



Our Lady of Consolation Novena

June 11-19

History of the Icon of Our Lady of Consolation

The icon of Our Lady of Consolation is said to be painted by none other than Saint Luke the Evangelist. It was eventually given to Saint Maxmian, the first Bishop of Turin, Italy by Saint Eusebius in the fifth century, who had brought the icon from Palestine. The icon was placed in a small oratory and pilgrims from all over Europe came, seeking the consolation of Mary.

Around the year 820 when the iconoclasm began, sacred images were destroyed throughout the Byzantine empire. At the time the oratory of Our Lady of Consolation was under the care of a community of monks. To save the icon from destruction, they hid it under the oratory. The iconoclasm wreaked havoc in Turin and eventually the oratory itself fell into complete ruin. The icon was lost and as time passed, its memory was forgotten.



In the year 1014, the Marquis of Ivrea fell ill. On the brink of death he turned to Mary, asking her to be healed. Mary appeared to him accompanied by Saint Benedict & Saint Mary Magdalene. She promised the Marquis would be completely healed if he did as she commanded: he was to build three chapels in her honor. The Marquis did as Mary asked and upon digging the foundation for the new chapel, the workmen uncovered the icon, miraculously untouched by dirt or time! The chapel was built and the icon of Our Lady of

Consolation was given the place of honor over the main altar. The chapel was eventually called the Church of Saint Andrew and became a place of pilgrimage, with many healings attributed to the intercession of Mary.

Over the next seventy years and through wars, riots, and plagues, the Church of Saint Andrew again fell into ruin and the icon disappeared. In 1104, a blind man named Jean Revais who lived in Briancon, France, saw Mary in a dream. She revealed the location of the icon beneath the bell tower of a ruined church. There, Mary told Jean that his eyesight would be restored when he uncovered the icon.



Jean made the difficult journey from France to Italy accompanied by a guide. As he reached the vicinity of Turin on June 20, 1104, his eyesight was briefly restored: he saw a bright light shining over the tower from his dream. People began to notice Jean and the bells of the churches rang, calling the people of Turin to the site. The people began to dig and soon discovered the icon of Our Lady of Consolation, again miraculously untouched by dirt or time! At that moment, Jean regained his eyesight to the astonishment of the crowd.

The icon was given a place of honor over the main altar where it remains to this day. During the siege of 1706, the French and Spanish forces marched on Turin, closing in near the Shrine. The leaders of Turin turned to Our Lady of Consolation, asking her to spare them. Mary listened to their pleas and the city of Turin was spared. Because of this, Our Lady of Consolation was proclaimed the patroness of Turin in 1714.

Our Lady of Consolation was crowned by Papal authority in 1829. Her feast is celebrated each year on June 20, the day Jean regained his sight. Many Saints and other holy people have made pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, including Saint Francis de Sales, Saint Joseph Cafasso, Saint John Bosco, Blessed Joseph Allamano (founder of the Consolata Missionary Sisters), Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassatti, and more recently, Blessed Chiara Badano.

The image represents Mary as the “Hodegetria,” Greek for “she who shows the way.” Mary points to Jesus, our source of salvation with her right hand while the infant Jesus blesses us with His right hand. On Mary’s veil are three stars (one being hidden behind Jesus) that represent her perpetual virginity before the birth of Jesus, during the birth of Jesus, and after the birth of Jesus. Mary wears a large ring on her right hand symbolizing her royalty and heavenly Queenship.

The parish of Our Lady of Consolation is one of only two churches in the United States named for the miraculous icon in Turin. Let us always call upon her: intercede for your people, Our Lady of Consolation!



Jean discovers the icon of Our Lady of Consolation



The miraculous icon of Our Lady of Consolation today

Novena to Our Lady of Consolation

- *Sign of the Cross*
- *The Holy Rosary*
- *Daily Novena Prayer (begins on next page)*
- *Official Prayer to Our Lady of Consolation*

Our Lady of Consolation, by the work of the Holy Spirit, you became the Mother of our Redeemer and adhered fully to the will of God the Father. Now you are exalted above all creatures.

We trust in your motherly intercession because you are our patroness. Aware of our weaknesses, we beg you to obtain for us God's consolation, so that pride may not overcome us and through the anxieties of life, confidence and peace may grow in us.

By your wise and docile, simple and pure, strong and vigilant Heart, obtain for us the comfort of the Holy Spirit, especially when suffering falls upon us and there seems to be no hope.

You show your concern for the good of each one of your sons and daughters. Enable us to recognize those who are suffering or are in need and help us to give them consolation.

