

National Novena for the Protection of Marriage

Ash Wednesday, February 25 – Thursday, March 5

(March 5, the day of oral arguments on challenges to Proposition 8
before the California Supreme Court)

“Without Me, you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

This novena is offered for the attorneys and justices involved in the challenges to California Proposition 8. Oral arguments will be held on the last day of the novena, March 5, in San Francisco. You may pray any prayer, offer fasting or any sacrifice for this novena. Suggested daily prayers can be found at the bottom of this sheet. We do ask that you consider saying either or both of the following prayers:

A Morning Offering

Heavenly Father, I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings today, and unite them with those of the whole mystical Body of Christ. Imploring the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, I beg You to protect marriage as authored by You at the very time of creation.

Open the minds and hearts of the California Supreme Court Justices to accept Your Divine Plan for marriage. Inspire the Justices to consider the delight You take in families.

Guide them with wisdom and understanding of the rights of children to know and be cared for by their father and mother.

Fill them with right judgment and courage to decide legal challenges to marriage on their merits, and to uphold the sovereign power of the voters.

Send Your Holy Spirit, we beg You, upon the attorneys to guide them in their presentations and to make their arguments compelling.

We ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.

St. Joseph, earthly father of Jesus and protector of the family, pray for marriage.

Ss. Joachim and Anna, grandparents of Jesus, parents of His mother Mary, pray for marriage.

Other Suggested Novena Prayers:

- Nine daily Masses
- Nine days of Eucharistic Adoration or Holy hours
- Nine daily Rosaries
- Nine daily Divine Mercy Chaplets
- Nine daily recitations of the Memorare
- Hail Mary or Divine Mercy moments for nine days (short prayers unceasingly when possible).

Prayer at Other Times of the Day

Dear Father in Heaven, You are Lord, not only of individuals, but of nations and governments. I thank You for *Your* law, which our Founding Fathers acknowledged and recognized as higher than any human law.

Jesus, in performing Your first public miracle during the wedding feast of Cana, You confirmed the goodness of marriage. Continue to bless marriage in our day by guiding the Justices of the California Supreme Court to uphold Proposition 8 against its attackers.

Holy Spirit, please strengthen me and all supporters of Proposition 8 so that we never despair, not even in the face of ferocious opposition.

Grant us strength, fortitude, and energy to persevere in the work for life, marriage, and family. **Amen.**

St. Thomas More, father of a family and patron of lawyers, you defended your nation's law with your life. Please intercede for us in this legal challenge to marriage.

Blessed Junipero Serra, missionary to California – pray for marriage.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you,
O virgin of virgins, my mother.

To you I come, before you I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.

O mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer them.
AMEN.