

ST. AUGUSTINE
INDIAN MISSION

Building on a
Saint's Foundation

A Campaign for St. Augustine Indian Mission



ST. KATHARINE DREXEL
NEW SCHOOL NOVENA

WHAT IS A NOVENA?

“Novena” is taken from the Latin word for “nine”.
It is nine days of prayer for a special need or intention.

WHY NINE DAYS?

After Jesus ascended into heaven, Mary and the Apostles prayed for nine days for the coming of the Holy Spirit. When we pray a Novena, we follow their example.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOVENA?

St. Augustine Indian Mission is embarking on a big project. We want to build a new school. We realize that a project like this is only possible with God’s help. Calling upon the prayers of St. Katharine Drexel, who built our first school in 1909, we are asking for God to guide us.

In the words of St. Katharine Drexel,
“Yes, Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is with you...Nourish before Him great desires.”
We are putting into the Lord’s hands our desire to build a new school.

HOW DO I PRAY THIS NOVENA?

1. Make the Sign of the Cross
2. Prayerfully read the Scripture Passage. Pay attention to what God places on your heart.
3. Read the quote or event from the life of St. Katharine Drexel. Once again, be open to how God speaks.
4. Use the reflection to deepen your prayer.
5. Finish with the Novena Prayer, Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

You can pray the Novena as many times as you feel called. If you miss a day, simply continue on with the Novena the following day. Perfection is not the goal. Giving our prayers to God is what matters.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEW SCHOOL PROJECT?

You can contact Fr. Mark Beran, Director of the St. Augustine Indian Mission,
at 402-878-2402 or mtberan@archomaha.org.



FOR THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE STUDENTS OF THE ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION

In the name of the Father...

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said: "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." After he placed his hands on them, he went away.

(Matthew 19: 13-15)

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL:

"It is always under this aspect—the joy in the Heart of Jesus—that we ought to present our message to the children of this century. We must attract them by joy in order to lead them to its source, the Heart of Jesus, font of all consolations, to Him who is the essential joy of God the Father."

REFLECTION:

Children, including the students at the Mission, are loved by Jesus. Jesus wants to bless them and be at the center of their lives. He wants to be the source of their joy! How often do we pray for our young people? Do we try to help them to grow and learn? Are we good examples of faith and service?

PRAYER INTENTION:

As we pray for the building of a new school, also pray for the students of the Mission. Whether they attend the school now, years ago, or in the future, pray that they may know Jesus' blessing and that he is the source of all joy.

NOVENA PRAYER:

Lord God, as the St. Augustine Indian Mission strives to build a new school, we call upon the intercession of St. Katharine Drexel, our foundress. Relying on your grace, she opened and supported almost 60 schools and missions, including ours. Through her prayers and trusting in Your guidance, we ask for another school to be built for the spiritual, intellectual, and physical growth of the children of the Omaha and Winnebago Reservations.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen. All my relations.
Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be... In the name of the Father...



FOR THE PARENTS AND FAMILIES OF THE ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION

In the name of the Father...

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

Finding of Jesus in the Temple: After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

(Luke 2: 46-52)

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL:

St. Katharine Drexel grew up in a faith-filled family. She would witness her father pray for 30 minutes each day. Every week, her mother would open the doors of their home to the poor providing clothing, food, and help with rent. They would even seek out those who were too afraid to ask for help.

REFLECTION:

Jesus, who was both God and man, was part of a family with Mary and Joseph. The Holy Family would go through many trials together, including Jesus being lost for three days and finding him in the Temple. St. Katharine Drexel was inspired by the holy example of her parents. Ask the Lord to provide for all families, especially the families of the St. Augustine Indian Mission.

PRAYER INTENTION:

As we pray for the building of a new school, pray for the families of our students. May they be blessed and protected so they can reflect the sanctity of the Holy Family.

NOVENA PRAYER:

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FOR THE TEACHERS AND STAFF OF THE ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION

In the name of the Father...

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

“For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching...”
(Romans 12: 4-7)

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL:

“It is a lesson we all need – to let alone the things that do not concern us. He has other ways for others to follow Him; all do not go by the same path. It is for each of us to learn the path by which He requires us to follow Him and to follow Him in that path.”

