

# **FIESTA SEÑOR 2019**

## **SANTO NIÑO LEICESTER**

**[www.stoninoleics.com](http://www.stoninoleics.com)**

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Theme:

## **Santo Niño: Guide of God's Children to Humility and Service**

**9-Days Novena to Señor Santo Niño de Cebu with Readings and  
Reflections**

**11th to 19th of January 2019**

prepared by  
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Main Theme:

# **Santo Niño: Guide of God's Children to Humility and Service**

Christ says: "Learn from me; for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Mt 11:29). Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Exhortation 'Rejoice and be Glad', likewise writes a reflection on the 3rd beatitude '*Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth*' (Mt 5:5):

Meekness is yet another expression of the interior poverty of those who put their trust in God alone. [...] In every situation, the meek put their hope in the Lord, and those who hope for him shall possess the land... and enjoy the fullness of peace (cf. Ps 37:9.11). [...]

Reacting with meekness and humility: that is holiness.

*(Gaudete et Exultate, 74)*

May we, who share in common one Father in heaven, who bear the name of the Son of God as Christians and who are endowed with Holy Spirit's diversity of gifts for the fulfilment of our common Christian mission, walk the path of true discipleship to our humble Servant-King who came into the world 'not to be served but to serve' (Mt 20:28; Mk 10:45). Clinging to him, may we be inspired to put all our charisms at the service of others. For it is only in 'doing whatever He tells us' (cf. Jn 2:5) and in fulfilling His Majesty's command can we then authentically proclaim:

## **VIVA PIT SEÑOR!**

The novena texts are all taken from the "Novena to the Holy Child Jesus of Cebu " prepared by the Augustinian Fathers of Cebu (1979).

SING: *(Standing)*

### **HOLY GOD, WE PRAISE THY NAME**

Holy God, we praise Thy Name.  
Lord of all! we bow before Thee;  
All on earth Thy scepter claim,  
All in heaven above adore Thee;  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! the loud celestial hymn,  
Angels' choirs above are raising;  
Cherubim and Seraphim  
In unceasing chorus praising,  
Fill the heavens with sweet accord,  
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord!

In the name of the Father....

### **ACT OF CONTRITION**

Oh, my Dear Jesus! You are our King and our God, because of Your love for us You came down from heaven born of the Virgin Mary. My heart weeps, for in spite of Your goodness we have committed many sins. Forgive us, O Jesus, for our sin of ingratitude in return for Your goodness, Strengthen our will to resist temptation and sin. With your Grace we will be able to fulfil our promises and share with Your glory in heaven.  
Oh, Holy Child Jesus, who is ever good and loving, we kneel before You our true God. With humility we implore You to give us Your mercy and grant us all the favors we ask of You in this NOVENA, so that we will enjoy the blessings of heaven. AMEN.

### **READINGS AND REFLECTIONS**

*(select from pages 6–14 for the proper of the day)*

**PETITION** *(select from pages 6–14 for the proper of the day)*

- Pray three OUR FATHERS, three HAIL MARYS, and GLORY BE...
- Now ask SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO to hear your prayers during this NOVENA (Pause for a moment)

### **SUPPLICATIONS TO SANTO NINO**

Lord, *have mercy on us.*  
Christ, *have mercy on us.*  
Lord, *have mercy on us.*  
Jesus, *hear us.*  
Jesus, *graciously hear us.*

In every need let us come to you with humble trust.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

In our doubts, perplexities and temptations,

*Santo Nino, help us.*

In hours of loneliness, weariness and trials,

*Santo Nino, help us.*

In the failure of our plans and hopes.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

In disappointments, troubles and sorrows,

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When others fail us, and Your Grace alone can assist us.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When we throw ourselves on your tender love as our only refuge.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When our heart is cast down by failure.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When we are ill and our head and hands cannot work and we are lonely.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When we feel impatient and our cross irritates us.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

Always, always, in spite of weakness, failings and shortcomings of every kind.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world:

*Spare us, O Jesus.*

Lamb of God who take away the sins of the world:

*Graciously hear us, O Jesus*

Lamb of God who take away the sins of the world:

*Have mercy upon us, O Jesus.*

Jesus, hear us.

