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# Christmas Novena



**St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church**

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### **Prayer for Every Day**

My hidden Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You with profound gratitude for uniting Yourself with fallen humanity. When You first entered into this world, You remained hidden for nine months in the immaculate womb of Your Blessed Mother. She carried You, body and blood, soul and divinity, within the sanctuary of her body. She also carried You within her heart as a result of her perfect love for You and her perfect obedience to the will of the Father.

Precious Lord, as I embrace this Advent Season, please open my eyes to see the great value and blessing of Your Incarnation. Help me to discover Your hidden presence in this world and within my own soul. I desire to see, understand and experience the profound effects that Your Incarnation has on my life. and I desire to receive those effects more fully this Advent. May I become a sanctuary in which You dwell so that I, like Your dear Mother, may bring Your presence into the world. **(Pray three times Glory Be)**

### **Prayer to the Blessed Virgen**

Blessed Mary, for your virtues and humility, God has chosen you to be His Mother. I ask that you prepare us at this Advent Novena of the birth of your Son. Oh sweet Mother, convey to us some of your meditation and divine tenderness, so we may be more worthy of seeing, loving and adoring Him for all eternity. **(Pray three times the Hail Mary)**

### **Prayer to St. Joseph**

Oh, Blessed Joseph, husband of Mary and foster-father of Jesus! I thank to God for choosing you and adorning you with all the gifts of such greatness. For the love you have to the Divine Child, I ask that you intercede for us, so we can love and receive our Lord Jesus Christ in our hearts. Amen. **(Pray one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory)**

### **Prayer to Child Jesus**

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Dearest Jesus, little Infant, how tenderly you love us! Though I am not worthy that you should help me, I feel drawn to you by love because you are kind and merciful. So many who turned to you with confidence have received blessings and had their petitions granted. Behold me as I come before you to lay open my heart to you with its prayers and hopes. I present to you especially this request, which I enclose in your loving Heart (**state your request**).

Rule over me, dear Infant Jesus, and do with me and mine according to your holy will, for I know that in your divine wisdom and love you will arrange everything for the best. I pray you, all-powerful and gracious Infant Jesus, for the sake of your sacred infancy, in the name of your blessed Mother Mary who cared for you with such tenderness, and by the greatest reverence with which St. Joseph carried you in his arms, help me in my needs. Amen.

### **First Day - December 16th**

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant--these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. (Is 56:6-7)

Advent prepares our minds and hearts for the coming of the Word of God. It is a gentle time, a time to watch that the word of Scripture does not fall on the rocky ground of distraction, nor by the wayside with our many cares, nor among thorns, caught up in flashy advertisements. It is to fall upon the rich soil of our minds and hearts where the Word of God can bury itself deep and bring forth fruit. The Lord is already near! Let us admit that we need his power and help. Come, Lord Jesus! Give us the gift of yourself.

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**Behold the king will come, the Lord of the earth, and he will remove from us the yoke of our captivity. (cf. Hab 2:3; 1 Cor 4:5)**

### **Second Day - December 17th**

Assemble and hear, O sons of Jacob; listen to Israel your father. Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He crouches down, he stretches out like a lion, like a lioness--who dares rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and the obedience of the peoples is his. (Gen 49:2, 8-10).

When we read Scripture and yearn for the coming of the divine, powerful Wisdom who will teach us how to live throughout our life, we think of Mary, the humble Mother of God who always waited upon the Lord as his handmaid. Father, you spoke, and your Word became man, born of the Virgin Mary. Christ humbled himself to share our human nature. We humble ourselves before the child and ask for faith and love.

**O Wisdom eternal, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, you reach from end to end and order all things mightily and sweetly; come now to direct us in the way of holy prudence. (cf. Sir 24; Wis 6-9)**

### **Third Day - December 18th**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when it shall no longer be said, "As the Lord lives who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of Egypt," but "As the Lord lives who brought out and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the

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land of the north and out of all the lands where he had driven them." Then they shall live in their own land. (Jer 23:5-8).

"God of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the burning bush. You delivered the Israelites from bondage in Egypt by parting the sea, and blessed your people with a covenant as a bridegroom marries his bride. Redeeming Lord, come to save us from the folly of our sins. Give us the blessing of a new covenant written in our hearts for all times. Rescue us with your mighty power!"

**O Lord and leader of the house of Israel, who once appeared to Moses and spoke to him from a bush aflame, and on the peak of Sinai gave him the law; come now, bring us your redemption with your mighty outstretched arm. (cf. Ex 3, 15, 24; Deut 5)**

#### **Fourth Day - December 19th**

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord." (Lk 1:5-14)

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The infant king will stand as a sign in full view of all the nations. This king will be a sign not only for the Israelites, but also for the Gentiles. All people shall come to him. Our hearts call out, "Come Lord, save your people, do not delay, for we are ready to receive you; we desire to see you face to face."

