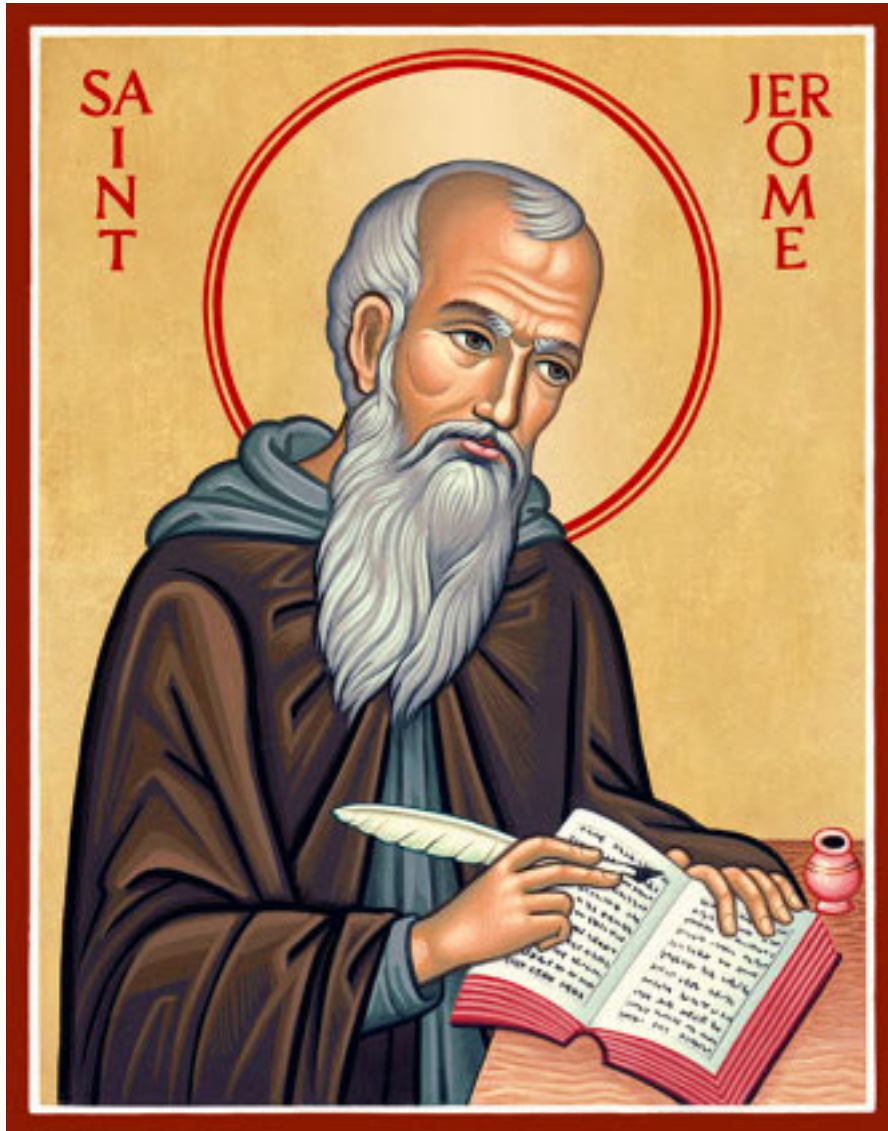


# SAINT JEROME

Father of the Church, Patron of Librarians, Scholars, Students and Abandoned children



## NOVENA



by Saint Arnold Janssen Student Centre, Bulawayo, 2017

# Day 1

## Let us pray with Saint Jerome for Christ's Mercy:

O Lord, show Your mercy to me  
And gladden my heart.  
I am like the man on the way to Jericho  
Who was overtaken by robbers,  
Wounded and left for dead.  
O Good Samaritan,  
Come to my aid.  
I am like the sheep that went astray  
O Good Shepherd,  
Seek me out and bring me home  
In accord with Your will  
Let me dwell in Your house  
All the days of my life  
And praise You for ever and ever  
With those who are there.  
Amen.

## Life of St. Jerome

Jerome was born in the country we now call Croatia sometime between 340 and 347. He was tutored at home and developed a love for education. When he was about 12, his parents sent him to Rome to study both Greek and Latin.

Jerome was baptized a Christian in Rome. He then studied with some of the great Scripture scholars of his time. Jerome felt that God was calling him to use his education to serve the Church.

Jerome was ordained a priest at Antioch and given permission to devote his life to study and writing rather than ministering to the people of a parish. He needed quiet for his studies, so he moved to the wilderness to live a life of silence and simplicity. In the wilderness, he began to study Hebrew, to copy books by hand, and to write letters defending and explaining the faith. Each of these tasks prepared Jerome for the great work he was yet to do.

