CHRISTMAS NOVENA

December 2013
CHRISTMAS NOVENA

The celebrant enters the sanctuary with his assistants.

He takes the sacred host from the tabernacle and places it in the monstrance. He then kneels on both knees and bows profoundly.

He stands at the bottom of the altar steps with his assistants. He blesses and imposes incense in the thurible and incenses the Blessed Sacrament in three sets of three. After each single swing he bows slightly and after three swings he kneels on both knees and bows profoundly. This is repeated three times.

Meanwhile all chant the following hymn:

Glory to the Voice
(shoob-ho l-haow qo-lo)

1. Glory to the Voice, the Word made flesh, who has come to earth to dwell with us. We have heard and seen and touched our Lord; our mouths have received his flesh and blood.

shoob-ho l-haow qo-lo  dah-wo ghoosh-mo
wal meh-lat ro-mo     dah-wo fagh-ro
shma-‘oi off ed-neh    hza-yoi ’ai-neh
mo-shoi off ee-deh     wakh-leh foo-mo.
2. Let us thank our Lord who came to us. He gave hope and life. He saved the world. Jesus, Mary’s child, spoke not a word; though, as God, he knew the tongues of all.

3. The Eternal Word, the Ancient One, Joseph’s arms embraced with joy and love. Christ was but a child, so meek and poor; yet so wise and strong, our King and God.
Novena Prayers

The celebrant and his assistants remain kneeling.
The celebrant prays the appropriate Novena prayer of the day followed by the concluding prayer on page 12.

First Prayer – December 15

Cel: O most beautiful of all children, out of your great love for us, you wished to become man to show us the hidden beauty of your divinity in the splendor of your visible body. Through it you have drawn people to your divine love. O Beloved of the Father and the sole joy of his heart, we implore you, through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your mother and Saint Joseph, your chosen one, to inflame our hearts with your love, and to enlighten our minds with the heavenly rays of your grace, so that we may love you with all of our hearts, and love everyone through you and for you, for you alone deserve the love of all hearts. Amen.

Cong: Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.
Concluding Prayer – p12.
Second Prayer – December 16

Cel: O Hope of the Fathers and Expectation of the People, through your birth you have given us hope. By the sweetness of your hope, you have drawn the shepherds, the magi, and all who believe in your holy name to give the adoration that is due to you. We implore you, through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your Mother and Saint Joseph, your chosen one, to keep us, by your grace, from attachment to earthly things, from false reliance on our personal works, and from unnecessary worries. May we rely only on your fatherly direction and your divine providence. Draw our hearts and minds to contemplate on heavenly gifts, so that we may place all our desires only on them. Amen.

Third Prayer – December 17

Cel: O Admirable Leader, you have guided the people to obey you, not by harshness but by the tenderness of your love. We implore you, through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your Mother and Saint Joseph, your chosen one, to teach us perfect obedience to your holy commandments and to our superiors, not for fear of punishment, or constraint, or external force, but by the assent of our minds, the surrender of our hearts, the enthusiasm of our spirits, and the joy of our souls. Amen.

Cong: Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.
Concluding Prayer – p12.
Fourth Prayer – December 18

Cel: O Lord, Wine of the Virgins and Lily of Purity, through your body all bodies are purified and all souls are clothed in chastity. By dwelling in the womb of your mother, you have made her the most pure and glorious of all virgins. We implore you, through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your mother and Saint Joseph, your chosen one, to make our souls and bodies chaste and our thoughts and actions pure, that we may serve you all the days of our lives. Amen.

Cong: Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.
Concluding Prayer – p12.
Fifth Prayer – December 19

Cel: O Mighty One, seated in the heavenly heights, you left the glory of your divinity and loved the lowness of our human nature to become our model of humility and lowness. We implore you, through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your Mother and Saint Joseph, your chosen one, to give us humility of heart and the denial of ourselves, that we may remove all pride which prevents us from knowing you. We would then realize the weakness of our condition and glorify you, for you alone are holy and great is your name. To you be glory, power, and strength. Amen.


ايمنا وسلام والملج
Sixth Prayer – December 20

Cel: O Word of God, you have come from the mouth of God to be the life for all people. You became the living bread and were born in Bethlehem, “the House of Bread”, to satisfy our hunger. We implore you, through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your Mother and Saint Joseph, your chosen one, to grant us an insatiable hunger for your pure Body and Blood. May we approach your altars and with proper preparation receive your Sacred Mysteries for our salvation and eternal life. Amen.

Seventh Prayer – December 21

Cel: O Lord, you are one person who has two natures, and have taught us what you have heard from the Father. We implore you, through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your Mother and Saint Joseph, your chosen one, to grant us a living faith and good works in accordance with that faith. Do not permit us to lose the reward of our faith because of our wrong doings, but may we bear the fruits of true faith and good works. Amen.