**O root of Jesse, standing an ensign of the people, before whom even kings silent will remain, whom the Gentiles, too, shall beseech, come now to deliver us all; delay no longer. (cf. Is 11)**

### **Fifth Day - December 20th**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. (Lk 1:26-38)

The original reference for the fourth "O antiphon" is Isaiah, chapter 22. "Key of David" refers to the one with authority over the royal house of David. The antiphon begs Christ to come and unlock the doors for his people who sit in religious darkness and in the shadows of death. We must wait with

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longing for our Lord. Mary's fiat--her total acceptance of God's will--brings us the glimmer of light and hope for the coming of Emmanuel, God among us. Mary carries the key of David who will free us forever. Hail, full of grace!

**O key of David, royal scepter of Israel, you who open and no one closes; who close and no one can open, come now, and free humanity from its bonds in prison, where it sits in darkness and the shadow of death. (cf. Is 22; Rev 3:7)**

### **Sixth Day - December 21st**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." (Lk 1:39- 45)

Mary and Elizabeth were deeply rooted in faith and love of God, and both responded wholeheartedly to God's plans. They are a sublime sign of hope for the whole human race. Families all over the world look to their example as they await the blessing of a new baby in their own homes. May they build a foundation of love for the child to come and correspond with joy to God's plans. Mary, the Morning Star, heralds the coming of her Son; Elizabeth is the first to understand. Her own son leaps for joy in her womb, and the two women embrace because God is in their midst.

**O radiant dawn, splendor of eternal light and bright sun of justice, come now and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. (cf. Zech 3:8; 6:12; Is 9:2; 60:1-3; Wis 7:26; Lk 1:78; Heb 1:3)**

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**Seventh Day - December 22nd**

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever. (Lk 1:46-55)

In the Magnificat, Mary draws on the Old Testament prophecies and exults in praise of God. Mary's Son is destined to fulfill God's promises to his people. Mary rejoices in the deliverance of God's people and in his care for the poor and destitute of society. Her song bears another hymn that runs like a golden thread through the readings and antiphons. The expected Messiah will be the Lord of the Gentiles as well as of the Jews. We pray in today's antiphon, "Come, king of all nations." Christ is the peacemaker, the bond of unity among all peoples.

**O king of all nations, the one for whom they have been yearning, the cornerstone who unites all of them in perfect union, come now, and rescue poor humanity, which from dust you have fashioned. (cf. Jer 10:7; Hg 2:8; Is 28:16, Gen 2:7, Eph 2:14)**

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### **Eighth Day - December 23rd**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight- -indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse. (Mal 3:1-4; 4:5-6)

Malachi prophesies the birth and mission of John the Baptist. Like a new Elijah, John will go before the Messiah and prepare the people for the Lord's coming. A spirit of joy and wonderment pervades today's prophecy, for the hand of God is active in Israel. The people wonder what it will all mean for their future. What does it mean for us today? The seventh "O antiphon" climaxes the series. The Messiah is addressed in human form. He is asked to remain with us as Emmanuel. May our hearts be ready to receive the Lord into our small, personal world, as he once came to the little town of Bethlehem. Emmanuel--God is with us! God, stay with us.

**O Emmanuel, our ruler and lawgiver, the expected of the nations and the Redeemer of all, come now to deliver us, O our Lord and our master. (cf. Is 7:14; Is 33:22; Gen 49:10; Zech 9:9; Jn 20:28)**

### **Ninth Day - December 24th**

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

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Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.  
He has raised up a mighty savior for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who  
hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,  
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him  
all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel. (Lk 1:56; 67-80)

Come, O Lord, for the whole world breathlessly waits for your birth. This one happy moment contains all ages--past, present and future--bonding eternal peace between heaven and earth through a newborn child. We bow in adoration and joy. In calm and peace we look into ourselves and present to the infant our thoughts and sentiments. Lord, today your goodness overflows and a branch springs forth from the root of Jesse. The bud of

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salvation unfolds itself from the Virgin's womb in the dead of winter. The seed entrusted to earth breaks forth in our cold, frozen hearts and warms them with the presence of God in human form.

**O Emmanuel, our ruler and lawgiver, the expected of the nations and the Redeemer of all, come now to deliver us, O our Lord and our master.<sup>1</sup>**

### **Aspirations of the coming of the Child Jesus**

#### **I**

**Sweet Jesus of mine,  
my beloved child,  
Come to our souls!  
Come do not delay!**

Oh Wisdom, from the sovereign God,  
that a childish reach You have lowered!  
O Divine Child, come to teach us prudence (the way of peace),  
that makes truly wise men!  
**Come to our souls! Come do not delay!**

#### **II**

Oh, Joseph sacred root that from the highest  
submits to orb your fragrant tuberose!  
Sweetest Child that has been called  
Lily of the Valley, Beautiful flower of the field.  
**Come to our souls! Come do not delay!**

#### **III**

Oh Dawn, splendor of eternal light  
that in the darkness your shine we will see!