Pope Damasus called Jerome to Rome to be the papal secretary. In addition to those duties, Damasus asked Jerome to translate the Gospels from Greek into Latin, the language of the Church. Jerome's translation of the Gospels was more accurate than any other version available at the time.

After Damasus died, Jerome traveled throughout the Holy Land and eventually settled in Bethlehem, where he built and became the spiritual director of a monastery. His duties allowed him the freedom and silence he needed to translate most of the Old Testament

from Hebrew (which he had learned in the wilderness) into Latin. He is said to have died around the year 420.

Jerome's translation of the Old and New Testaments is called the Vulgate, or common version, of the Bible. He is honored as a Doctor of the Church; his work made it possible for Catholics to understand and to respond to God's Word.

### **Meditation**

Jerome had a violent temper and was very strong-willed. He made a lot of enemies because of his temperament. To overcome these faults, he prayed and did penance. His canonization shows us that canonized saints aren't perfect, but have faults just like us. They just worked on them and cooperated with grace more fully to overcome them. What faults do we have that we need to work more diligently on overcoming?

*5 minutes of silent meditation*

### **Petitions**

So that the Lord may teach us to love the Scriptures as you loved it - St. Jerome, pray for us.

So that we can become exemplary students and followers of Christ - St. Jerome, pray for us.

So that we can overcome our weaknesses by God's mercy - St. Jerome, pray for us.

*add your own petitions*

### **Concluding Prayer:**

O God, who gave the Priest Saint Jerome a living and tender love for Sacred Scripture, grant that your people may be ever more fruitfully nourished by your Word and find in it the fount of life. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Day 2

### Let us pray with Saint Jerome for Christ's Mercy:

O Lord, show Your mercy to me  
And gladden my heart.  
I am like the man on the way to Jericho  
Who was overtaken by robbers,  
Wounded and left for dead.  
O Good Samaritan,  
Come to my aid.  
I am like the sheep that went astray  
O Good Shepherd,  
Seek me out and bring me home  
In accord with Your will  
Let me dwell in Your house  
All the days of my life  
And praise You for ever and ever  
With those who are there.  
Amen.

### Words of St. Jerome

"Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ."

### Meditation

The Bible was of utmost importance in Jerome's life and should be in ours. Make a point to read the Bible daily. At least a few verses per day read with the desire to get to know the Lord better can improve your life tremendously. Do you really desire to know Jesus from the Bible? How can you secure the time for reading your Bible daily? What do you have to change so that your daily Bible reading won't be omitted or disturbed?  
*5 minutes of silent meditation*

### Petitions

So that the Lord may teach us to love the Scriptures as you loved it - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can become exemplary students and followers of Christ - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can learn something new about the Lord from the Bible every day - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
*add your own petitions*

### Concluding Prayer:

O God, who gave the Priest Saint Jerome a living and tender love for Sacred Scripture, grant that your people may be ever more fruitfully nourished by your Word and find in it the fount of life. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Day 3

### Let us pray with Saint Jerome for Christ's Mercy:

O Lord, show Your mercy to me  
And gladden my heart.  
I am like the man on the way to Jericho  
Who was overtaken by robbers,  
Wounded and left for dead.  
O Good Samaritan,  
Come to my aid.  
I am like the sheep that went astray  
O Good Shepherd,  
Seek me out and bring me home  
In accord with Your will  
Let me dwell in Your house  
All the days of my life  
And praise You for ever and ever  
With those who are there.  
Amen.

### Words of St. Jerome

"A false interpretation of Scripture causes that the gospel of the Lord becomes the gospel of man, or, which is worse, of the devil."

### Meditation

The interpretation of the Bible is a difficult and demanding job. The Holy Spirit reveals the meaning of the Scriptures to those who seek the truth with humble heart. They work hard to discover his wisdom in the Sacred Tradition, deep meditations, cultural and language studies, in lives of the saints, and in the signs of present times. Many of them sacrifice their whole life to the Bible studies as St. Jerome did, so that we can enjoy the fruits of their work. Do you listen to the Catholic priests, bishops, teachers, and theologians or you rather enjoy the false interpretations of non-Catholic wolves in the sheep clothing? Do you desire to know the real meaning of the word of God? How can you improve your understanding of the Bible?

*5 minutes of silent meditation*

### Petitions

So that the Lord may teach us to love the Scriptures as you loved it - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can become exemplary students and followers of Christ - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can distinguish the Truth from false interpretations of Scripture. - St. Jerome, pray for us.

