



Novena to the Immaculate Conception 2026

Day 2: Gate of Gold

Good morning on this second day of the Novena of the Immaculate Conception.

"Surge et Ambula": Rise and walk. On this second day of the Novena of the Immaculate Conception, we approach the figure of our mother, the Virgin, contemplating her today as the House of Gold, Domus Aurea.

Invoking the Holy Spirit, moved by Him, we pray by placing ourselves in His presence to open the heart of Our Mother and discover the treasures she wants to reveal to us today.

*By the sign of the Holy Cross,
from our enemies, deliver us, Lord our God,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.

Almighty God, who, as you announced through the angel, willed that your Son be incarnated in the womb of Mary, the Virgin. Hear our prayers and make us feel the protection of Mary, whom we proclaim as the true Mother of God.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

As we contemplate our mother, the Virgin, as the House of Gold, the novena today offers us this text from the Song of Songs. A beautiful text, attributed to King Solomon, which, with a nuptial pedagogy and nuptial images, tries to reveal the love of God the Father for each one of us.

That love of predilection is what the Immaculate Virgin Mary felt when she was preserved from all sin to have the same dignity as the one who was to be incarnate as Our Savior, the second person of the Most Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ, our Lord, true God and true man.

The Song says: "You are all beautiful, my beloved; there is no flaw in you. Come from Lebanon, my spouse; come from Lebanon, come. He has stolen my heart." That call that the Virgin Mary receives to be the mother of the Son of God, the Mother of God, is in some way the prefiguration of what is called the calling of our soul.

All beautiful, all beautiful you are. All beautiful is your soul, dear son, dear daughter, dear brother. And the Lord desires that our soul unite with His. Come from wherever you are, leave wherever you are. I am searching for you. Come close, because I feel predilection love for you.

Surge et Ambula. Rise and Walk.



Mary teaches us that. Mary teaches us to leave where we are to approach that God who, like the parable of the prodigal son, seeks us. Saint John Damascene, in that tradition pill, reminds us that Mary is a temple of God, just as you and I are called to be temples of the Holy Spirit through baptism. Imitating Mary means living a life of holiness. Imitating Mary means truly becoming a dwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is to welcome the grace, the action of the Holy Spirit, as She did, and to keep it, to keep it as a treasure, as if it were her home, her dwelling, house of gold.

Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort says: "Hortus conclusus." "Hortus conclusus et fons signatus es tu Maria." Enclosed garden, enclosed garden you are and fountain. That is the womb of Mary and that is what each of our souls is truly called to be. Mary is blessed, Mary becomes beatified, Mary becomes worthy of salvation and holiness by becoming the dwelling of the Most High.

You and I, dear brother and dear sister, are called to imitate the Virgin, to say yes, to make of ourselves, our life, and our soul a true dwelling, to make ourselves happy with our life in every circumstance and moment of it. Mary is more than us, although human like us. Mary is more than us because, preserved from sin, she is called to have the same dignity as her Son. But she is human like us to teach us how we should proceed.

Mary, as we said yesterday, is a star that guides us. Mary is a teacher who teaches us. Mary teaches us today to surrender fully our will and our understanding to God Our Lord. Mary wants to teach us to say yes every day, to fulfill the will of God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church synthesizes in these points prepared to meditate today and enliven our faith, that Mary is preparing and has prepared a dwelling for the Spirit, and that She, prepared by the Spirit, is called to be the dwelling. In some way you and I, dear brother, dear sister, are truly called to that, to welcome the gift of the Holy Spirit, to set out on the path, to let God work in us and to be faithful to Him to be able to spread that light in the world. That is our mission.

Dear Mother, today to please you we want to thank God for calling us to be holy at every moment and in every circumstance of our life, always by your hand. May this be the task for today, may this be the purpose you can embody: To thank God because He has called me by my name to be holy, to walk by the hand of the Virgin.

And as we will do every day, we now pray the Prayer of the Volunteers of the Order of Malta:

Lord Jesus, you have called us to be prepared on the frontiers of service and love for all:

Make yourself present among us so that we too can always be present where a man's cry is heard. Make us generous in giving, timely in trying, and effective in helping others. Instruments of good wherever needed, forever.

We ask for your help, You who are the ideal of our lives, and who live and reign forever and ever.

Surge et Ambula. Rise and Walk.



Amen.

Let us pray.

O God! that by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin you prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son; we pray that just as you preserved Her from every stain by the foreseen death of your own Son, so you may also grant that through your intercession we arrive cleansed of all guilt before your presence.

Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Lord be with you. And may the blessing of Almighty God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit descend upon you, keep you, and accompany you always.

Amen.

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Surge et Ambula. Rise and Walk.