

Odile was the daughter of Etichon (also known as Athich, Adalrich or Aldaric), Duke of Alsace and founder of the Etichonid noble family. By tradition she was born blind. Her father did not want her because she was a girl and handicapped, so her mother Bethswinda had her brought to Palma (perhaps present day Baume-les--Dames in Burgundy), where she was raised by peasants there.

A tenth-century legend relates that when she was twelve, Odile was taken into a nearby monastery. Whilst there, the itinerant bishop Saint Erhard of Regensburg was led, by an angel it was said, to Palma where he baptized her Odile (Sol Dei), whereupon she miraculously recovered her sight. Her younger brother Hughes had her brought home again, which enraged Etichon so much that he accidentally killed his son. Odile miraculously revived him, and left home again.

She fled across the Rhine to a cave or cavern in one of two places (depending on the source: the Musbach valley near Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, or Arlesheim near Basel, Switzerland.) Supposedly, the cliff face opened up in order to rescue her from her plight. In the cave, she hid from her father. When he tried to follow her, he was injured by falling rocks and gave up.

When Etichon fell ill, Odile returned to nurse him. He finally gave up resisting his headstrong daughter and founded the Augustine monastic community of Mont Ste. Odile (also known as Hohenburg Abbey) in the Hochwald (Hohwald), Bas-Rhin, where Odile became abbess and where Etichon was later buried. Some years later Odile was shown the site of Niedermünster at the foot of the mountain by St. John the Baptist in a vision. There she founded a second monastery, including a hospital. Here, the head and an arm of St. Lazarus of Marseille were displayed but later transferred to Andlau. The buildings of the Niedermünster burned down in 1542, but the local well is still said to cure eye diseases.

St. Odile died about 720 at the convent of Niedermünster. At the insistent prayers of her sisters she was returned to life, but after describing the beauties of the afterlife to them, she took communion by herself and died again.^[1] She was buried at Ste. Odile.

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Novena to Saint Odilia

(Also known as Odile and Ottila)

**MAY BE RECITED ON ANY NINE CONSECUTIVE DAYS OR
FROM: DECEMBER 4TH TO DECEMBER 12TH**

Feast Day: December 13th



**Patron of the Blind;
Crosier Fathers (Order of the Holy Cross); Alsace, France**

Novena to St. Odilia

Day One

But thanks be to God that, although you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient from the heart to the pattern of teaching to which you were entrusted.

Romans 6:17

All-powerful God, you alone are holy; without you nothing is good. I come before you trusting in your love for me, and praying to you through the intercession of St. Odilia, virgin and martyr. I ask you to help me become the person you have called me to be. I ask this with the same trust that inspired St. Odilia to leave her home in order to follow Christ more closely. Father, increase my confidence in your love for me, and if it be your will, grant my special request. I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

St. Odilia, pray for us.

Day Two

I command you: be firm and steadfast! Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go. *Joshua 1:9*

Lord, our God, for the glory of your name, you gave St. Odilia the courage to give her life in martyrdom as a witness to Christ. Through her intercession, help me to know your will and give me the courage to do it, so that I may be true to Christ until my death. If it be your will for me, grant my special prayer and let me come one day to live with Christ in glory, along with St. Odilia and all the saints. I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

St. Odilia, pray for us.

St. Odilia, who preferred death to the loss of virginal purity,
Pray for us.

St. Odilia, faithful to God even in torment,
Pray for us.

St. Odilia, who died a Martyr's death,
Pray for us.

St. Odilia, protector of the order of the Holy Cross,
Pray for us.

St. Odilia, whose name is glorified by miracles,
Pray for us.

St. Odilia, patroness of the eyes,
Pray for us.

St. Odilia, powerful intercessor with God,
Pray for us.

St. Odilia, our help and hope in all our needs,
Pray for us.

OUR FATHER

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth, as it is in Heave. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we come to Thee trusting in Thy mercy. May we be heard through the merits of Thy son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and through the intercession of the blessed Virgin Mary and the Virgin Martyr St. Odilia. Give us what is best for now and forever.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father in Heaven, Thou hast shown us Thy kindness by giving Saint Odilia to us as the protectress of the order of the Holy Cross and patroness of the blind and afflicted. We humbly ask to be protected, through her intercession, from the darkness of ignorance and sin and to be cured of blindness and other sickness.