*Jesus, Graciously hear us.*

Praise be the name of the Lord.

*Now and forever*

### **LET US PRAY**

Oh, sweet and merciful Jesus! Señor Santo Niño, the source of all goodness, we kneel before Your sacred Image, imploring Your Divine aid for universal peace and brotherhood among all men, enlighten the unbelievers and the heathens so that they will believe you as their true God. Restore the faith of those who have wandered away from you, bring them back to Your fold with repentance in their hearts.

Grant also to faithful departed in Purgatory the remission of all their sins so that they will rest in peace forever. Finally, nourish and strengthen our faith in You so that we will serve You faithfully on earth. AMEN.

SING (*Standing*)

**SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO HYMN**

(*E. Perez, S. Ezcurra*)

1. One day in these Islands as gift and in pledge  
God sent You to us, O Beloved Child.  
And always You have been the light of our souls,  
The guide of our people, the flame in our hearts.

*Ref:* Señor Santo Niño,  
With Your scepter guide our people  
Who hail You king forever,  
Filipinas is your kingdom.  
Señor Santo Niño,  
In Your hands the world finds its rest;  
Proclaim Your truth and justice,  
Bring to men Your peace and love.

2. [*this is actually verse 5 originally*]  
Now one as a nation we pay You respect;  
Our people did pledge a long time ago.  
We ask You to hear the prayers of all:  
The sad and forsaken, the poor and the sick.  
(*repeat refrain*)

1st Day – **Blessed are those who believe (cf. Jn 20:29)**

11th January 2019 (Friday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St Luke (5:12–16 NRSV)**

Once, when he was in one of the cities, there was a man covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground and begged him, “Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.” Then Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, “I do choose. Be made clean.” Immediately the leprosy left him. And he ordered him to tell no one. “Go,” he said, “and show yourself to the priest, and, as Moses commanded, make an offering for your cleansing, for a testimony to them.” But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from ‘Gaudete et Exsultate’, Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today’s world**

112. The first of these great signs is solid grounding in the God who loves and sustains us. This source of inner strength enables us to persevere amid life’s ups and downs, but also to endure hostility, betrayal and failings on the part of others. “If God is for us, who is against us?” (*Rom 8:31*): this is the source of the peace found in the saints. Such inner strength makes it possible for us, in our fast-paced, noisy and aggressive world, to give a witness of holiness through patience and constancy in doing good. It is a sign of the fidelity born of love, for those who put their faith in God (*pístis*) can also be faithful to others (*pístós*). They do not desert others in bad times; they accompany them in their anxiety and distress, even though doing so may not bring immediate satisfaction.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (1st Day) – Faith**

Oh, ever-wise Jesus, who in your wisdom, has sent zealous missionaries to our humble shores to preach the Gospel to our forefathers so that they would see the LIGHT and embrace the CATHOLIC FAITH, we humbly ask you to give us a living Faith so that we may always please you in all that we do. We ask you this in your holy name. Amen.

*(go back to page 3)*

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2nd Day – **Love is patient and kind (cf. 1 Cor 13:4)**  
12th January 2019 (Saturday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St John (3:26–30 NRSV)**

They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him.” John answered, “No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.’ He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.”

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from ‘Gaudete et Exultate’, Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today’s world**

60. [W]e do well to keep reminding ourselves that there is a hierarchy of virtues that bids us seek what is essential. The primacy belongs to the theological virtues, which have God as their object and motive. At the centre is charity. Saint Paul says that what truly counts is “faith working through love” (*Gal 5:6*). We are called to make every effort to preserve charity: “The one who loves another has fulfilled the law... for love is the fulfilment of the law” (*Rom 13:8.10*). “For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’” (*Gal 5:14*).

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (2nd Day) – Love**

Oh, most-loving Jesus, who has shown your love to us by dying for us on the Cross and by giving yourself to us in the Holy Eucharist, we beseech you to share with us Your love so that we may always love You with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our strength, and also so that we may always love our neighbors as ourselves. This we ask you in Your holy name. Amen.