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<sup>1</sup> "Novena Before Christmas" <https://udayton.edu/imri/mary/n/novena-before-christmas.php>

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Child so precious, bliss of the Christian,  
flaunt your smile from your sweet lips.  
**Come to our souls! Come do not delay!**

#### **IV**

Oh King of the nations, Emmanuel illustrious,  
From Israel yearning, you are Shepherd of the flock!  
Child who grace with soft arch  
the surly sheep and the meek lamb!  
**Come to our souls! Come do not delay!**

#### **V**

Open up the heavens and rain from above  
beneficent dew as a holly irrigation!  
Beautiful Child come, come incarnate God!  
Flaunt God star! Spring up, flower of the field!  
**Come to our souls! Come do not delay!**

#### **VI**

Come, that Mary prevents her arms,  
for her child to see, in near!  
Come, that Joseph, with longing sacrum,  
has disposed him to take your holly love!  
**Come to our souls! Come do not delay!**

#### **VII**

From weaken relief and suffered under,  
You are comfort for the sad and light the exiled!  
Life of my life, my beloved owner,  
my unfailing friend, my divine brother!  
**Come to our souls! Come do not delay!**

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**VIII**

Come in my eyes, they inspire love!  
And kiss your feet! Kiss your hands!  
I am prostrated on the ground, my arms are stretched,  
and even more to my sentences, says my tears!  
Come to our souls! Come do not delay!

**IX**

Come on our Savior for whom we sighs  
Come to our souls! Come do not delay

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## Christmas Carols



### Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is  
come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart Prepare Him  
room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and heav'n and nature  
sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior  
reigns;  
Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, Rocks,  
hills and plains Repeat the  
sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows  
grow, Nor thorns infest the  
ground. He comes to make  
his blessings flow, Far as the  
curse is found, Far as the  
course is found,  
Far as, far as, far as the course  
is found.

He rules the world with truth and  
grace, And makes the nations  
prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders of His love

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[Away in a Manger](#)

Away in a manger,  
no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus  
laid down His sweet head;  
The stars in the sky  
looked down where He lay,  
the little Lord Jesus,  
asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing,  
the Baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus,  
no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus!  
Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my cradle  
till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus,  
I ask Thee to stay  
close by me forever,  
and love me, I pray;  
Bless all the dear children  
in Thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven,  
to live with Thee there.

---

["The Little Drummer Boy"](#)

Come they told me,

pa rum pum pum pum.  
A new born King to see,  
pa rum pum pum pum.  
Our finest gifts we bring,  
pa rum pum pum pum.  
To lay before the King,  
pa rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum.  
So to honor Him,  
pa rum pum pum pum,  
When we come.

Little Baby,  
pa rum pum pum pum.  
I am a poor boy too,  
pa rum pum pum pum.  
I have no gift to bring,  
pa rum pum pum pum  
That's fit to give the King,  
pa rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum,  
Shall I play for you,  
pa rum pum pum pum,  
On my drum?

Mary nodded,  
pa rum pum pum pum  
The ox and lamb kept time,  
pa rum pum pum pum.  
I played my drum for Him,

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pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my best for Him,  
pa rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum,  
Then He smiled at me,  
pa rum pum pum pum,  
Me and my drum.

---

### **O Come, Little Children**

O come, little children;  
come one and come all,  
O come to the manger  
in Bethlehem's stall,  
And see what our Father  
in heaven above,  
Has sent to us all  
on this earth with his love.

O see in the manger  
so meek and so mild,  
O see in the soft light  
the heavenly Child,  
In swaddling clothes folded,  
his beauty more sweet  
Than angels, whose voices  
his lowly birth greet.

His bed, little children,  
a manger with hay;  
His mother and Joseph

in ecstasy pray,  
The Shepherds in wonder  
their glad worship bring,  
While chorus of angels  
sweet Glories sing.

---

### **Go Tell It on the Mountain**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.**

While shepherds kept their  
watching  
Over silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens,  
There shone a holy light:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.**

The shepherds feared and  
trembled,  
When high above the earth,  
Rang out the angels chorus  
That hailed the Savior's birth.

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere**

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**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.**

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

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**[Angels We Have Heard on  
High](#)**

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing back their joyous strains.

**Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Gloria in excelsis Deo**

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say What may the tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song.

**Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Gloria in excelsis Deo**

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn  
King.

**Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Gloria in excelsis Deo**

See Him in a manger laid  
Whom the angels praise above;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While we raise our hearts in love.

**Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Gloria in excelsis Deo**

---

**[O Little Town of Bethlehem](#)**

O little town of Bethlehem!  
How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless  
sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the  
years  
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels  
keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love,  
O morning stars, together!  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the king,

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And peace to men on earth!  
How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive  
Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in;  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

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### Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and  
Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven  
afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy  
face  
With dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

---

### Feliz Navidad

Feliz Navidad,  
Feliz Navidad,  
Feliz Navidad,  
próspero año y felicidad.  
(Bis)

I wanna wish you a Merry  
Christmas,  
I wanna wish you a Merry  
Christmas,  
I wanna wish you a Merry  
Christmas,  
From the bottom of my heart.