Novena to Saint Cloud

The Novena to Saint Cloud was written in 1989 for the diocese’s Centennial Celebration. Using this novena, parishes are encouraged (privately or communally) to ask for the intercession of our patron and pray for the needs of the diocese.

Let us pray for healing . . .
Let us pray for spiritual renewal . . .
Let us pray for peace . . .
Let us pray for the poor and marginalized . . .
Let us pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life . . .
Let us pray for married couples and those discerning marriage . . .

For what else shall we pray . . .

The novena is available online at:
www.stcdio.org/feast-of-st-cloud

Cover art: Placid Stuckenschneider, OSB.
Prayer to Saint Cloud

Lord God, you alone are holy,
and you holiness is seen in the lives of the saints.
You called Saint Cloud
to serve your people in the priesthood
and he, in turn, humbled himself
in the world for your sake.
May his prayers and example
encourage us to serve you as priestly people.
Through his intercession,
may we follow Jesus more faithfully
and live as a people holy in your sight.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Most Reverend Donald J. Kettler
Bishop of Saint Cloud
PLANNING THE LITURGY

When preparing to celebrate Saint Cloud in your parish with a Mass or the Liturgy of the Hours, the first question to ask is whether it is celebrated as a feast or a solemnity.

FEAST OR SOLEMNITY

September 7 is a solemnity in the parishes and institutions within the city of St. Cloud since he is the patron of the city.

September 7 remains a feast for all other parishes and institutions within the diocese since he is the patron of the diocese.

Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar, Table of Liturgical Days, I.4a and II.8a

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

1. When celebrated as a Solemnity:
   ♦ The Glory to God is sung.
   ♦ There are two readings before the gospel.
   ♦ The Creed is recited.

2. When celebrated as a Feast:
   ♦ The Glory to God is sung.
   ♦ There is only one reading before the gospel, which may come from the Old Testament or from an Apostle (Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass, 84.3).

On September 12, 1891, after Bishop Otto Zardetti consulted with the priests, religious and lay people of our newly created diocese, Pope Leo XIII named Saint Cloud the patron saint of the Church of Saint Cloud, MN. Since that time our diocesan patron has been honored each year on his feast day, September 7. Saint Cloud is also the patron saint of the St. Cloud Hospital.

In May, 1922, Joseph F. Busch, Bishop of the Diocese of Saint Cloud, was present in Saint Cloud, France, for the 14th centenary of the birth of Saint Cloud, the patron saint of the city. At or around that time, Bishop Busch ordered a statue of the saint to be carved by the French artist, M. Tourmou. It was to reside at the new St. Cloud Hospital in Saint Cloud, MN. The statue of Saint Cloud arrived in Minnesota in October, 1927, and was placed over the altar in the St. Cloud Hospital chapel.

A painting of Saint Cloud now hangs in the entryway of the Diocese of Saint Cloud’s Chancery in St. Cloud, MN. Another statue of the patron saint sits in the Bishop’s office in the Chancery.

From http://stcdio.org/about/our-history/
After Saint Severin the hermit died, Cloud left the neighborhood of Paris to find solitude deeper in the forest. He sought silence to communicate with God more intimately as he prayed for the needs of people. God answered his prayers in a strange sort of way by sending people out to find him in the forest. They came by the hundreds because they learned that Cloud had the gift of healing the bodies and souls of the afflicted. His was a ministry of healing and reconciliation.

Cloud lived eleven years as a hermit. During those years, he spent time poring over the Scriptures. These were not idle years for the prince who had fled the royal court for a life devoted to Christ! For this reason artists throughout the centuries have portrayed Cloud holding a bible.

Although Cloud shared many gifts with others, there was one gift he could not share — the Eucharist. People recognized this, and many urged Eusebius, Bishop of Paris, to ordain the hermit-prince a priest. The bishop complied, and in 551 A.D. Cloud was ordained a priest for the Church of Paris. He became pastor of a small village consisting of poor men and women who fished in the river, and farm families in a small village near Paris. Today, the village (now a suburb of Paris) is called Saint Cloud.

