



LIGHT ALWAYS RETURNS

NOVENA DAYS

SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA



In this novena, we draw inspiration from the life of Saint Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of the oppressed. In a world where slavery still takes the form of human trafficking, war, injustice and violence, may her witness continue to speak to our hearts and remain a living example, encouraging us to seek true joy in Christ, through faith and in communion with others.



DAY 1 – PRAYING FOR CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Heavenly Father, you gave us the great example of St. Josephine Bakhita and blessed her with an open heart full of charity. Help me to be forgiving to others as she was.

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were a slave and you didn't have any rights. Intercede for victims of human trafficking and those suffering silently in any kind of slavery. May their captors free them and may this evil be erased from the face of the Earth.

Help us to be thankful for our freedom and to know that we are only truly free through our faith in the Lord. St. Josephine Bakhita, please pray for us and ask God to grant these our intentions. (State your intentions here).



DAY 2 – PRAYING FOR VICTIMS OF KIDNAPPING

Heavenly Father, you gave us the great example of St. Josephine Bakhita and blessed her with an open heart full of charity. Help me to be forgiving to others as she was.

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were kidnapped from your family at 7 years old. Pray for children who have been kidnapped and for their families who suffer greatly from worry and sorrow. May they be reunited and comforted by the Lord.

Help us to be thankful for our freedom and to know that we are only truly free through our faith in the Lord. St. Josephine Bakhita, please pray for us and ask God to grant these our intentions. (State your intentions here).



DAY 3 – PRAYING AGAINST VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN

Heavenly Father, you gave us the great example of St. Josephine Bakhita and blessed her with an open heart full of charity. Help me to be forgiving to others as she was.

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were traded and sold many times in your life. One of your owners tortured you by tattooing you all over your body by cutting your skin over one hundred times. They poured salt into your wounds to make the pattern of the scars stand out more. You were immobile from the pain and you almost bled to death. Pray for victims of torture. Help them to be resilient and heal their bodies and souls. May people stop this brutal practice.

Help us to be thankful for our freedom and to know that we are only truly free through our faith in the Lord. St. Josephine Bakhita, please pray for us and ask God to grant these our intentions. (State your intentions here).



PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, you gave us the great example of St. Josephine Bakhita and blessed her with an open heart full of charity. Help me to put God's will above all things as she did.

St. Josephine Bakhita, when the family that introduced you to Christianity and decided to move away from the Canossian sisters, you had the courage to refuse and fight for your freedom. Although you were grateful to the family, you knew that God's will was for you to join the sisters.

Help us to be thankful for our freedom and to know that we are only truly free through our faith in the Lord. St. Josephine Bakhita, please pray for us and ask God to grant these our intentions. (State your intentions here).




DAY 5 – PRAYING FOR BEAUTY IN OUR LIVES

Heavenly Father, you gave us the great example of St. Josephine Bakhita and blessed her with an open heart full of charity. Help me to have your love of beauty.

St. Josephine Bakhita, in spite of the great trials and suffering you endured throughout your lifetime you always saw beauty in all things. You even saw that there was goodness in your enslavement as you once said, “If I were to meet the slave-traders who kidnapped me and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if that did not happen, I would not be a Christian and Religious today.”

*Help us to see the beauty in our lives, even in times of trial, and to know that we are only truly free through our faith in the Lord. St. Josephine Bakhita, please pray for us and ask God to grant these our intentions. **(State your intentions here).***



JESUS

DAY 6 – PRAYING FOR FAITH

Heavenly Father, you gave us the great example of St. Josephine Bakhita and blessed her with an open heart full of charity. Help me to be grateful for our Christian faith to others as she was.

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were always thankful to God and thankful for your Christian faith. You were so thankful that you were known to kiss the baptismal font in thanksgiving for your baptism and new life in Christ.

*Help us to see the beauty in our lives, even in times of trial, and to know that we are only truly free through our faith in the Lord. St. Josephine Bakhita, please pray for us and ask God to grant these our intentions. **(State your intentions here).***



DAY 7 - PRAYING FOR THE VIRGIN MARY

Pgreat example of St. Josephine Bakhita and blessed her with an open heart full of charity. Help me to know the comfort of the Blessed Virgin Mary as she did.

St. Josephine Bakhita, you focused on Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary at the time of your death. Your last words were, "Our Lady, Our Lady" as you departed for heaven.

*Help us to know the comfort of Our Lady at all times and to know that we are only truly free through our faith in the Lord. St. Josephine Bakhita, please pray for us and ask God to grant these our intentions. **(State your intentions here)***



DAY 8 – PRAYING FOR THE GIFT OF JOY

Heavenly Father, you gave us the great example of St. Josephine Bakhita and blessed her with an open heart full of charity. Help me to be joyful to others as she was.

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were known to always be smiling and sweet to anyone who came to you for help.

Help us to know the comfort of Our Lady at all times and to know that we are only truly free through our faith in the Lord. St. Josephine Bakhita, please pray for us and ask God to grant these our intentions. (State your intentions here)



DAY 9 – FOR EVERY CHAIN THAT BINDS US

Heavenly Father, you gave us the great example of St. Josephine Bakhita and blessed her with an open heart full of charity. Help me to know that God has never abandoned me as she knew so well.

St. Josephine Bakhita, as you were dying and, in much pain, you relived the pain of your slavery, asking the nurses to loosen your chains. Pray for everyone who is chained down by pain and sin.

Help us to know that God has never abandoned us and to know that we are only truly free through our faith in the Lord.

*St. Josephine Bakhita, please pray for us and ask God to grant these our intentions. **(State your intentions here)***