

**SOLEMN NOVENA
TO SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL
February 22 through March 2**

**CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
AND SHRINE OF SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**



Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

Priest: Let us listen to the words of the Holy Gospel.

John 6: 34-40

So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst. But I told you that although you have seen [me], you do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he

gave me, but that I should raise it [on] the last day.^t For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him [on] the last day.”

Or:

John 12: 24-26

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life* loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

Or:

John 15: 1-8

“I am the true vine,* and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes* so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Or:

John 15: 9-17

As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than

this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends,* because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.

Priest: You have given them Bread from heaven.

All: Having all sweetness within it.

SOLEMN NOVENA PRAYER

Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty Father,
we come to you as brothers and sisters of your divine Son,
in the communion of the Holy Spirit,
to seek the heavenly aid of Saint Katharine Drexel.

This woman of faith, this daughter of the Church,
this virgin foundress, this disciple of the Eucharist,
this witness to truth and justice,
inspires us to seek her intercession in heaven
for our many needs here on earth.
We ask her to bring our many petitions before you
during this solemn novena of prayer.

We pray for all those in holy orders
and all the baptized, especially those in the consecrated life.
We pray for all those in great need of any kind,
especially those oppressed by great poverty.
We pray for an end to all types of racism and discrimination.
We pray for an increase of love for the Sacrament

of the Most Holy Eucharist.

We pray for our own petitions in silence.

(pause for a few moments of silence)

With every confidence in your mercy and love, Father of us all,
we rely on Saint Katharine Drexel to pray on our behalf
so you may hear without delay our humble prayers
through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

LITANY OF SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

Priest: Saint Katharine Drexel, example of charity and generosity,

All: Pray for us.

Priest: Saint Katharine Drexel, servant of the poor and outcast,

All: Pray for us.

Priest: Saint Katharine Drexel, witness to faith and truth

All: Pray for us.

Priest: Saint Katharine Drexel, model of virtue and sanctity,

All: Pray for us.

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.