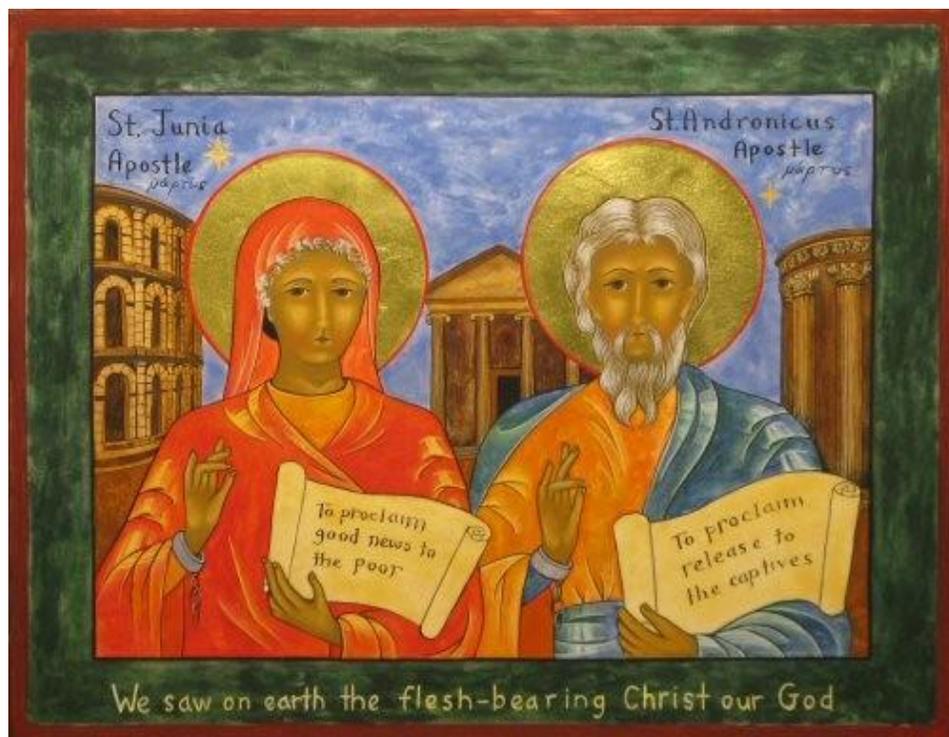


*A Novena to Saints Junia and Andronicus,
Biblical Apostles*¹
Feast Day May 17th



The scroll St. Junia holds says *"To proclaim Good News to the poor,"* and the scroll St. Andronicus holds says, *"To proclaim release to the captives."* Following a 9th Century Eastern Orthodox hymn, the lower border reads: *We saw on earth the flesh-bearing Christ our God.*

An explanation of novenas

¹ This novena is © 2011 by Rev. Kathryn A. Piccard+. Used by permission. The icon is © 2008 by the Order of St. Helena and used by permission.

We in the ECC are grateful to Rev. Kathryn+, an Episcopal priest, for providing us with this Novena with its meditations and prayers to share with our people. Additional copies may be obtained at St. Junia's House, an ECC Ministry, from Rev. Martha Rogers+ who assisted in its compilation. Check out our blog, 'Meanderings,' and Facebook page, both linked to our website at www.stjuniashouse.com and you may email to Rogersmartha@sbcglobal.net. A suggested donation of .50 for each copy may be made to St. Junia's House for printing costs. Rev. Kathryn+ asks for any feed-back that you may have when you use this Novena, so that it may be improved in future editions: "kpiccard@comcast.net" She says not to worry about hurting her feelings!

Novena means nine-fold and a novena is a form of Christian prayer which can be done by an individual or by a group, in a Church, at home, or in other places. It is observed on nine successive days, or on nine successive Fridays or another day of the week. Occasionally it is observed on nine successive months, perhaps on the first day of each month, or the first Friday of the month. You can make it your own with other variations, such as morning and evening for nine days, or compressing a novena into nine hours when the matter seems urgent. Many people observe a novena as a private devotion at home, or in Church before or after Mass, or just stopping by and praying before Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament (reserved) in a Church or chapel. Some Churches schedule regular public novenas- and then people observe them together as a group. No priest is needed, and they can be led by lay people, although a priest who is present might give a blessing at the end.