*add your own petitions*

### Concluding Prayer:

O God, who gave the Priest Saint Jerome a living and tender love for Sacred Scripture, grant that your people may be ever more fruitfully nourished by your Word and find in it the fount of life. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

# Day 4

## Let us pray with Saint Jerome for Christ's Mercy:

O Lord, show Your mercy to me  
And gladden my heart.  
I am like the man on the way to Jericho  
Who was overtaken by robbers,  
Wounded and left for dead.  
O Good Samaritan,  
Come to my aid.  
I am like the sheep that went astray  
O Good Shepherd,  
Seek me out and bring me home  
In accord with Your will  
Let me dwell in Your house  
All the days of my life  
And praise You for ever and ever  
With those who are there.  
Amen.

## Words of St. Jerome

"A friend is long sought, hardly found, and with difficulty kept."

## Meditation

Friendship brings a lot of joy and help in one's life. It is a blessing, to find a good friend with whom we can discover the world around us, mysteries in our hearts, and the kingdom of heaven growing amongst us. Saint Jerome valued friendship very much and always tried to keep connected with his friends - by correspondence, by Catholic faith, and by selfless prayer.

Do you recognize your best friend in Jesus Christ? How much do you value your close friends given to you by God? How can you make your friendship a better space for growing of the faith? What can you do for strengthening your friendships?

*5 minutes of silent meditation*

## Petitions

So that the Lord may teach us to love the Scriptures as you loved it - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can become exemplary students and followers of Christ - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can seek, find, and keep the true friends according to the will of God. - St. Jerome, pray for us.

*add your own petitions*

## Concluding Prayer:

O God, who gave the Priest Saint Jerome a living and tender love for Sacred Scripture, grant that your people may be ever more fruitfully nourished by your Word and find in it the fount of life. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

# Day 5

## Let us pray with Saint Jerome for Christ's Mercy:

O Lord, show Your mercy to me  
And gladden my heart.  
I am like the man on the way to Jericho  
Who was overtaken by robbers,  
Wounded and left for dead.  
O Good Samaritan,  
Come to my aid.  
I am like the sheep that went astray  
O Good Shepherd,  
Seek me out and bring me home  
In accord with Your will  
Let me dwell in Your house  
All the days of my life  
And praise You for ever and ever  
With those who are there.  
Amen.

## Words of St. Jerome

"It is idle to play the lyre for an ass. No one cares to speak to an unwilling listener. An arrow never lodges in a stone: often it recoils upon the sender of it."

## Meditation

Jerome experienced that telling the truth can make enemies. Preaching the word of God and living according to it provokes many false preachers and unrepentant sinners. He learned that a man has to decide wisely on telling the Truth of the Gospel. Not everybody is ready and willing to accept the Truth.

Do you desire to talk about your Faith with others? Are you also willing to listen when others speak about their spiritual experience and their problems? How can you be more sensitive to people with whom you communicate? How can you recognize whether somebody is ready and willing to hear the Truth of the Gospel?

*5 minutes of silent meditation*

## Petitions

So that the Lord may teach us to love the Scriptures as you loved it - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can become exemplary students and followers of Christ - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can recognize the right listeners and the right time for preaching the Truth of Jesus. - St. Jerome, pray for us.

*add your own petitions*

## Concluding Prayer:

O God, who gave the Priest Saint Jerome a living and tender love for Sacred Scripture, grant that your people may be ever more fruitfully nourished by your Word and find in it the fount of life. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

# Day 6

## Let us pray with Saint Jerome for Christ's Mercy:

O Lord, show Your mercy to me  
And gladden my heart.  
I am like the man on the way to Jericho  
Who was overtaken by robbers,  
Wounded and left for dead.  
O Good Samaritan,  
Come to my aid.  
I am like the sheep that went astray  
O Good Shepherd,  
Seek me out and bring me home  
In accord with Your will  
Let me dwell in Your house  
All the days of my life  
And praise You for ever and ever  
With those who are there.  
Amen.

## Words of St. Jerome

"Even brute beasts and wandering birds do not fall into the same traps or nets twice."

## Meditation

We should learn from our mistakes. Jerome found it very sad that many Christians were not able to learn from their own mistakes and fell into the same mortal sins again and again. Meanwhile the nature around us gives us a lot of good examples that help us to follow Jesus. If we observed the creation better, we could follow our Lord easier.  
Do I really desire to get rid of my serious sins in that I fall repeatedly? Do I value the nature and I am seeking God's wisdom in all the creatures? What creatures can teach me more about patience, spiritual growth, perseverance, salvation, and avoiding my sins?  
*5 minutes of silent meditation*

## Petitions

So that the Lord may teach us to love the Scriptures as you loved it - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can become exemplary students and followers of Christ - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can learn from our failures and from all the creatures around us. - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
*add your own petitions*

## Concluding Prayer:

O God, who gave the Priest Saint Jerome a living and tender love for Sacred Scripture, grant that your people may be ever more fruitfully nourished by your Word and find in it the fount of life. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



# Day 7

## Let us pray with Saint Jerome for Christ's Mercy:

O Lord, show Your mercy to me  
And gladden my heart.  
I am like the man on the way to Jericho  
Who was overtaken by robbers,  
Wounded and left for dead.  
O Good Samaritan,  
Come to my aid.  
I am like the sheep that went astray  
O Good Shepherd,  
Seek me out and bring me home  
In accord with Your will  
Let me dwell in Your house  
All the days of my life  
And praise You for ever and ever  
With those who are there.  
Amen.