*(go back to page 3)*

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3rd Day – **Blessed are the meek (Mt 5:5)**  
13th January 2019 (Sunday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St Luke (3:15-16, 21-22 NRSV)**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from 'Gaudete et Exsultate', Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world**

73. Paul speaks of meekness as one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (cf. *Gal 5:23*). He suggests that, if a wrongful action of one of our brothers or sisters troubles us, we should try to correct them, but "with a spirit of meekness", since "you too could be tempted" (*Gal 6:1*). Even when we defend our faith and convictions, we are to do so "with meekness" (cf. *1 Pet 3:16*). Our enemies too are to be treated "with meekness" (*2 Tim 2:25*). In the Church we have often erred by not embracing this demand of God's word.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (3rd Day) – Humility**

Oh, Jesus, who said, "Learn from me because I am meek and humble of heart", grant us the virtues of meekness and humility so that we may progress in our spiritual life, and so that our neighbour may see your Image in us. We ask you this in your holy name. Amen.

*(go back to page 3)*

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4th Day – **Blessed are the merciful (Mt 5:7)**  
14th January 2019 (Monday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:14-20 NRSV)**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from ‘Gaudete et Exsultate’, Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today’s world**

82. Jesus does not say, “Blessed are those who plot revenge”. He calls “blessed” those who forgive and do so “seventy times seven” (Mt 18:22). We need to think of ourselves as an army of the forgiven. All of us have been looked upon with divine compassion. If we approach the Lord with sincerity and listen carefully, there may well be times when we hear his reproach: “Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?” (Mt 18:33).

Seeing and acting with mercy: that is holiness.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (4th Day) – Forgiveness**

Oh, Merciful Jesus, You had forgiven those who crucified you; we implore you to give us a forgiving heart so that we may always pardon those who will hurt us in word or in deed. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

*(go back to page 3)*

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5th Day – **Jesus, I trust in You (cf. Divine Mercy devotion)**

15th January 2019 (Tuesday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:21–28 NRSV)**

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He[m] commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from 'Gaudete et Exsultate', Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world**

151. We need to remember that "contemplation of the face of Jesus, died and risen, restores our humanity, even when it has been broken by the troubles of this life or marred by sin. We must not domesticate the power of the face of Christ". So let me ask you: Are there moments when you place yourself quietly in the Lord's presence, when you calmly spend time with him, when you bask in his gaze? Do you let his fire inflame your heart? Unless you let him warm you more and more with his love and tenderness, you will not catch fire. How will you then be able to set the hearts of others on fire by your words and witness? If, gazing on the face of Christ, you feel unable to let yourself be healed and transformed, then enter into the Lord's heart, into his wounds, for that is the abode of divine mercy.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (5th Day) – Repentance**

Oh merciful Jesus! You have said that "there will be more rejoicing in heaven for one sinner who repents than over ninety nine just who don't need repentance"; we beseech you to grant us the grace of repentance so that we may repent of our sins and live for you alone. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

*(go back to page 3)*

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6th Day – **Blessed are the pure in heart (Mt 5:8)**  
16th January 2019 (Wednesday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:29–34 NRSV)**

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from 'Gaudete et Exultate', Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world**

86. A heart that loves God and neighbour (cf. Mt 22:36-40), genuinely and not merely in words, is a pure heart; it can see God. In his hymn to charity, Saint Paul says that "now we see in a mirror, dimly" (1 Cor 13:12), but to the extent that truth and love prevail, we will then be able to see "face to face". Jesus promises that those who are pure in heart "will see God".

Keeping a heart free of all that tarnishes love: that is holiness.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (6th Day) – Chastity**

Oh, most-loving Jesus! You gave us an example of a chaste life while you were on earth; we implore you to grant us the virtue of chastity so that we may always live a chaste life in whatever state of life we have chosen. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

*(go back to page 3)*

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7th Day – **Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening (1 Sm 3:9)**

17th January 2019 (Thursday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:40-45 NRSV)**

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, “If you choose, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, Jesus[r] stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, “I do choose. Be made clean!” Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.” But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from ‘Gaudete et Exsultate’, Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today’s world**

