

Novena to Saint Maron

Nine days with the father of the Maronite Church

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Saint Maron was a priest and hermit who lived on a mountaintop near Cyrrhus, in Syria, and died around the year 410. He lived under the open sky, healed both bodies and souls, and formed the disciples whose community became the Maronite Church. His feast is February 9. To end this novena on his feast, begin on January 31, or begin any day a need arises.

HOW TO PRAY THIS NOVENA

1. Make the Sign of the Cross and name your intention.
2. Read the short meditation for the day.
3. Pray the day's prayer, then the closing invocation.
4. End with an Our Father, a Hail Mary, and a Glory Be.
5. If you miss a day, pray twice the next day. You do not need to start over.

After the ninth day, thank Saint Maron, whatever the answer looks like so far. Novenas work in God's timing, not ours.

DAY 1: LEAVING EVERYTHING

Around the year 380, a priest named Maron walked out of the world. He left the cities of Syria behind, climbed a mountain in the region of Cyrrhus near Antioch, and never came down to live among comforts again. He did not leave because the world was evil. He left because he wanted God more.

Saint Maron, you left everything to seek God alone. Loosen my grip on the things I hold too tightly, and give me a heart that wants God more than it wants comfort. Obtain for me the grace I ask in this novena. Amen.

Saint Maron, pray for us.

DAY 2: A TEMPLE MADE NEW

The mountaintop Maron chose had been a pagan holy place, with an old temple still standing on it. He did not tear it down. He consecrated it to the true God and made it his church, turning a site of idols into a house of prayer. Grace does not always demolish. Often it transforms.

Saint Maron, you turned a pagan temple into a church. Take what is broken and misused in my life and consecrate it, so that even my failures become places where God is worshiped. Make my heart a house of prayer. Amen.

Saint Maron, pray for us.

DAY 3: LIFE UNDER THE OPEN SKY

Maron lived in the open air, without a roof, through Syrian summers and freezing mountain winters. He kept a small tent of goatskins but rarely used it. Theodoret, the bishop who wrote his story, says he embraced this exposure freely, letting the weather itself train his soul to depend on God alone.

Saint Maron, hermit of the open sky, you stood unsheltered before God and were not afraid. Teach me to trust the Father through every season, in heat and in cold, in plenty and in loss. Shelter under your prayers what I cannot shelter myself. Amen.

Saint Maron, pray for us.

DAY 4: A HIDDEN LIFE OF PRAYER

Nights of vigil, long fasts, ceaseless prayer: this was Maron's whole occupation, hidden from every audience but God. Theodoret says he was not content with the ordinary labors of ascetics but kept adding new ones, gathering the riches of wisdom the way other men gather gold. No one becomes a father of nations without first being alone with God.

Saint Maron, man of vigil and fasting, teach me to pray when no one sees and to keep going when no one applauds. Give me a hunger for the hidden life with God, where every true work begins. Amen.

Saint Maron, pray for us.

DAY 5: HEALING OF THE BODY

God honored Maron's hidden labors openly. The sick began to climb his mountain, and Theodoret records that fevers ceased, demons fled, and the suffering went home cured, one prayer healing many afflictions. The crowds kept coming, from every direction, because word spread that the hermit's God was real.

Saint Maron, healer of the sick, I bring you the illness that weighs on me and on those I love. Pray over us as you prayed over the crowds on your mountain, and ask the Lord for healing, in the body if it is His will, and always in the depths. Amen.

Saint Maron, pray for us.

DAY 6: HEALING OF THE SOUL

Theodoret wrote something striking: Maron cured not only infirmities of the body but applied suitable treatment to souls as well, healing this man's greed and that man's anger, supplying teaching in self-control, and correcting laziness. He was a physician of hearts. He treated the wounds no one else could see.

Saint Maron, physician of souls, you see the wounds I hide: the anger, the greed, the laziness, the fear. Treat them with your gentle medicine. Ask the Lord to heal in me what I have stopped even trying to heal. Amen.

Saint Maron, pray for us.

DAY 7: THE FRIEND OF SAINTS

From his exile around the year 405, Saint John Chrysostom, the greatest preacher of the age, wrote to the hermit on the mountain: to Maron, the priest and monk, asking for news of him and begging his prayers. One saint leaned on the prayers of another. None of us, however holy, prays alone.

Saint Maron, friend of Saint John Chrysostom, you carried the burdens of others before God. Carry mine. Bind me into the great friendship of the saints, and teach me to pray for others as faithfully as I ask them to pray for me. Amen.

Saint Maron, pray for us.

DAY 8: THE DISCIPLES

Maron never founded an institution, yet men and women left everything to learn his way of life. Theodoret says he planted for God the garden that flourished in the region of Cyrrhus: hermits and monks formed by his example, who filled the mountains with prayer. One man's holiness, freely given, became a whole movement.

Saint Maron, father of monks and hermits, let something of your spirit take root in me. Make my faith contagious in my own home, quietly, the way yours was on the mountain. Bless all who are learning to pray, and give the Church new hearts on fire. Amen.

Saint Maron, pray for us.

DAY 9: THE MOVEMENT THAT BECAME A CHURCH

Maron died around the year 410, after a short illness, and the villages nearby nearly came to blows over the honor of keeping his body. His followers built a monastery that bore his name on the Orontes River, and from that community grew a people: the Maronite Church, which carried his name into the mountains of Lebanon and across the world. The hermit who owned nothing left an inheritance that has not run out in sixteen centuries.

Saint Maron, father of the Maronite Church, your death planted a Church that is still bearing fruit. Keep your children faithful wherever they are scattered, protect Lebanon and every family far from home, and present my intention to the Lord one final time. Obtain for me the grace I have asked these nine days, if it is for the good of my soul. Amen.

Saint Maron, pray for us.

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