## Words of St. Jerome

"The scars of others should teach us caution."

## Meditation

We should learn from mistakes of others - and let others learn from our mistakes. Sharing the stories about our failures, revealing others the scars of our soul, may help others to avoid the danger we have fallen in.

Do I try to avoid the dangers for my soul and for my relationship with God? How attentively do I listen when somebody talks about their pain and failures? How open am I to share with others about my own pain and failures? What can I do to become a better listener and to learn more from my brothers and sisters about the spiritual dangers?

*5 minutes of silent meditation*

## Petitions

So that the Lord may teach us to love the Scriptures as you loved it - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can become exemplary students and followers of Christ - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can learn from the failures of others and let them learn from our failures. - St. Jerome, pray for us.

*add your own petitions*

## Concluding Prayer:

O God, who gave the Priest Saint Jerome a living and tender love for Sacred Scripture, grant that your people may be ever more fruitfully nourished by your Word and find in it the fount of life. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Day 8

### Let us pray with Saint Jerome for Christ's Mercy:

O Lord, show Your mercy to me  
And gladden my heart.  
I am like the man on the way to Jericho  
Who was overtaken by robbers,  
Wounded and left for dead.  
O Good Samaritan,  
Come to my aid.  
I am like the sheep that went astray  
O Good Shepherd,  
Seek me out and bring me home  
In accord with Your will  
Let me dwell in Your house  
All the days of my life  
And praise You for ever and ever  
With those who are there.  
Amen.

### Words of St. Jerome

"The character of the mistress is inferred from the dress of her maids."

### Meditation

We don't live separated from other people. Our desires and decisions affect all those around us - our friends, relatives, room-mates, class-mates, lecturers and even those whom we meet in the streets of Bulawayo. A special impact we have on those who are entrusted to our care (like a mistress cares for her maids), especially our younger siblings, and newcomers in the school and in our student centre. Our true character is revealed by their lives.

For whom am I responsible from the God's point of view? Am I serious with the responsibility I have got for other people in my life? Do I try to show them love and care in the way they can understand? What does their appearance and behaviour reveals about my character?

*5 minutes of silent meditation*

### Petitions

So that the Lord may teach us to love the Scriptures as you loved it - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can become exemplary students and followers of Christ - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can truly love those who are entrusted to our care. - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
*add your own petitions*

### Concluding Prayer:

O God, who gave the Priest Saint Jerome a living and tender love for Sacred Scripture, grant that your people may be ever more fruitfully nourished by your Word and find in it the fount of life. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

# Day 9

## Let us pray with Saint Jerome for Christ's Mercy:

O Lord, show Your mercy to me  
And gladden my heart.  
I am like the man on the way to Jericho  
Who was overtaken by robbers,  
Wounded and left for dead.  
O Good Samaritan,  
Come to my aid.  
I am like the sheep that went astray  
O Good Shepherd,  
Seek me out and bring me home  
In accord with Your will  
Let me dwell in Your house  
All the days of my life  
And praise You for ever and ever  
With those who are there.  
Amen.

## Words of St. Jerome

"Every day we are changing, every day we are dying, and yet we fancy ourselves eternal."

## Meditation

Created for eternity, our lives will never end. The phase of life we are living now should be a preparation for the next, eternal phase. And our death is the final stage of the preparation. If we allow something bad or vanity to die in us every day, the death itself becomes an easy transition to eternity.

Do I desire to live eternally with Jesus? How can I experience the taste of eternity in this phase of life? What can I do to embrace the small daily change towards happy eternity? What are the things that have to die in me before I reach my death, so that I can die happily?

*5 minutes of silent meditation*

## Petitions

So that the Lord may teach us to love the Scriptures as you loved it - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can become exemplary students and followers of Christ - St. Jerome, pray for us.  
So that we can change into a better person every day. - St. Jerome, pray for us.

*add your own petitions*

## Concluding Prayer:

O God, who gave the Priest Saint Jerome a living and tender love for Sacred Scripture, grant that your people may be ever more fruitfully nourished by your Word and find in it the fount of life. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.