In the village, Saint Cloud used his gifts of healing, counseling, preaching and celebrating the Eucharist in ministry to the people. As time passed, the uncles of Saint Cloud repented of their sin and reconciled themselves with their nephew. They, in turn, restored many castles, estates and lands to Cloud. As a hermit, he sold some of these properties and distributed his wealth to the poor. He received permission from Bishop Eusebius to use a small portion of that wealth to build a church with his own hands, and he dedicated it to Saint Martin of Tours. Cloud radiated that deep joy of a Christian heart in love with God. Others recognized this in Cloud and came to live near him. In time, he became a leader and teacher of those who joined him.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Since Saint Cloud does not appear on the General Roman Calendar, the Church has not assigned proper readings for the feast. Readings are chosen from the various options found in “The Common for Pastors,” (Lectionary, 719).

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<tr>
<th>FIRST READING OPTIONS</th>
<th>RESPONSORIAL PSALM</th>
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<td>1. Exodus 32:7-14</td>
<td>1. Ps. 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 11</td>
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<td>2. Deuteronomy 10:8-9</td>
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<td>3. 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-13a</td>
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<td>5. Isaiah 61:1-3a</td>
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<td>7. Ezekiel 3:17-21</td>
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<td>8. Ezekiel 34:11-16</td>
<td>8. Ps. 117:1bc, 2</td>
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<tr>
<th>SECOND READING (NEW TESTAMENT)</th>
<th>GOSPEL READING</th>
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<td>1. Romans 12:3-13</td>
<td>1. Matthew 9:35-38</td>
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<td>2. 1 Corinthians 4:1-5</td>
<td>2. Matthew 23:8-12</td>
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<td>3. 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23</td>
<td>3. Mark 1:14-20</td>
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<td>6. 2 Corinthians 5:14-20</td>
<td>6. John 10:11-16</td>
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<td>8. Colossians 1:24-29</td>
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<td>9. 1 Thessalonians 2:2b-8</td>
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<td>10. 2 Timothy 1:13-14; 2:1-3</td>
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<td>11. 2 Timothy 4:1-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. 1 Peter 5:1-4</td>
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SAMPLE INVOCATIONS FOR THE PENITENTIAL ACT (FORM III)

1. A Sprinkling may be used in place of the Penitential Act.

2. The Roman Missal offers several options in the appendix. The Office of Worship recommends option VI.

3. Some priests and deacons have kept the practice of composing invocations for the Penitential Act. You might consider using this formula, which is taken from the options in the Roman Missal.

   Priest/Deacon: Lord Jesus, you reveal the Father’s love:  
                      Lord, have mercy.

   Priest/Deacon: Lord Jesus,  
                      you feed us with your body and blood:  
                      Christ, have mercy.

   Priest/Deacon: Lord Jesus,  
                      you are the High Priest,  
                      leading us to everlasting life:  
                      Lord, have mercy.

Life of Saint Cloud
Patron Saint of the Diocese of Saint Cloud

Saint Cloud was born in 522 A.D. He was the grandson of Clovis, founder of the Kingdom of the Franks, and his wife Saint Clothilde. Following the death of his parents, Cloud and his two brothers were cared for by their grandmother, Saint Clothilde, the widowed queen. Upon his father’s death, Cloud’s uncles sought to seize his father’s throne by plotting the murder of Cloud and his two brothers. They succeeded in killing his brothers, but Saint Cloud escaped and sought sanctuary with Saint Remigius, the Bishop of Rheims, located a short distance from Paris.

During these formative years he drew closer to God through silence and solitude. Although this life-style was forced upon him by his uncles’ plot to murder him, Cloud grew to appreciate his separation from the world and a life of silence. And so, Cloud grew from childhood into young manhood under the guidance and protection of the holy bishop and his sainted grandmother.

At the age of twenty, Saint Cloud left his hermitage, appeared before the Bishop of Paris surrounded by religious and civic leaders and members of the royal family — his royal family. Remember, Cloud was a prince and heir to the throne! He clothed himself in royal robes and carried a scissors in one hand and a coarse garment in the other. He offered the coarse garment to the bishop who clothed him with it as a symbol of his preferred “spiritual” rather than “material” riches. With the scissors, the bishop cut Cloud’s long hair, which was a symbol of his royalty. In the silence and solitude of his hermitage, Cloud had established priorities in his life. He had learned the difference between true and false pleasures.
GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Since Saint Cloud does not appear on the General Roman Calendar, the Church has not assigned proper antiphons, readings, or responsories for the feast.

