

## ***Step 1: Pray the intention of the day***

**February 7:** For those who have drifted away from the Catholic Church, that God will open their hearts to hear the invitation to come back home.

**February 8:** For our parish, that as members we may provide a welcoming home for those who would like to come back home to the Catholic Church.

**February 9:** That each of us will take the opportunity to invite someone who has drifted away from the Church to come back home to a family that has missed them greatly.

**February 10:** That the Holy Spirit will fire our hearts and help us use the gifts given to us at Confirmation to proclaim our Catholic faith in word and action.

**February 11:** That mothers and fathers whose children have drifted away from the Church may find courage and hope in the power of prayer to move the hearts of their loved ones to come back home to the Catholic faith.

**February 12:** That God will give us the strength to talk about our Catholic faith publicly, at school and in the workplace, among friends and neighbors.

**February 13:** That (a particular person you know) will be touched by the Holy Spirit to come back home to the Catholic Church.

**February 14:** That those who have left the Church will hear again the call by Christ to follow him and return home.

**February 15:** For the Catholics Come Home Initiative that God will touch the hearts of those who have left the Church to return again.

## ***Step 2: Pray for the Holy Spirit.***

### ***Veni Creator Spiritus***

O come, Creator Spirit, come  
And make within our souls thy home;  
Supply thy grace and heav'nly aid  
To fill the hearts which thou hast made.

O Gift of God, most high, thy name  
Is Comforter; whom we acclaim  
The fount of life, the fire of love,  
The soul's anointing from above.

The sev'nfold gift of grace is thine,  
Thou finger of the hand divine;  
The Father's promise true, to teach  
Our earthly tongues thy heav'nly speech.

Thy light to every sense impart;  
Pour forth thy love in every heart;  
Our weakened flesh do thou restore  
To strength and courage evermore.

Drive far away our spirit's foe,  
Thine own abiding peace bestow;  
If thou dost go before as guide,  
No evil can our steps betide.

Through thee may we the Father learn,  
And know the Son, and thee discern,  
Who art of both; and thus adore  
In perfect faith for evermore. Amen.

## ***Step 3: Pray to Madonna della Strada (Our Lady of the Streets)***

O blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Streets, Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon us, our parish, our diocese, our homes, and our families, and upon all who greatly hope and trust in your prayers. By you it was that Jesus, our Savior and hope, was given to the world; and he has given you to us that we may hope still more. Plead for us your children, whom you did receive and accept at the foot of the Cross, O sorrowful Mother. Intercede for our fallen away brothers and sisters, that may return and thus united with us in the one true fold they may be united to the Chief Shepherd, the Vicar of your Son. Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith fruitful in good works we all may be made worthy to see and praise God, together with you in our heavenly home. *Amen.*

Holy Spirit, soul of my soul I adore you; enlighten, guide, strengthen and console me; tell me what I ought to do and command me to do it. I promise to be submissive in every-thing that you ask of me and to accept all that you permit to happen to me, only show me what is your will. Amen.

Follow this by praying one:

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory be

A novena is a nine-day period of private or public prayer to obtain special graces, to implore special favors, or to make special petitions. (Novena is derived from the Latin "novem", meaning nine.) As the definition suggests, the novena has always had more of a sense of urgency and immediate need.

Thank you for your prayers. May God grant our prayers and bless us all!



Come home to the  
**Catholic Church.**  
*Regresa a tu Casa la Iglesia Católica*

CATHOLICS  
COME HOME.org  
www.CatholicsCome  
HomeROCKFORD.org

**Welcome Home!**  
*¡Bienvenido a Casa!*

If you have questions, call Catholics Come Home at the Rockford Diocese, 815/399-4300.

*O God of mercy,  
As we journey through  
this Catholics Come Home Initiative,  
Send the Holy Spirit upon this Diocese  
to renew us in faith.  
Enable us to share  
the good news of the Gospel  
with loving words and caring deeds,  
So that returning Catholics  
may be drawn to your Church,  
And follow the way of Your Son, Jesus,  
Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
We make our prayer  
through Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

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Novena to  
Madonna della Strada  
for the return of  
non-practicing Catholics