Most sweet Mother, you bring Jesus to us and direct us to Him; open our hearts to His Word, so that our daily life may welcome it, meditate it, and be guided by it. So that one day we may join you in heaven, there with your Son in glory. Amen.

Leader: Pray for us, Our Lady of Consolation

All: intercede for your people.

- *Sign of the Cross*

June 11: Day One

Blessed Mary, Mother of Consolation, I ask you to pray with me now as I come before you as your child. Kindly be with me, dear Mother; guide me in your gentle way.

It was after nine days of prayer in the upper room that you, Mary, and the close friends of Jesus received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Behold me then, most kind Mother, as I too pray for nine days, in humble imitation of you.

Blessed Queen of heaven, you are the chosen one of our most loving Father. You are the Blessed Mother of God, our Savior, Jesus. You are most close to His heart. Please join your prayers to mine.

Pray with me, Mary, for these intentions, these needs that are on my mind and in my heart. **(pause)**

Above all, dear Mother, keep me always as your devoted child. May I ever have before my eyes your beautiful example of acceptance of the will of the Father. May I ever strive to hold in my heart the teaching of your most blessed Son, my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

June 12: Day Two

Gentle Queen of Heaven, Mary, my Mother, kindly turn your eyes toward me. You who are so filled with compassion and love for all your children on this earth, be with me now as I kneel before you.

I call to mind, Mary, the joy you gave to this world. Your acceptance of the desire of our loving Father gave all of us Jesus, our Lord and our Savior. You in turn, kind Mother, knew the joy of holding God in your arms, of guiding His first steps, of bringing Him to manhood. It is with a heart filled with gratitude, dear Mother of God, that I recall the joys in your life which have given me a most wonderful Savior.

Blessed Mary, Mother of Consolation, through the joy you knew with Jesus on earth and the unending joy of being with Him in heaven, please pray with me now. Ask our Lord to assist me in this need of mine. **(pause)**

Grant also, Blessed Mother, that I may reflect the joy I have in my life. I am so blessed by Our Lord. His Gospel of love must always remain in my heart and on my lips. Amen.

June 13: Day Three

Holy Mary, Mother of God, bless me today. Bless me and join me in prayer.

I am so lacking in patience, dear Mary. I grow so weary and unhappy at times. There are days when I even find it difficult to raise my heart and mind in prayer.

Teach me, most holy Mother, to turn to you as an example. Your life is a most perfect example of patience, acceptance and love.

How truly you can be called "Mother of Consolation." You knew the ultimate grief of witnessing the earthly death of your loving Son. You saw, as so few mothers do, your own flesh and blood, hurt, bleeding, and despised, as He climbed Calvary. This most precious offering of Himself to all mankind, you saw mocked and ridiculed. Through all of this you continued to offer for all time the perfect example of a most patient and compassionate mother.

Holy Mother, I ask you to help me become more accepting and patient. May I ever follow your example and strive to make these virtues of patience and acceptance more real in my own life.

Pray for me, please, dear Mother. Ask our blessed Lord to make me more like you. Ask Him also for my very special intentions. **(pause)**

Keep me in your love, Blessed Mary, and guide me always closer to your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

June 14: Day Four

Mary, Mother of Consolation, again I come before you in prayer. Help me to pray to our most loving Father. Ever guide me to seek in my life His divine will. Help me to hold before my eyes the saving life of your Son.

You are the chosen, Mary, for your magnificent answer to the desire of the Father, the prompting of the Holy Spirit and the request of the angel. Your openness to the Father has given joy to the world. The Son of God your Son and our Lord and Savior, became man through your answer.

Oh Mary, grant that I might offer myself to the Father as you did. Help me on the true path of holiness; this is the Father's desire for me. Assist me through your prayers that I too might agree to the prompting of the Holy Spirit within me. Help me to offer others around me the example your Son expects me to be.

In a special way, I ask you to pray with me for these, the main intentions of this novena. **(pause)**

Holy Mary, I offer my prayers for all of God's people, for the needs of all mankind. We are all pilgrims ever on our way toward our heavenly home. Watch over us and guide us; lead us to your Son, Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

June 15: Day Five

Dear Lady of Consolation, Queen of Peace, be with me now as I pray. Join your prayers to mine as I bring my needs before our most loving Father and His Divine Son.

Throughout your life, dear Mother, you offered all around you a most perfect example of gentleness and peace. It is for that inner peace, that lovely calm in my own life, that I pray.

Help me to quiet myself in the midst of the activity around me. Guide me in the way of peace that I may seek the time to be still and hear the gentle voice of our Father.