Parishes are encouraged to gather to celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours in common, when possible, to celebrate our patronal feast.

Please refer to the General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours paragraphs 225-233.

1. When celebrated as a Solemnity:
   ♦ The prayers, readings, etc. are taken from the Common of Pastors.
   ♦ Evening Prayer I is said.
   ♦ For Night Prayer, “everything is said as on Sundays after evening prayer I and II respectively” (GILOH, 230).

2. When celebrated as a Feast:
   ♦ The prayers, readings, etc. are taken from the Common of Pastors.
   ♦ Evening Prayer I is not said.
   ♦ “Night Prayer is said as on ordinary days” (GILOH, 233).

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

These two options can be edited or added to as needed.

OPTION I

1. That those who guide God’s People as pastors may do so in joyful and responsible service, let us pray to the Lord.

2. That Christians everywhere realize their vocation as priestly people through service to all who are in need, let us pray to the Lord.

3. That we may promote peace and unity among all people by seeking to understand and appreciate the values held dear by other faiths and religious traditions, let us pray to the Lord.

4. That the communion of God’s saints may encourage us to place the service of Christ above personal desires for attention and acknowledgment, let us pray to the Lord.

   Taken from the Minutes of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, 1985. For the Feast of St. Cloud

OPTION II

1. For the holy Church of God, that the Lord may graciously watch over her and care for her, let us pray to the Lord. R/. Grant this, almighty God.

2. For the people of all the world, that the Lord may graciously preserve harmony among them, let us pray to the Lord. R/. Grant this, almighty God.

3. For all who are oppressed by any kind of need, that the Lord may graciously grant them relief, let us pray to the Lord. R/. Grant this, almighty God.

4. For ourselves and our own community, that the Lord may graciously receive us as a sacrifice acceptable to himself, let us pray to the Lord. R/. Grant this, almighty God.

   Roman Missal, Appendix V.1
PROPER FOR SAINT CLOUD

COLLECT

O God, you raised up with the office of the priesthood and the splendor of virtue Saint Cloud, who for your sake was humbled in the world. Grant that by his example we may be your worthy ministers, and that through his intercession we may always grow in grace and merit. Through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, we acknowledge, together with your holy priest Cloud, that you are the source of faith and salvation. We ask that you mercifully accept this sacrifice of praise from our hands, and grant that we may fulfill our obligations with the same devotion that he manifested. Through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, having received the divine mysteries on this feast of your priest Saint Cloud, we humbly ask of you, that with our minds raised to heaven, we may have the strength to consider all things as nothing for the sake of him, who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

CONCORDAT CUM ORIGINALI

† Peter W. Bartholome
St. Cloud, Minnesota
September 7, 1966
Translated from the Missale Romanum, 1962

The following Prefaces from the Roman Missal (RM) can be used for the feast of Saint Cloud.

1. Preface I of Saints The glory of the Saints RM#66
2. Preface II of Saints The action of the Saints RM#67
3. Preface of Holy Pastors The presence of holy pastors in the Church RM#70

SELECTED MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

1. Saint Cloud, Our Friend in the Lord
   Lyrics: Msgr. Camille Thiebaut c. 1920
   Music: Edwin Oman, 1986

2. Hymn in Honor of St. Cloud
   Text and Music: Fr. Christopher Trussell, 1997

3. By All Your Saints Still Striving (insert for stanza 2)
   Tune: ST. THEODULPH, 7 6 7 6 D
   Text: Timothy Johnston, 2016
   For Cloud, O Lord, we praise you, a priest who loved your Word.
   He set aside his riches to heal afflicted souls.
   Filled with the Holy Spirit, Cloud shared your healing word.
   May we, like him, forever sing out our hymn of praise.
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4. This is the Feast Day of the Lord’s True Witness
   Text: tr. by Peter Scagnelli, 1976
   Music: ISTE CONFESSOR 11 11 11 5