

Prayer day 6. God, many believers have preceded us as visitors of the Church of St. Lawrence. They have prayed in trust here: their needs and concerns have been presented to You and they have shown to You their gratitude. They have attended Eucharistic celebrations here and received other Sacraments.

They were here in great faith.

Let my faith, my trust in You become so strong, inspired by the many who preceded me, that it urges others to connect their lives with You.

(short silence)

We pray to You in gratitude for the believers who preceded us, especially for all Saints, of whom we keep the memory alive, also in the Church of St. Lawrence, in words and images, that they may strengthen our faith, and that we may convert that faith into actions which are beneficial and inspiring to the world.

Prayer day 7. God, in your Church people gather together who differ greatly from one another, in the history of their lives, in their views, and in spirituality. We thank You for that colourful diversity, with which we complement each other in the community of your Church. Sometimes we also experience the tensions, in our own parish, as a result of these differences.

Let me accept the differences with mildness. Help me not to see my own ideas as the only prevalent ones, but to look at them critically and to be open and receptive to the vision of others.

(short silence)

We pray to You, that our community be one of respect and faith, a community of people who have the genuine goodwill to listen to each other. Grant the believers who congregate in the Church of St. Lawrence before You, that they be there in harmony, that they be one, in love for You and for one another, encouraged by the prayer of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Prayer day 8. God, You are guarding your people by those whom You have called for that task, especially by those who follow their calling as a Priest, or as a Deacon. Many others too, whom You have bestowed with the charisma to work in the Church, as a pastoral worker, a prayer leader, a member of the church board, a volunteer.

Help me to listen to your voice in my heart, and to follow my calling to shape my life as a disciple of Christ, both in the Church and in the world.

(short silence)

We pray to You and continue to call on people to place their lives at the service of your Church, help us to help each other discover Your calling in ourselves. Give lasting inspiration to those who lead our community.

Prayer day 9. God, your Church is a community of generations. A community with elderly people, single people, widows and widowers, families, broken families, young people, children who together form the Church.

Let me be open and welcoming to all the diverse people in our community. *(short silence)*

We pray to you, that the Church of St. Lawrence be a place where the young and the old stay in touch and enrich each other, where youngsters can feel at home. May the Church of St. Lawrence continue to be supported by new generations and remain a spirited house of prayer in the century to come.



Novena Prayer

150 JAAR
H. LAURENTIUSKERK
1868 - 2018

Novena prayer for the parish community and for the Church of St. Lawrence in Voorschoten, at the memorial of the consecration of the Church (August 17, 1868) and its celebration on September 2, 2018.

English version, translated from the Dutch original.
The corresponding Novena candles may be purchased in the Church.



English

Dear God,
At the intercession of the Holy Deacon Lawrence,
to whom the Church of St. Lawrence was dedicated,
one hundred and fifty years ago,
we ask for your infinite blessing
for this building, your house,
and for the community of the faithful,
who congregate together in this house.
We pray that this church, built in your honour,
be preserved
as a place to meet You
in the Word and Sacrament.

** The prayer of the day (see next pages). Followed by:*

Holy Mother of God, pray for us
Saint Lawrence, pray for us
Saint Augustine, pray for us
Saint Willibrord, pray for us

Our Father, Who art in heaven ...

Hail Mary, full of grace ...

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be
forever. - Amen.

A Novena is a period of 9 days, in which one prays for a certain intention, or as preparation for a feast. With this Novena prayer we invite members of the parish and other interested people to pray in the period prior to the celebration of the consecration of the Church of St. Lawrence, 150 years ago.

Suggestion for the period:

- The 9 days from the eve of the Feast of St. Lawrence (August 10) until the consecration day, i.e. from August 9 to August 17.

- And / or: the period between the consecration date (August 17) and its festive celebration on September 2, for example from August 24 to September 1 (with the feast of St. Augustine, patron Saint of our parish, in the exact middle of this period, on August 28).

Prayers for each day

Prayer day 1. God, with his fervent love, St. Lawrence served you faithfully, with special care for the poor. And he was glorified in martyrdom.

Let the love in me grow and get stronger.
(short silence)

We pray to You, grant that the faithful congregating in the Church of St. Lawrence will always find inspiration and encouragement to be merciful and loving to other people, especially to the poor, the refugees and all those who are in need.

Prayer day 2. God, in your Church every time the faithful gather, your Words are spoken, stories are passed on through the ages, in which we discover your loving hand, from which we derive hope and comfort, for our times and in our lives.

Let me come back to your Word again and again
and look for the truth it contains. *(short silence)*

We pray to You, grant that your Word, as it echoes in the Church of St. Lawrence, will always fall on fertile soil. That the faithful not only listen to your Word, but accept it and make it their own and practice it in their daily lives.

Prayer day 3. God, our life is in your hands. You hold and keep us, now and always. When we depart this world we are wrapped with that blanket of faith and hope. With that same faith and hope we have bid farewell to countless loved ones in the Church of St. Lawrence.

Give me the trust that You will not leave me and
that with your mercy I may live forever in your
love. *(short silence)*

We pray to You, that the Church may offer comfort to those who lost loved ones, that the Church may be a place of encouragement and new beginnings. Help us to be attentive and compassionate to those who are grieving.

Prayer day 4. God, your Church is a divided Church. Your faithful have gone different ways, Orthodox, Catholics, Protestants, also in Voorschoten. We have torn and broken the Body of Christ, who is essentially one.

Let me contribute to the unity of Christians in
my own way, through prayers, encounter and
by learning from others and about others.
(short silence)

We pray to You, grant that the Church of St. Lawrence be a place where we pray for the unity of the Christians, that this Church be a place where non-Catholic Christians are warmly welcomed, and where - together with the faithful from different churches - we will sing songs of praise for You.

Prayer day 5. God, Bishop Augustine spoke about the Eucharist as 'Sacrament of goodness, sign of unity and bond of love'. In the Church, in celebrating the mystery of the Eucharist, we may experience how the Lord wants to be among us. We celebrate time and again how the sacrifice of his life, his death and Resurrection, is the way to life for us. Strengthened by the Holy Communion, with your grace, we continue our pilgrimage.

Let me search again and again for your
nearness in Word and Sacrament. That I may
be fed, together with the whole community,
and that I may gain strength on my path
through life. *(short silence)*

We pray to You, let the Church of St. Lawrence remain a place where your believers deeply experience the miracle of your connection with people and where they can grow in true faith. May all who come to this Church be filled with your mercy and thus be guided on their way to your Heavenly Kingdom.



Parochiekern H. Laurentius en
de Moeder Gods Voorschoten