According to Acts, before ascending, Jesus had told the disciples to stay in Jerusalem until the fulfillment of the promise of the Father, and they did so and prayed. Novenas take as their precedent those nine days of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost shared by the earliest disciples, which included Blessed Mary the Theotokos and the Twelve Apostles and others, such as St. Mary Magdalene. Because Apostles participated in those nine days of prayer, it seems especially fitting to have a novena honoring the Apostles Junia & Andronicus. They may well have been among those participating at that first novena

Novenas can be addressed to the Holy Trinity, or to any one *Persona* of the Trinity, or to the *Theotokos*, or to one or more saints or angels and while honoring the one addressed, they are also done to make a specific prayer request. This could be for oneself or for another, or it might be for the kind of discernment which the earliest disciples prayed for. Hundreds of different novenas have been written.² A novena can be used over the nine days before a feast to prepare for a feast day, or at any time you wish.

² Over two hundred novenas are in use in the Roman Catholic Church, but only thirty-two novenas have been indulgenced by Roman Catholic authorities. A website maintained by Catholic Doors Ministry offers 185 Novenas, accessed January 19, 2010: <http://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/novena.htm> Other novenas for justice and peace, for faithful citizenship, for times of earthquake, to a number of additional saints, etc. can be found online or in prayer books or leaflets. By custom a few novenas have superstitions attached to them about publicizing a notice about the novena after receiving the "favor" requested in prayer. In such cases the novena prayers are usually fine, although such superstitions are bad theology, promote magical thinking and are unacceptable. God decides whether, when or how to grant prayers from us or the saints. Saints do not have the power to harm us. It is a superstition to think that failing to publicize the good results of a novena will lead to anger from God or the saints, or to any harm. No publicity is needed anyway.

When a group of people pray a novena together they are more likely to sing hymns, but hymns are optional. Novenas are not magical, and it is OK to use the parts you like best. Feel free to adapt this to fit your own needs.

I. Introductory Meditation

✠ *In the Name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity. Amen.*

Read one of the following three paragraphs each day:

1. Saints Junia and Andronicus were relatives of St. Paul, and had been prison companions with him. Doubtless they were imprisoned because some people took offense at their proclamation of the Gospel, the Good News, or at another aspect of their ministries. St. Paul mentions them in his epistle to the Romans, and says they were Christians before he was. Elsewhere Paul says that all the Apostles had seen the Risen Christ, so we know they saw the Risen Christ. We do not know if they were married to each other, but we do know that they had each served as faithful and outstanding Apostles for over two decades. They or their parents may have been freed slaves, they were probably poor, and they mostly evangelized other poor people, because most people were poor. After their imprisonment they may have been even more interested in visiting and helping prisoners and others whose basic needs were unmet. We also know that they traveled as they ministered and evangelized. At the very least, they traveled from Palestine to wherever they met St. Paul and were imprisoned together, and later they traveled on to Rome.
2. Celebrating the Holy Eucharist seems to have been part of the work of Apostles, and later legends add that Saints Andronicus and Junia evangelized, worked miracles, and baptized "many nations." We also know that the earliest Christians "sang psalms and hymns and spiritual songs," and prayed several times a day, in thanksgiving for their blessings, and in intercession for others. They lived their lives this way because they knew Jesus and his love, and they wanted to share it. By the grace of God, all these things can, to some extent depending on our circumstances, be part of our own faith lives and our ministries, too.
3. When the relics of Saints Junia and Andronicus were discovered about 1,400 years ago in Constantinople, the local Christians began to ask the saints to pray for them, and miracles were reported. Then as soon as these saints were canonized a number of miracles of spiritual and physical healing were attributed to their intercession. Every year since then on their feast day,

May 17th, Christians have asked their prayers, and on many other days as well. Today we can ask them to join their intercessions with ours. These two saints loved Jesus, they loved the people they tried to evangelize, and they wanted God's will to be known and done. May we ask no less than for God's will to be known and done in relation to our concerns.

