

Please join us in prayer! <u>Epiphany Catholic School's</u>

54-day Rosary Novena

December 11 - February 2

Praying for more families to join the Epiphany community in the coming year, and in thanksgiving for our prayers being answered according to God's will.

What is a 54-day rosary novena?

This devotion originated in the early 1800s in Naples, Italy. A young girl, Fortuna Agrelli, was suffering from an incurable illness. She asked the Blessed Virgin Mary for help. Mary appeared to her and asked her to pray three novenas using the rosary. (A novena is nine consecutive days of prayer, mirroring the interval when Mary and the Apostles prayed for the Holy Spirit between Our Lord's Ascension and the day of Pentecost.) After the novenas, young Fortuna was miraculously cured of her illness.

In a later apparition, Mary instructed that the devotion should include three novenas in petition followed by three novenas in thanksgiving. That's where we get fifty-four days! We pray the novena in thanksgiving whether or not we perceive that our prayer request has been granted. We do this out of trust that our prayers have been heard and that God will respond to our petitions, and those of His Mother, according to His great mercy and love.

When will we pray using this devotion?

Families and friends of Epiphany Catholic School are asked to pray a 54-day rosary novena from Monday, December 11 (the eve of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadelupe) until Friday, February 2 (the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord). Our petition will be for more families to join the Epiphany community in the coming year.

The twenty-seven days of petition will conclude on January 6, the traditional date of Epiphany. The twenty-seven days of thanksgiving will begin on January 7, this year's liturgical celebration of the Epiphany.

How do we pray the 54-day rosary novena?

We simply pray the rosary every day! For the first twenty-seven days, we pray that more families to join the Epiphany community in the coming year. For the next twenty-seven days, we pray in thanksgiving for more families joining the Epiphany community in the coming year.