Eighth Prayer – December 22

Cel: O King of Great Counsel, you have united the magnificence of your resplendent power with the prudence of human judgment when you, the almighty and powerful God, took flight to Egypt to escape Herod. We implore you, through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your mother and Saint Joseph, your chosen one, to grant us sound judgment in all of our actions, that we may act in all wisdom and serve you all the days of our lives. Amen.

Cong: Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.
Concluding Prayer – p12.
Ninth Prayer – December 23

Cel: O Lord, though you are rich by nature, you loved the poverty of our humanity when you became man like us. Though you were the descendent of kings and the heir of David, the venerable, you were satisfied with a grotto and a humble manger. We implore you, through your pure nativity and through the intercession of your mother and Saint Joseph, your chosen one, to give us a love of voluntary poverty, that we may be satisfied only with what is necessary for our existence, avoiding waste and the love of an easy life, all the days of our lives. Amen.

Cong: Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.
Concluding Prayer – p12.
Concluding Prayer

Cel: We have offered you, O Wonderful Child and only-begotten Son, the perfume of our incense, the desires of our hearts, the submission of our souls, the adoring reverence of our bodies, and the prayers of our lips. May this be a proper preparation for your pure Nativity. May we be found worthy, on that holy day, for you to dwell in us through the Mystery of your sacred Body and Blood, as you dwelt in your mother’s womb for nine months. May we be enlightened by the announcement of your holy angels, as were the humble shepherds. May we worship you with true spiritual adoration, as did the blessed Magi, when we offer you, not gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but faith, hope, and warm love. May these virtues flourish in us and bring forth good works, pleasing to your will. To you be glory and thanks, to your blessed Father, and to your Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Cong: Amen.
The following hymn is chanted by all:

**God Sent His Only Son**
*(Arsal Allah)*

1. God sent his only Son from the heavens to the earth as the Light for all the world.  
   God’s Word has hid himself in the Virgin Mary’s womb, and from her he took his flesh.  
   His star was seen on high, shining brightly in the East, as foretold in Balaam’s words.  
   Wise men, led by the star to the place where Jesus lay, honored him with finest gifts.

*hal-lel. hal-lel. hal-lel-loo-noh!*
(Praise him! Praise him! Praise him, our Lord!)

![Arabic text]

**Arabic Text**

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أرسل الله ابن‌الوحى نورًا لالام
واحجب في حشي مريم البنوت ومنه نجس
شرق نجمه في حدود فارس كأ قال بلعام
وأنار المجوس فحملوا اليه هدايا الاكرام
هَلِل هَلِل هَلِل هَلْوَنَّه
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ar-sal al-lah eb-na-hoo al wa- heed
noo-ran lil-oob-mam
wah-ta-já-ba fee ha-sha mar-yam al ba-tool
wa men-ha ta-jas-sam
ash-ra-qa naj-moo-ho fee hoo-dood fá-res
ka-ma qa-la bil-'am
wa-a-na-ral ma-joos fa- ha-ma-loo ee-lai-hee
ha-dai-yal ek-ram
hal-lel. hal-lel. hal-lel-loo-noh!
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2. This child Isaiah called “Wonderful and Mighty God” and proclaimed him as the Lord:
“Upon his shoulders rest full authority and power over all the universe.”
In truth, he is the Word and the Voice of God above, roaring with a lion's strength.
Yet, as a gentle lamb, silently and peacefully, he now dwells in Mary's womb.

hal-lel. hal-lel. hal-lel-loo-noh!
(Praise him! Praise him! Praise him, our Lord!)

'ā-jee-ban qa-ween da-' á -hoo a-sha'-ya
wa 'an-hoo ta-ran-nam
be-an-na-hoo yah-mel 'a-la man-kee-bai-hee
sool-ta-na-hool 'am
qad ka-na ka-le-mat bal ra-'a-da as-wat
wa-sheb-la lai-thin a'-zam
fa-ad-ḥa sá-ke-tan wa ḥa-ma-lan wa-dee'-an
fee bat-nee mar-yam
hal-lel. hal-lel. hal-lel-loo-noh!
3. Nine months within her womb, Mary carried Christ, our Lord, he, who holds the universe. She felt no weight at all while she bore the mighty One. Truly, he is God and man! Amazement filled the earth, since she had been made so pure, keeping her virginity: before the child was born, and at birth, and afterwards, and for all eternity.

hal-lel. hal-lel. hal-lel-loo-noh!
(Praise him! Praise him! Praise him, our Lord!)

tis-'a-ta ash-hoo-ren ha-ma-lat mar-yam
bee ha-me-leel ak-wán
wa-lam ta-hoo-sa men-hoo be-theq-len lee an-na-hoo
ee-lá-hon wa in-sán
zá-da-ha toh-ran wa-ma-ka-that ba-too-lan
tod-he-shool az-han
qab-lal-mee-lád wa fee-hee wa ba'-da-hoo
wa-ma da-ma za-mán
hal-lel. hal-lel. hal-lel-loo-noh!
The celebrant stands.
He blesses and places incense in the thurible. He incenses the Blessed Sacrament in three sets of three. After each single swing he bows slightly and after three swings he kneels on both knees and bows profoundly. This is repeated three times while the final verses of the hymn are sung.

