

Novena to Saint John-Marie Vianney

St. John Vianney is the patron saint of priests and seminarians.
Please pray this novena for our priests from **July 27 - August 4**.

July 27, Day 1: St. John, your love for Our Lord and the Church began early, as your devout parents helped to hide and support priests on your family farm during the French Revolution. You were taught the Scriptures and truths of the Faith quietly in your family home, growing deeply in “wisdom and in years” as Our Lord did with His Holy Parents. Please intercede for us, that parents and all in our parish family help our young children grow strongly in their faith and love of Jesus. We also pray in silence for our priests and our personal intentions.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

St. John Vianney, Priest of Ars, pray for our priests, and pray for us.

July 28, Day 2: St. John, as an older child, other children made fun of your awkward looks and behavior. They didn’t understand why you prayed so often and sometimes so deeply that they were able to play tricks on you, hiding your tools or stealing your shoes. You struggled to learn how to read and write, and your siblings taunted you. Your parents supported your desire to become a seminarian, but you severely struggled to learn Latin, even with years of constant tutoring from seminarian friends and teachers. Please intercede for us, that we become more humbly patient with ourselves and others in our weaknesses and failings. We also pray in silence for our priests and our personal intentions.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

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July 29, Day 3: St. John, as a seminarian, you were drafted into Napoleon’s army and had to pause your studies. You escaped the military and lived among devout farmers, teaching their children the Catholic faith and hiding to avoid capture. When you left a year later, those villagers wanted you to stay because you lived such a humble, holy life. They loved God and each other more because you

dwelt with them. Please intercede for us that we might live so much in love with God, showing His Face to everyone, that our neighbors will love Him, too. We also pray in silence for our priests and our personal intentions.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

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July 30, Day 4: St. John, when you were almost 30 years old, you were finally ordained a priest, despite not mastering Latin enough to hear confessions and preach sermons. You spent three joyful years studying and serving diligently as an associate priest, and then finally you were made pastor of the remote village of Ars. Almost none of the villagers there loved Jesus and the Church. Only a few older people went to Mass or even entered the Church. You also had a great love for Mother Mary and depended on her help and protection. You helped others love her, too. Please intercede for us when we are given difficult situations, especially when those around us are indifferent or even hostile to Our Lord and the Faith. Help us to persevere as we live and work in hope that they will meet Jesus powerfully in us. Help us to develop a deep, loving relationship with Mother Mary, too. We also pray in silence for our priests and our personal intentions.

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July 31, Day 5: St. John, your church in Ars was in terrible shape, dirty and shabby inside. Your rectory was comfortable and neat. You immediately gave away the rectory furnishings, slept on the bed frame without a mattress, and subsisted on very little food, fasting on a few potatoes a day for the rest of your life. You worked steadily to make the church more beautiful and to generously provide for needy villagers. Please intercede for us; help us to be generous and

support our parish and the Church, and our sisters and brothers in need of our assistance. We also pray in silence for our priests and our personal intentions.

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Aug. 1, Day 6: St. John, you LOVED your people. You spent ten lonely years on your knees praying that they would love God and return to Mass. At first, you spent hours writing homilies and courageously reading them during Mass, but the few attending parishioners were bored and even laughed at your weak attempts. One Sunday, the words on your homily papers totally disappeared, and you had to depend on the Holy Spirit to fill you with HIS words. You and your parishioners were brought to holy tears! For the rest of your life your homilies filled people with passionate love for God, repentance for their sins, and a desire to completely change their priorities to follow God. Please intercede for us. Help us realize that our own efforts to evangelize are totally inadequate without the Holy Spirit. Help us to surrender ourselves totally to God as you did. We also pray in silence for our priests and our personal intentions.

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Aug. 2, Day 7: St. John, you dearly loved Our Lord in His Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Because you listened seriously to Jesus in His Gospels, you believed Jesus when He said that the Bread and Wine truly become His Body and Blood during the consecration at Mass. Eventually, the Masses at Ars were filled to overflowing, and over the years, tens of thousands of people came to believe in and love Our Eucharistic Lord because they could see your complete faith in this Truth. Please intercede for us as we struggle to believe in Our Lord's True Presence in our relativistic culture. Please help us to be drawn to Him in faith and love and to receive Him always reverently and worthily. Help us to desire to worship Him and spend much

time with Our Beloved. We also pray in silence for our priests and our personal intentions.

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Aug. 3, Day 8: St. John, the Lord worked powerfully in you when you heard Confessions. He gave you the great and rare gift of being able to read people's hearts. In your last years, you spent up to 14 hours in the confessional almost every day. People would travel from far-away cities in France to wait for days so that they could be reconciled to Our Lord through your counsel and absolution. Please intercede for us and help us to regularly make honest assessments of our thoughts, words, and actions. Help us to desire and partake of the healing and growth in virtue that results from the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We also pray in silence for our priests and our personal intentions.

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Aug. 4, Day 9: St. John, you served God and your people for 41 years in Ars until your death at age 73. You faced incredible hardships: the devil hated you so much, he would often disturb your sleep with awful noises. The devil even mocked you by calling you a "potato eater!" A few of your brother priests were so jealous of your holiness and your parishioners' love for you that they wrote to the bishop, accusing you of stupidity and pride. You exhausted yourself each day as you lovingly ministered to your flock in your poor village. You received praise and attention as many miracles happened through your ministry, although you totally desired humility and hiddenness. You desired to live a quiet life in a monastery but in obedience remained in Ars. Please intercede for us as we face suffering, obstacles, misunderstandings and frustrations in our daily life as we take up our crosses and follow Jesus. We also pray in silence for our priests and our personal intentions.

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