[A period of silence may follow.]

II. Bible Readings and Prayers for the Day

Each day read **A or B or C** as you prefer, and then read the passage and prayer numbered for the day, below:

A. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives and prison companions;
they are notable Apostles, and they were in Christ before me.

Romans 16:7

Or B. The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me **to bring good news** to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

Isaiah 61:1 (see the icon above)

Or C. The blind receive their sight, the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised,
and **the poor have good news brought to them.**

And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.

Matthew 11:5

Day 1:

Therefore, brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling, consider that **Jesus, the Apostle** and high priest of our confession, was faithful to the one who appointed him. Hebrews 3:1-2

Almighty God, whose Son the Risen Christ sent forth your Apostles Andronicus and Junia to proclaim the Gospel and extend your reign; send us forth in your Holy Spirit that like them, we, who are praying this novena, both men and women, may co-operate as faithful witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect unity, one God, now and forever. Amen.³

Day 2:

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of **the Apostles** and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.
Ephesians 2:19-20

When we remember that Jesus was a resident alien in Africa when he was little, help us also remember that none of us are alien to you, O God, and that in your household none are strangers. Help us welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit those in prison, and to share ourselves with those who are in their inner prisons of fear, loneliness, and alienation. In Christ's Name we pray.⁴ Amen.

Day 3:

The gifts Christ gave were that **some would be Apostles**, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13

³ Adapted from a collect used in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

⁴ © 2011 K. A. Piccard.

*O God, whose only son proclaimed Good News to the poor, and sent us to do the same, guide us in wisdom especially to serve the poor, that they may hear Christ's Good News, and grow to love and follow him in whose Name we pray. Amen.*⁵

Day 4:

You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance;
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
The Lord gave the word;
great was the company of women who bore the tidings. Psalm 68:9-11

*We give you thanks, O ever-living God for our knowledge of your servants Junia and Andronicus, called by Christ to be Apostles and empowered by your Spirit. Grant us also the grace to follow Christ faithfully and witness to your truth, through the same Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit who lives and reigns with you, One God, now and for ever. Amen.*⁶

Day 5:

O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me
from my bonds.
I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the Name of the LORD...
I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon the Name of the LORD. Psalm 116:14-15, 11

*O Risen Christ, who appeared to each of your Apostles and commissioned them to proclaim your resurrection and preach your Gospel, grant us grace to recognize you in your Word and Sacrament, to serve you in those in prison and in others in need, that your Gospel may be preached and your body served, for your love's sake. Amen.*⁷

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⁶ © 1989 K. A. Piccard

⁷ © 2009 K. A. Piccard

Day 6:

God has appointed in the Church first Apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all Apostles?... But strive for the greater gifts, and I will show you a still more excellent way. † 1 Corinthians 12:28, 29a, 31

*Thanks be to Jesus Christ for calling both women and men to be Apostles, and to the Holy Spirit for empowering them, and for preserving proof in the Holy Bible! Glory to you, O God, for your saints Andronicus and Junia, who ministered your love! Amen.*⁸

Day 7:

God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom

Psalm 68:6a

*O Jesus, like others you were abused in prison and you received the death penalty, despite being innocent. These saints of yours were also innocent prisoners. And you saw the prisoners beside you, guilty of crimes, also executed. Help us remember that all prisoners, the innocent and the guilty, have legitimate needs and rights, as do their guards, and that in serving them we are serving you. Give us your wisdom and love to share, by words and deeds. Strengthen us to know and do your will, to the glory of your name. Amen.*⁹

Day 8:

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Hebrews 13:2-3

*O Saints Junia and Andronicus and all holy angels and saints in heaven, pray for us and with us unto the Father, that for his dear son Jesus Christ's sake we may have from God grace and remission of our sins. Amen.*¹⁰

⁸ © 2010 K. A. Piccard

⁹ © 2011 K. A. Piccard.

¹⁰ Michael Perham, *The Communion of Saints: An examination of the place of the Christian dead in the belief, worship, and calendars of the church*. London: Alcuin Club/SPCKX, 1980, p. 54, from 1536, adapted.