173. Naturally, this attitude of listening entails obedience to the Gospel as the ultimate standard, but also to the Magisterium that guards it, as we seek to find in the treasury of the Church whatever is most fruitful for the “today” of salvation. It is not a matter of applying rules or repeating what was done in the past, since the same solutions are not valid in all circumstances and what was useful in one context may not prove so in another. The discernment of spirits liberates us from rigidity, which has no place before the perennial “today” of the risen Lord. The Spirit alone can penetrate what is obscure and hidden in every situation, and grasp its every nuance, so that the newness of the Gospel can emerge in another light.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (7th Day) – Docility**

Oh, most merciful Jesus! You had been always obedient to your heavenly Father even unto death; we beseech you to grant us the grace of being always docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit so that we will always glorify your Father in heaven. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

*(go back to **page 3**)*

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8th Day – **Justification leading to eternal life (Rom 5:21)**

18th January 2019 (Friday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St Mark (2:5-12 NRSV)**

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven. Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, “Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— “I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from ‘Gaudete et Exsultate’, Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today’s world**

142. Each community is called to create a “God-enlightened space in which to experience the hidden presence of the risen Lord”. Sharing the word and celebrating the Eucharist together fosters fraternity and makes us a holy and missionary community. It also gives rise to authentic and shared mystical experiences. Such was the case with Saints Benedict and Scholastica. We can also think of the sublime spiritual experience shared by Saint Augustine and his mother, Saint Monica. “As the day now approached on which she was to depart this life, a day known to you but not to us, it came about, as I believe by your secret arrangement, that she and I stood alone leaning in a window that looked onto a garden... We opened wide our hearts to drink in the streams of your fountain, the source of life that is in you... And as we spoke of that wisdom and strained after it, we touched it in some measure by the impetus of our hearts... eternal life might be like that one moment of knowledge which we now sighed after”.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (8th Day) – Eternal Life**

Oh, merciful Jesus! You opened the gates of heaven for us through your death and resurrection; we implore you to grant us eternal life after our sojourn here on earth. We ask you this in your holy name. Amen.

*(go back to **page 3**)*

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9th Day – **Those who hope in the Lord shall inherit the land (cf. Ps 37:9)**

19th January 2019 (Saturday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St Mark (2:13-17 NRSV)**

Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from 'Gaudete et Exsultate', Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world**

154. Prayer of supplication is an expression of a heart that trusts in God and realizes that of itself it can do nothing. The life of God's faithful people is marked by constant supplication born of faith-filled love and great confidence. Let us not downplay prayer of petition, which so often calms our hearts and helps us persevere in hope. Prayer of intercession has particular value, for it is an act of trust in God and, at the same time, an expression of love for our neighbour. There are those who think, based on a one-sided spirituality, that prayer should be unalloyed contemplation of God, free of all distraction, as if the names and faces of others were somehow an intrusion to be avoided. Yet in reality, our prayer will be all the more pleasing to God and more effective for our growth in holiness if, through intercession, we attempt to practise the twofold commandment that Jesus left us. Intercessory prayer is an expression of our fraternal concern for others, since we are able to embrace their lives, their deepest troubles and their loftiest dreams. Of those who commit themselves generously to intercessory prayer we can apply the words of Scripture: "This is a man who loves the brethren and prays much for the people" (2 Mac 15:14).

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (9th Day) – Hope of Heaven**

Oh, merciful Jesus! You said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"; We beseech you to guide us in our way to heaven so that we may be able to surmount all the difficulties and obstacles we will encounter in this deceptive world.

Grant us also the virtue of hope so that we will always thirst for the heavenly things and for your glory. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

*(go back to page 3)*

## Acknowledgement & References

We would like to acknowledge the following references whose materials we use for this novena prayer pamphlet.

The Readings are from:

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Retrieved from: <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-Revised-Standard-Version-NRSV-Bible/#booklist> (02 January 2019).

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[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20180319\\_gaudete-et-exsultate.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html) ((02 January 2019).



**Becoming a community of devotees to Santo Niño de Cebu that journeys together towards fullness of life committed to proclaim the Word of God with our lives and to spread the devotion to Christ; hereby, giving our contribution to the building up of the Kingdom of God.**

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