Mary, please pray for me that I may quiet myself in order to learn more of Jesus, our Lord. Through Him we have the way to the Father. Help me to take more time each day for prayer, for deepening my relationship with Christ. Guide me in the way of opening myself to His peace.

Pray with me now, kind and gentle Mother, for my special intentions. *(pause)*

May your gentleness ever be my example and may the peace of Christ fill my heart always. Amen.

June 16: Day Six

Holy Mother Mary, again I come before you as your child. I pray with all my heart and mind for all of God's pilgrim people.

Pray for me, dear Mother, for a greater understanding of the wonderful gift of Christ in the Eucharist. Help me to see in this most Blessed Sacrament, Christ Himself, the great and unending gift of the Father. Help me, Mary, to feel the nearness of my Lord. Through the celebration of the Eucharist, He truly touches me; He feeds me by His divine sacrifice, His death and resurrection.

So abundant is God's love through this Sacrament. May I ever see this love, this grace, and live as a child of God, a child of light.

At Mass, dear Mother, our entire salvation unfolds before my eyes. Jesus, our Savior, comes to us, as the wonderful sacrifice to the Father is renewed. What a loving Father we have, and how endless is His love and mercy for all of us!

Mary, Mother of God, keep me mindful of this great gift of the Eucharist.

Please pray with me now, dear Mother, for these special needs of mine. *(pause)*

Ask our blessed Lord to keep me ever united to Him, and always close in prayer to you. Amen.

June 17: Day Seven

Most blessed Mary, kind and loving Mother, receive me, your child, into your tender care.

In your life, Mary, you always offered kindness to those around you. Pray with me now to our loving Lord, that in my life I may reflect you through kindness.

There are so many times in this life of ours, Mary, that kindness gives way to harshness. In the rush to “get things done,” I become quick and short with those around me. In my own little world, I often think only of my own plans, my own accomplishments, and I forget that I am only one of God’s children, only one of your children.

Dear blessed Mother, teach me your ways. Help me to take more time with those who seek my time. I want to be like you, Mary, in every way. In the rush of each day, remind me to be kind.

Pray with me now, Mary, as I place before our Lord the main intentions of this novena. **(pause)**

Please ask our loving Savior to help me in these particular needs of mine. Turn your eyes, so filled with kindness, on me, gracious Mother, and help me as I trust so much in you.

I desire always the kingdom of your Son. Help me to finish this day in His love and under your kind and gentle care, Mother of God. Amen.

June 18: Day Eight

Holy Mary, Our Lady of Consolation, I come before you today as your pilgrim. My entire life is a journey, a pilgrimage. Constantly do I seek the way of your Son, as I move toward our heavenly home.

I am inspired by you, Mary. I call myself your pilgrim as you are my special Patroness, my gentle and loving Mother, leading me each and every day closer to your Blessed Son, my Lord and Savior.

Oh Mary, please pray for me as I continue my earthly pilgrimage. Ask our Blessed Lord to strengthen me each day that I may resist the many temptations of this life. Pray for me, Mary, that I may always remember that I was not created for this earthly home, but rather for our heavenly home with my Father.

At this time, dear Mother, please join me in prayer for the particular intentions of this novena. **(pause)**

Always be with me, Mary, as I continue on this pilgrimage home. When that day comes when I shall end this pilgrimage, I pray that you will stand with me as I see, face to face, the Father of all goodness, my God and my all. Amen.

June 19: Day Nine

Dear Mother, I now come before you on the last day of this novena. I know you have heard me, Mary. I believe you have prayed with me each day for my very special intentions.

My heart is filled with so much gratitude as I think of you. I have in you, dear Lady, a Mother of kindness, of gentleness and of consolation. How blessed I am to be your very own child.

In the course of these prayers I have asked for many things. I know deep in my heart, Mary, you have given me much more. Oh, dear Queen of Heaven, that I could face all of my days as you did, and pray that lovely prayer of yours, "Be it done unto me according to thy word...!"

As I end this period of prayer, please continue to pray for these needs of mine, which fill me with concern. **(pause)**

Prayer can change anything on earth. I plead with you then, to remember my intentions to your Divine Son.

Gracious Mother of God, as I end this prayer, I ask you to guide me always closer to your Blessed Son, Jesus my Lord. I truly desire to live in His light, to be an example to those around me of His love. Pray with me please to carry in my mind and in my heart, His cross of Salvation and His Gospel of love. Oh Mary, Mother of Consolation, pray for me, now and at the hour of my death. Amen.