REFLECTION:

Each of us is made by God with our own gifts and talents. We are called to use our gifts for the good of others. While everyone is different, and we all have our own path, we are called to work together as the body of Christ.

PRAYER INTENTION:

A school is only as good as its teachers. We pray for the gifted teachers and staff of the St. Augustine Indian Mission. Today, we pray for all our past and present staff members.

NOVENA PRAYER:

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We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen. All my relations.
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FOR THE RELIGIOUS SISTERS AND PRIESTS OF THE ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION

In the name of the Father...

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

(Matthew 22: 36-39)

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL:

“If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts.

It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing.”

REFLECTION:

From the start of the Mission in 1909, there have been many religious sisters and priests who have served our children. Like Jesus and St. Katharine, they remind us that we are called to love God and our neighbor. Do we truly love God? Is He at the center of our lives? Do we love our neighbor? Who do we fail to love?

PRAYER INTENTION:

We pray for the living and deceased priests and sisters who have dedicated themselves to God and the service of the kids at the St. Augustine Indian Mission.

NOVENA PRAYER:

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Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be... In the name of the Father...



FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE OMAHA TRIBE AND RESERVATION

In the name of the Father...

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

(Galatians 3: 28)

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL:

While in Rome in January 1887, St. Katharine Drexel met Pope Leo XIII. She requested the Pope send missionaries to the United States to take care of the Native American and African American people. The Holy Father challenged her to devote her life to these missions instead. It is said that she left the room in tears feeling that Jesus was calling her.

REFLECTION:

The Omaha, “those going against the wind or current,” in the late 1700’s migrated up the Missouri River to the mouth of the Big Sioux River, near present-day Sioux City, Iowa.

Their territory extended from near Yankton, South Dakota, south to Rulo, Nebraska.

It is recorded that they had villages at Homer and Bellevue, Nebraska and probably several other locations up and down the river. The tribe today consists of some 5,000 enrolled members with approximately 3,000 residing on the reservation, which is headquartered at Macy, Nebraska. The resident members elect their tribal government on a rotating basis. (Nebraska Indian Community College)

PRAYER INTENTION:

We pray for the people of the Omaha Tribe living on and off the Reservation.

About 1/3 of our students are Omaha.

NOVENA PRAYER:

Lord God, as the St. Augustine Indian Mission strives to build a new school, we call upon the intercession of St. Katharine Drexel, our foundress. Relying on your grace, she opened and supported almost 60 schools and missions, including ours. Through her prayers and trusting in Your guidance, we ask for another school to be built for the spiritual, intellectual, and physical growth of the children of the Omaha and Winnebago Reservations.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen. All my relations.
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FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE WINNEBAGO TRIBE AND RESERVATION

In the name of the Father...

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him.” (Matthew 7: 7-11)

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL:

In 1908, an elder of the Winnebago Tribe contacted St. Katharine Drexel. He asked her to start a school in Winnebago, especially for their girls. The following year, the first school building was erected, and classes started in November 1909.

REFLECTION:

110 years after St. Katharine Drexel oversaw the building of our first school, the St. Augustine Indian Mission is still educating Native American children by honoring their culture and helping them know they are children of God. It all started with a simple request. What requests do you have for God? What is most on your heart?

PRAYER INTENTION:

We humbly ask God for a new school through the intercession of St. Katharine Drexel. We also pray for the people of the Winnebago Tribe who first brought their request to her.

NOVENA PRAYER:

Lord God, as the St. Augustine Indian Mission strives to build a new school, we call upon the intercession of St. Katharine Drexel, our foundress. Relying on your grace, she opened and supported almost 60 schools and missions, including ours. Through her prayers and trusting in Your guidance, we ask for another school to be built for the spiritual, intellectual, and physical growth of the children of the Omaha and Winnebago Reservations.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen. All my relations.
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FOR RENEWED FAITH IN OUR WORLD AND ON OUR RESERVATIONS

In the name of the Father...