Day 9:

As shoes for your feet, put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the Gospel of peace. Ephesians 6:15

Almighty God, whose Son the Risen Christ sent forth your Apostles Andronicus and Junia to proclaim the Gospel and extend your reign; send us forth in your Holy Spirit that like them we, both men and women, may cooperate as faithful witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect unity, one God, now and forever. Amen.

III. Prayers

Each day choose one of these three prayers to focus your intercessions or petitions.

A. O God, you know our needs before we ask, yet it helps us to ask for our particular concerns. Help us to ask only what is in accord with your righteousness. I am making this novena not only to honor your Saints Junia and Andronicus, and to be supported by their prayers, but also to bring my particular concern directly before you, and it is this: ____.
Grant it by the intercessions of Saints Junia and Andronicus, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever. Amen.

OR B. O Holy God, by the prayers of Saints Junia and Andronicus, and your love for your creatures, may you grant my petition for ____, if it is your will; if it is not your will, help me to know your will; through the power of your Holy Spirit, and in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

OR C. Pray to God for ____, O St. Junia and St. Andronicus, you outstanding Apostles well-pleasing to God, for I eagerly approach you, that you may promptly intercede for this, if it is God's will. Amen.¹¹

¹¹ Adapted from an Orthodox prayer to one's Name saint.

Then use one of the following prayers, if you would like to:

A prayer for strength to maintain hope.

Because I am asking you in this novena for certain things which have not yet been granted, O God of hope, I do not want to get discouraged and lose hope. I know that with you all things are possible. Yet sometimes all the hope I can seem to muster is the hope to have hope. But even when I do not feel hopeful, I know in my thoughts that you can work even with such small seeds of hope, and can nourish them like the mustard seed¹² to grow into large, strong trees of hope. I read St. Paul's words in the Bible that faith, hope, and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love.¹³ So I am asking you not just for hope, but for faith and love as well, that I may know your love, and share it with others, according to your will. I ask in Christ's Name. Amen.

A thanksgiving prayer for use when one recognizes that progress has begun toward the favor requested.

Glory and thanks be to you, O God, and to Saints Junia and Andronicus, Apostles, for their intercessions, for the progress which has begun toward the goal which I/*we* requested, and which I asked Saints Junia and Andronicus to pray for as well. If it is your will, may it continue and be sustained. If it is not your will, may your will come to pass in this matter. If you wish me or others to take action, or to refrain from action, help us to recognize your will. Glory to you for granting a foundation for my hopes! I ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who lived for us, died, rose and sent the Holy Spirit, to strengthen and guide us, and give us hope for eternal life. Amen, Alleluia!

Today's portion of the novena may conclude here, or either or both of the next two optional sections may be added.

¹² See Matthew 17:20, and/or Mark 4:31 and/or Luke 17:6.

¹³ 1 Corinthians 13:13.

IV. Hymn suggestions:

"For all your saints still striving" is the best hymn available about these two saints, because it names both saints. In the Episcopal *Hymnal 1982* hymns 231 and 232 have different tunes, but the same text. For the second stanza; please use the one printed below. It can be followed by the All Saints' Day stanza at 232 (which mentions Apostles).

A. If one does not have access to the Episcopal Hymnal, the verse can be used as a recitation or meditation:

**2. Companions in God's service,
this woman and this man,
Andronicus and Junia,
set out to tell God's plan.
Imprisoned for their witness,
they shared a cell with Paul.
He called them both "Apostles,"
sent forth to live God's call.¹⁴**

B. Other suitable hymn texts such as these may be used:

"O when the saints come marching in!"

"Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing"

V. Dismissal/Conclusion

*May God give us the grace to follow the saints in faith and hope and love.
(And) the blessing ☩ of the Holy and Undivided Trinity be upon us and remain
with us this day and forevermore. Amen.*

¹⁴ This stanza © 2008 by Dr. Carol Doran, Episcopal Diocese of MA. It may be reproduced entire when it is used with this © notice. Contact Dr. Doran for other uses.