, don't know You,  
may they hunger and thirst for You, and You alone.  
For those who have allowed fear to keep them from Church,  
give them the faith and courage in their time of need.  
For those whose hearts have grown cold,  
stir the flame of faith within their souls.  
For those who have been hurt by the Church,  
grant them healing and forgiveness.  
For those who have been led astray by false ideologies,  
may their minds be enlightened by your Truth.  
For those who have fallen prey to the snares of the evil one,  
set them free through your mercy and forgiveness.

Good and gentle Jesus, during this novena in honor of St. Monica, give me the grace to follow her example. I offer to You my prayers, fasting, and works of charity for the salvation of souls. Use me as You will to invite, encourage, instruct, and mentor others in their journey of faith and to be an instrument of your healing, mercy, and reconciliation.

I pray this in the Most Holy Name of Jesus. Amen.