4. His soul and body joined in a perfect unity
when he made the womb his home.
The oil of joy was poured by the Father from above
to anoint him as the Christ.
His life in Mary’s womb, his conception, and his birth,
these were great and wonderful.
We see the Spirit’s work in the Son of God made man,
as portrayed in Ephrem’s words.

hal-lel. hal-lel. hal-lel-loo-noh!
(Praise him! Praise him! Praise him, our Lord!)

fee ha-leel hoo-lool ta-saow-wa-ra ká-me-lan
wa jes-moo-hoo ma ba-rah
moot-ta-hee-dan ben-naf-see wa be-dooh-neel fa-rah
ma-see-han en-ma-sah
bel-hoo-loo-lee wal-khoo-rooj wa-sook-nah be-oom-mee-hee
‘a-jee-ban et-ta-dah
fa-tab-‘oob-ta-‘ad wa ba-na fee’-loo rooh
ka-ma aph-ra-moo aow-dah
hal-lel. hal-lel. hal-lel-loo-noh!
5. We sing to you, O Lord. From your Mother you appeared; truly God and truly man!
In you two natures dwell; and in you two wills reside;
yet you are, in person, one.
We praise and give you thanks, God the Father, and the Son, and the Spirit, three in one.
O Strong and Holy God, undivided Trinity, you are blest from age to age.

*hal-lel. hal-lel. hal-lel-loo-noh!*
(Praise him! Praise him! Praise him, our Lord!)

نَجْدِكَ يَا مَنْ ظُهِرَ بِأَمْوَهِ أَنْاسُانَا يُدوُم
بِآَخَادَ طِبقَينَ وِمِشَائِيْتَينَ فِي وَحْدَتَ الْأَقْتَوْم
لُكَ وَلوَلَدَكَ وَللَّرَوحَ الْقَدِّسَ سَكْرَتُ مَخْتوُم
ثَلَاثَةُ أَقْتَانِيُّ الْإِيْلَةُ وَاحِدُ لَهُ بِمَقْسُوم

نوُمْجَدَا يَا مَنْ ظُهِرَ بِأَمْوَهِ أَنْاسُانَا يُدوُم
بِآَخَادَ طِبقَينَ وِمِشَائِيْتَينَ فِي وَحْدَتَ الْأَقْتَوْم
لُكَ وَلوَلَدَكَ وَللَّرَوحَ الْقَدِّسَ سَكْرَتُ مَخْتوُم
ثَلَاثَةُ أَقْتَانِيُّ الْإِيْلَةُ وَاحِدُ لَهُ بِمَقْسُوم

*noo-maj-jee-da-ka ya man za-ha-ra be-oom-mee-hee*
*in-sá-nan ya-doom*
*bet-tee-ha-dee tab-ʻain wa ma-shee-a-tain fee*
*wah-da-teel oq-noom*
*la-ka wa-lee vá-lee-dak wa-lee roo-heel qoo-doos*
*shook-ron mah-toom*
*thá-lá-thát a-qa-neem ee-lá-hon wá-hed*
*lai-sa be maq-soom*
*hal-lel. hal-lel. hal-lel-loo-noh!*
Benediction

The assistant places the humeral veil on the shoulders of the celebrant. The celebrant approaches the monstrance, kneels on both knees and bows profoundly. He stands and holds the monstrance with the ends of the humeral veil. He turns with the monstrance toward the congregation from right to left. He holds the monstrance in the center while the “Holy Holy” is chanted.

While the celebrant is holding the monstrance, the assistant continuously incenses the Sacred Host while kneeling. At the words “We bless you” the celebrant blesses the congregation with the monstrance. He then turns towards the altar and places the monstrance back where it was.

Holy, holy, holy, mighty Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your great glory.
   Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who has come and will come in the name of the Lord.
   Hosanna in the highest.

Have mercy on us, Almighty Father.
   Have mercy on us.

We praise you. We bless you. + We adore you.
We glorify you. We profess our faith in you and we ask you:
   Have compassion on us, O God.
Have mercy on us and hear us.
After the blessing, the celebrant returns to his place and removes the humeral veil. He then imposes incense and incenses the Blessed Sacrament as he had done previously. The following hymn is sung.

At this conclusion of the incensing, the celebrant takes the sacred host from the monstrance and places it in the tabernacle.

