

Florentine[™]
Lives of the Saints

Infant of Prague
with Prayers and Devotions

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Introduction

Two of the fundamental tenets of the Christian faith are belief in the Incarnation and the immanence of God. While these two concepts are usually thought to be too difficult and profound for the average believer to grasp, they are actually relatively simple to understand.

The Incarnation refers to the belief that God, the Almighty and sovereign Lord of the universe, chose to come among us as a flesh and blood person, a fully human being. The divine Son of God, the second Person of the Trinity, became a man in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Christians believe that God revealed himself fully and completely in human form: "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."

The belief in God's immanence is based in part on the doctrine of the Incarnation. To affirm the immanence of God means to believe that God is not a silent, distant deity, uninterested in this world's events. Rather, God is ever near at hand. The immanent God cares deeply about

The Story of the Infant of Prague

Devotion to the Infant Jesus has been a part of Christian piety since the earliest days of the Church. Some of the greatest saints of the early Church — Augustine, Jerome, Pope Leo the Great — are known to have venerated the Christ Child. In medieval times St. Francis of Assisi, deeply moved during his meditation that God became a child, set up the first Nativity scene so as to represent the divine mystery of the Incarnation. St. Anthony of Padua likewise marveled at the Infant Jesus, and was reported to have held the Christ Child in his arms.

The exact origins of the statue of the Infant Jesus are unknown, but historians point to a small sculpture of the Child with a bird in his right hand carved around the year 1340.

Devotion to the Child Jesus grew in Spain in the sixteenth century, due to the influence of St. Teresa of Avila. A number of statues of the Child carved in Spain, made of wax, ivory, and bronze and dressed in the aristocratic style of the times, found their way to Prague, then the capital city of Bohemia.

Prayers to the Infant of Prague

Prayer to the Infant of Prague

O merciful Infant Jesus. I know of your miraculous deeds for the sick. In view of the many blessings and cures granted through the veneration of your holy Infancy, particularly in the city of Prague, I exclaim with great assurance: O most loving Infant Jesus, you can cure me if it is your will. Extend your holy hand and by your power take away all pain and infirmity.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Divine Infant Jesus, I know you love me and would never leave me. I thank you for your close presence in my life. Miraculous Infant, I believe in your promise of peace, blessings, and freedom from want. I place every need and care in your hands.

Lord Jesus, may I always trust in your generous mercy and love. I want to honor and praise you, now and forever. Amen.

Novena to the Child Jesus

Day One

O sweet Child Jesus, here at your feet is a person who, conscious of my nothingness, turns to you, who are all. I have so much need of your help. Look on me, O Jesus, with love, since you are all-powerful. Help me in my poverty.

Our Father . . .

Hail Mary . . .

Glory Be . . .

By your divine infancy, O Jesus, grant the grace that I now ask (*state your request*) if it is according to your will and for my true good. Do not look upon my unworthiness, but rather on my faith, and show me your infinite mercy.

Day Two

O splendor of the heavenly Father, in whose face shines the light of the divinity, I adore you profoundly and I confess you as the true Son of the living God. I offer you, O Lord, the humble homage of all my being. Grant that I may never separate myself from you, my