

ORDER OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS



Patron Saint: St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra

Feast Day: December 28

**In memory of the 20 children who perished
at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012**

OUR MISSION

Saint Augustine of Hippo on the Holy Innocents:

Today, dearest brethren, we celebrate the birthday of those children who were slaughtered, as the Gospel tells us, by that exceedingly cruel king, Herod. Let the earth, therefore, rejoice and the Church exult — she, the fruitful mother of so many heavenly champions and of such glorious virtues. Never, in fact, would that impious tyrant have been able to benefit these children by the sweetest kindness as much as he has done by his hatred. For as today's feast reveals, in the measure with which malice in all its fury was poured out upon the holy children, did heaven's blessing stream down upon them.

Blessed are you, Bethlehem in the land of Judah! You suffered the inhumanity of King Herod in the murder of your babes and thereby have become worthy to offer to the Lord a pure host of infants. In full right do we celebrate the heavenly birthday of these children whom the world caused to be born unto an eternally blessed life rather than that from their mothers' womb, for they attained the grace of everlasting life before the enjoyment of the present. The precious death of any martyr deserves high praise because of his heroic confession; the death of these children is precious in the sight of God because of the beatitude they gained so quickly. For already at the beginning of their lives they pass on. The end of the present life is for them the beginning of glory. These then, whom Herod's cruelty tore as sucklings from their mothers' bosom, are justly hailed as "infant martyr flowers"; they were the Church's first blossoms, matured by the frost of persecution during the cold winter of unbelief.

OUR PRAYER

O innocent martyrs of the Christ who gave your lives from the cradle for Him who carries the cross, who suffered and died in His place even before His crucifixion, even as His martyrs would do after His death on the Tree—let our hearts cry not for the evil that has wrought your violent death; pray we not fear the dark wrath of this world's king, but set our hearts on the joy of Our Lord's kingdom, where you now reign with Him and to which we hope to come by the laying down of our own lives in His Name. And pray for the least among us, who suffer the most this day, that they who are murdered in the womb will know the light of Christ's holy face.

From "Prayers to the Saints" by James H. Kurt



O God, Whose praise the martyred Innocents did this day proclaim, not by speaking, but by dying, do to death in us all malice of sinfulness, that our lies may also proclaim Thy faith which our tongues profess. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of Holy Ghost, world without end.

*Collect from the Traditional Latin Mass for the Feast of the Holy Innocents,
December 28*

VARIOUS PRAYERS FOR THIS APOSTOLATE

Novena to St. Nicholas

November 27-December 6

Beloved St. Nicholas, wonderworker, healer and protector of Christ's little ones, to you do we commend ourselves and, especially, our children.

Protect their innocence, defend them against all harm, and inspire in their young souls compassion for the poor, the virtue of generosity and a deep and holy joy as they anticipate the coming of the light of Christ into a world still at war with the Truth.

May Saint Nicholas, Bishop and Confessor, place in the hands of all Christian parents the sword of the Spirit—the Word of God—with which to defend their children against the evil one's relentless efforts to destroy their innocence; and may the Light of Christ, which no darkness can destroy, fill these families with living hope and unshakable faith as they witness to the world what holiness means



*... you will know the truth
and the truth will make you free.*

John 8:31-32

Lord Jesus, you who are the Truth itself and the Light the darkness will never be able to overcome, form the hearts and minds of your little ones so that they will always be drawn to the Light, long for the Truth, and despise everything that is false, morally treacherous and degrading to human dignity. Amen.



Heavenly Father, we pray that through the intercession of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Defender of Childhood Innocence and of the Apostolic Faith, you will protect [Name] from all harm. As he/she grows in stature, may he/she grow in wisdom and grace without losing the spirit of joy, the trusting expectation of good and the eagerness to help those in need that mark the souls of all those who will inherit the Kingdom of God. Amen.



Angelic bearer of the power of God and mighty messenger of Incarnate Love, you were heaven's choice to announce the miracle of God made man to the Virgin of Nazareth.

May she whom you hailed as "Full of Grace" grant that, through your intercession, the mystery of the Word made flesh will be revealed in the hearts of our children. In this way, may they be prepared to bear the same message of hope and consolation to a wounded world that you first brought to her:

With God, nothing is impossible!





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Reflects the charism

of the Women's Apostolate to Youth

Inspiring the young with the ideal of holiness.

<https://www.waywomen.com/community-prayers>

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Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem. . . . from two years old and under. . . . then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “In Ramah was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.”

Matthew 2:16-18