Through Him Who is the source of all healing and life, Jesus Christ. Our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Day Nine

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. *Matthew 7:7-8*

O God of love, your Son has shown us the way of accepting your will. Hear my prayer through the intercession of St. Odilia, the patroness of the Order of the Holy Cross. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they are called to be saints, and may they come to know that they are joined with Christ in suffering for the salvation of the world. I ask you to give me the grace of imitating Christ and St. Odilia and to accept your will for me. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father...
Hail Mary...
St. Odilia, pray for us.

The Litany of St. Odilia For Private Recital Only.

Lord have mercy on us.
Christ have mercy on us.
Lord have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of Heaven,
have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
have mercy on us.
God the Holy Ghost,
have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God,
have mercy on us.
Holy Mary,
Pray for us.
St. Odilia, excellent companion of St. Ursula,
Pray for us.
St. Odilia, wonderful Virgin and Martyr,
Pray for us.
St. Odilia, privileged spouse of Jesus,
Pray for us.
St. Odilia, who out of love for Jesus, left thy country,
Pray for us.
St. Odilia, who after the example of Jesus,
courageously carried thy cross,
Pray for us.

Day Three

But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved. *Matthew 24:13*

Almighty God, I ask through the intercession of St. Odilia that I may grow stronger as a Christian. Help me see myself as a pilgrim in this world, a person called to respect and love all, one who has been saved by you. I ask you, Father, to grant my special petition if it be your will, and to give me a greater love for your Son, Jesus Christ, so that I may no longer live for myself but may only strive to please the Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father...
Hail Mary...
St. Odilia, pray for us.

Day Four

I especially ask for your prayers that I may be restored to you very soon. *Hebrews 13:19*

Merciful God, I come to you to ask your aid that my life may always give you praise. I ask through the intercession of St. Odilia and all your holy people to be restored to your love. Give me holiness of soul and body, and bring me into your divine life. May I obtain these favors, as well as my special prayer, if that be your will for me, through the merits of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father...
Hail Mary...
St. Odilia, pray for us.

Day Five

Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.
2 Corinthians 9:8

Father, source of salvation for all people, I praise you that through the intercession of St. Odilia, the patroness of the eyes, so many people have been strengthened by the faith that made her so loyal to Christ, your Son. Through her prayers, many have been cured of blindness and other ailments of the eye. I ask, Father, that you let me become a sign of your love for all people, and, if it be your will for me, that my special request be granted. I ask this through Christ, your Son, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father...
Hail Mary...
St. Odilia, pray for us.

Day Six

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; Indeed, she has received from the hand of the Lord double for all her sins. *Isaiah 40:1-2*

God and Father of all gifts, I praise you, the source of all that I am and have. I thank you for your kindness, and especially for the gifts many have received through the help of St. Odilia. Through her intercession, may you be my strength in adversity, my health in weakness, my comfort in sorrow. I know that you, Lord, will give me the strength to give myself in greater service to you and my neighbor. I ask for all of these things, and my special prayer, if that be your will for me, through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father...
Hail Mary...
St. Odilia, pray for us.

Day Seven

For sin is not to have any power over you, since you are not under the law but under grace. *Romans 6:22*

Ever-living God, hear the prayers of all who remember the example of St. Odilia. She sacrificed all she had to you. Guide me on my way; help me grow in my imitation of St. Odilia to become ever more the temple of your Spirit. Grant that I may one day live with you and all the saints in heaven. I ask you to grant this, and my special request, if this be your will for me, through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father...
Hail Mary...
St. Odilia, pray for us.

Day Eight

But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. *Galatians 6:14*

Lord God, Almighty Father, I follow the witness of St. Odilia, who chose to follow the Cross, the Sign through which you have given all life and hope. I ask you, O God, to awaken in my life a desire to follow Jesus and to choose the Cross as my sign of strength in sorrow, joy in tribulation, and life through death. I ask that you grant this and my special petition, if that be your will for me, through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father...
Hail Mary...
St. Odilia, pray for us.