Holy Holy Holy Mighty Lord
(qood-doos qood-doos)

1. Holy, holy, holy mighty Lord;
   only Son born of God the Father.
Holy, holy, holy mighty Lord;
Christ the true Light, who dawned from Mary.

qood-doos qood-doos qood-doos rab-boo-na
wa-hee-dool lá-hoot wa-noo-rool ‘a-lam.
qood-doos qood-doos qood-doo-sool ibn
a-lá-thee ash-ra-qa bee oo-mee-hee mar-yam.
2. Holy, holy, holy hidden Lord;  
   who became man for our salvation.  
Holy, holy, holy hidden Lord;  
who in flesh dawns upon creation.

3. Holy, holy, holy saving Lord;  
   angels came down and sang his praises.  
Holy, holy, holy saving Lord;  
who is carried by Blessèd Mary.
Glory to the Voice
(Christmas Novena)

Syriac: shoobho lhaow qolo

Eng Adapt: Inter-Eparchial Music Commission (2011)

Gm  Dm  Gm  Dm  Gm  Dm  Gm  Dm  C  F

Glory to the Voice, the Word made flesh, who has come to
Let us thank our Lord who came to us. He gave hope and
The Eternal Word, the Ancient One, Joseph's arms em-
earth to dwell with us. We have heard and seen
life. He saved the world. Jesus, Mary's child,
embraced with joy and love. Christ was but a child,
and touched our Lord; our mouths have received his
spoke not a word; though, as God, he knew the
so meek and poor; yet so wise and strong, our
flesh and blood.
tongues of all.
King and God.
God Sent His Only Son
(Christmas Novena)

Arabic: Arsal Allah

Eng Adapt: Inter-Eparchial Music Commission
(2011)

1. God sent his only Son from the heavens to the earth as the
2. This child Isaiah called "Wonderful and Mighty God" and pro-
3. Nine months within her womb, Mary carried Christ, our Lord, he, who
4. His soul and body joined in a perfect unity when he
5. We sing to you, O Lord. From your Mother you appeared; truly

Light for all the world. God's Word has hid himself
claimed him as the Lord: "Upon his shoulders rest
holds the universe. She felt no weight at all
made the womb his home. The oil of joy was poured
God and truly man! In you two natures dwell;

in the Virgin Mary's womb, and from her, he took his
full authority and power over all the unity
while she bore the mighty One. Truly, he is God and
by the Father from above to anoint him as the
and in you two wills reside; yet you are, in person,
His star was seen on high, shining brightly in the verse. In truth, he is the Word and the Voice of God a-
man! A-mazement filled the earth, since she had been made so
Christ. His life in Mary's womb, his conception, and his
one. We praise and give you thanks, God the Father, and the

East, as foretold in Balaam's words. Wise men, led by the star
above, roaring with a lion's strength. Yet, as a gentle lamb,
pure, keeping her virginity: before the child was born,
birth, these were great and wonderful. We see the Spirit's work
Son, and the Spirit, three in one. O Strong and Holy God,

to the place where Jesus lay, honored him with finest gifts.
silently and peacefully, he now dwells in Mary's womb.
and at birth, and afterwards, and for all eternity.
in the Son of God made man, as portrayed in Ephrem's words.
undivided Trinity, you are blest from age to age.

hal-lel. hal-lel. hal-lel loo-noh!
(Praise him! Praise him! Praise him, our Lord!)
Holy Holy Holy Mighty Lord
(Christmas Novena)

Syriac: adapted soogheeto

Eng Adapt: Inter-Eparchial Music Commission (2011)

D G D A D G D
Holy, holy, holy mighty Lord; only Son born of
Holy, holy, holy hidden Lord; who became man for
Holy, holy, holy saving Lord; angels came down and

A7 D G D A
God the Father. Holy, holy, holy mighty Lord;
our salvation. Holy, holy, holy hidden Lord;
sang his praises. Holy, holy, holy saving Lord;

D G D A7 D
Christ the true Light, who dawned from Mary.
who in flesh dawned upon creation.
who is carried by Blessed Mary.
Holy, Holy, Holy  
(Benediction)

Fr. Geoffrey Abdallah  
(1993, 2013)

Slowly

D A D D G D G D G E m A D A

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly migh - ty Lord God of Hosts. Hea - ven and earth are

D G D G D G D E m A

full of your great glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

D 3 3 G D 3 3 G 3 D

Bless - ed is he who has come and will come in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Have

G D E m B m A D A D D

mer - cy on us, Al - migh - ty Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us. We praise you. We

D G m D A D D D

bless you. We a - dore you. We glo - ri - fy you. We pro - fess our faith in you and we

F# m B m E m A D F# m B m

ask you: Have com - pas - sion on us, O God. Have mer - cy on us and hear us.