

# *Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier*

March 4 -12, 2023



Dear Friends,

Each year during the month of March, a Novena of Masses is offered for our benefactors, and for the intentions dearest to their hearts. It is called the “Novena of Grace” because countless people have had their prayers answered by God through the intercession of St. Francis Xavier, the patron Saint of all the missions.

The “Novena of Grace” began in 1633 when Saint Francis Xavier appeared to the priest, Marcellus Mastrilli, SJ, in a healing vision, and promised that all who would earnestly ask his intercession with God for nine days would experience profound grace.

St. Francis Xavier said to him:

*"All those who implore my help daily for nine consecutive days, from the fourth to the twelfth of March inclusive and worthily receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion on one of the nine days will experience my protection and may hope with entire assurance to obtain from God any Grace they ask that is for the good of their souls and the glory of God."*

The vision vanished and Fr. Mastrilli arose entirely cured.

People joining into the “Novena of Grace” often pray for spiritual and physical healing and for reconciliation in their relationships.

During the Novena, the relics of St. Francis Xavier are honored on our altar, as a visible means of connecting us to the Saint, who, thus continues to be present to us.

This “Novena of Grace” is traditionally prayed from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> March. Join us in praying to Saint Francis. We will offer Holy Mass during this time, praying for your intentions.

Please send your intentions to us at 12 Helene Court, Wayne NJ 07470-2813 and we will place them at the altar in our chapel. Your generous donation will help the Xaverian Missionaries to continue the mission of our Patron St. Francis Xavier: *“making Jesus known and loved all over the world.”*

May God bless you and your family with health and peace.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Michael Davitti, sx, and the Xaverian Missionaries.*