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

“I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.”
(2 Timothy 4:7)

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL:

“Holiness consists in one thing: To do God’s will as He wills it because He wills it.”

REFLECTION:

It is easy to think of everything St. Katharine Drexel accomplished in her life but forget what motivated her to do it. Faith is what fueled her. This faith was modeled by her parents, but she had to choose to follow God on her own. With great faith in God, she was able to hear His call to serve her Native American and African American brothers and sisters.

At the heart of the St. Augustine Indian Mission is our belief and faith in God. We only exist because God has called us to serve the families of the Winnebago and Omaha Reservations. We seek to do God’s will. How would you describe your faith right now? What motivates you?

PRAYER INTENTION:

It is tough to be a person of faith these days. There are many things that pull on our children to settle for being entertained or distracted rather than being people of faith. We pray that everyone, especially the Winnebago and Omaha people, may continue to be people of strong faith in God.

NOVENA PRAYER:

Lord God, as the St. Augustine Indian Mission strives to build a new school, we call upon the intercession of St. Katharine Drexel, our foundress. Relying on your grace, she opened and supported almost 60 schools and missions, including ours. Through her prayers and trusting in Your guidance, we ask for another school to be built for the spiritual, intellectual, and physical growth of the children of the Omaha and Winnebago Reservations.

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FOR DEEP DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

In the name of the Father...

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

“Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” (John 6: 53-56)

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL:

“The Eucharist is a never-ending sacrifice.
It is the Sacrament of love, the supreme love, the act of love.”

REFLECTION:

St. Katharine Drexel shared the Catholic belief that at every Mass the bread and wine becomes the real presence of Jesus. In honor of the Eucharist, she named her religious community the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. By being open to experiencing Jesus in the Eucharist, she and her sisters found themselves more open to experiencing Jesus in the poor and the hurting. In the midst of her busy life, she always spent time with Jesus in the Eucharist. How is your devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament?

PRAYER INTENTION:

As the St. Augustine Indian Mission builds a new school, we think of all the children, families, and staff who have grown closer to Jesus through our school. We can only imagine the countless people who have received Jesus from the altars of our four churches. We pray that Jesus in the Eucharist may touch every heart with His love and mercy.

NOVENA PRAYER:

Lord God, as the St. Augustine Indian Mission strives to build a new school, we call upon the intercession of St. Katharine Drexel, our foundress. Relying on your grace, she opened and supported almost 60 schools and missions, including ours. Through her prayers and trusting in Your guidance, we ask for another school to be built for the spiritual, intellectual, and physical growth of the children of the Omaha and Winnebago Reservations.

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FOR COMPLETE TRUST IN GOD

In the name of the Father...

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

“Blessed are those who trust in the LORD; the LORD will be their trust. They are like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: It does not fear heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; In the year of drought it shows no distress, but still produces fruit.” (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL:

She would regularly travel to the schools and missions she established. On numerous occasions, St. Katharine visited the St. Augustine Indian Mission. How could she do everything she did and endure? Trust in God.

REFLECTION:

To start and support so many schools and missions while overseeing a whole new community of religious sisters could not have been easy. There is a reason St. Katharine Drexel cried when Pope Leo XIII challenged her to do this work for the Native American and African American people of the United States. It was a huge undertaking! The only way she could do it all was to trust in God. It was God's work, not hers. Today, building a new school is a big undertaking. With it comes a lot of excitement but also a lot of worry. This is where trusting in God becomes vitally important.

If it is God's will, it will happen!

PRAYER INTENTION:

We pray in trust for the building of a new school at the St. Augustine Indian Mission. We also ask for the prayers of St. Katharine Drexel. With God's help and her prayers, we believe it is more than possible. We believe it will happen!

In the Lord we place our trust.

NOVENA PRAYER:

Lord God, as the St. Augustine Indian Mission strives to build a new school, we call upon the intercession of St. Katharine Drexel, our foundress. Relying on your grace, she opened and supported almost 60 schools and missions, including ours. Through her prayers and trusting in Your guidance, we ask for another school to be built for the spiritual, intellectual, and physical growth of the children of the Omaha and Winnebago Reservations.

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