

**Novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception**  
November 29 - December 7  
Solemnity: December 8



**A S H**

*Pray the black...*

*Do the red.*

ANGELS OF THE SACRED HEART

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## NOVENA ORDO

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### PRAYER TO TAKE AUTHORITY

IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, I TAKE AUTHORITY AND I BIND ALL THE POWERS AND FORCES IN THE AIR, IN THE GROUND, IN THE WATER, IN THE UNDERGROUND, IN THE NETHERWORLD, IN NATURE AND IN FIRE. YOU ARE LORD OVER THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE AND I GIVE YOU GLORY AND PRAISE FOR YOUR CREATION. IN YOUR NAME, JESUS CHRIST, I BIND ALL DEMONIC FORCES THAT HAVE COME AGAINST US AND OUR FAMILIES, AND I SEAL ALL OF US IN THE PROTECTION OF YOUR PRECIOUS BLOOD THAT WAS SHED FOR US ON THE CROSS.

MARY, OUR MOTHER, WE SEEK YOUR PROTECTION AND INTERCESSION, WITH THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS, FOR US AND FOR OUR FAMILIES. SURROUND US WITH YOUR MANTLE OF LOVE TO DISCOURAGE THE ENEMY. ST. MICHAEL AND OUR GUARDIAN ANGELS COME; DEFEND US AND OUR FAMILIES IN THE BATTLE AGAINST ALL THE EVIL ONES THAT ROAM THE EARTH. IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST AND THROUGH HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD, I BIND AND COMMAND ALL THE POWERS AND FORCES OF EVIL TO DEPART RIGHT NOW AWAY FROM US, OUR HOMES, AND OUR LANDS. WE THANK YOU, LORD JESUS; FOR YOU ARE A FAITHFUL AND COMPASSIONATE GOD. AMEN.

(one Hail Mary)

### THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL

O God, come to my assistance. *O Lord, make haste to help me.* Glory be...  
[Say one Our Father and three Hail Marys after each of the following nine salutations in honor of the nine Choirs of Angels]

*Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.*

Jesus, hear us!

Jesus, Graciously hear us.

### LET US PRAY:

*Lord Jesus Christ, You have said, "Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you"; mercifully attend to our supplications, and grant us the grace of Your most divine love, that we love You with all our hearts, and in all our words and actions, and never cease to praise You. Make us, O Lord, to have a perpetual fear and love of Your holy name, for You never fail to govern those whom You establish in Your love. You, Who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.*



## LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

*Lord, have mercy.*

*Christ, have mercy.*

*Lord, have mercy.*

*Christ, hear us.*

*Lord, have mercy.*

*Christ, have mercy.*

*Lord, have mercy.*

*Christ Graciously hear us.*

*Response: Have Mercy on us!*

God the Father of Heaven,  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
Holy Trinity, One God,  
Jesus, Son of the living God,  
Jesus, Splendor of the Father,  
Jesus, Brightness of eternal Light,  
Jesus, King of Glory,  
Jesus, Sun of Justice,  
Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary,  
Jesus, most amiable,  
Jesus, most admirable,  
Jesus, the mighty God,  
Jesus, Father of the world to come,  
Jesus, angel of great counsel,  
Jesus, most powerful,  
Jesus, most patient,  
Jesus, most obedient,  
Jesus, meek and humble of heart

Jesus, Lover of Chastity,  
Jesus, our Lover,  
Jesus, God of Peace,  
Jesus, Author of Life,  
Jesus, Model of Virtues,  
Jesus, zealous for souls,  
Jesus, our God,  
Jesus, our Refuge,  
Jesus, Father of the Poor,  
Jesus, Treasure of the Faithful,  
Jesus, good Shepherd,  
Jesus, true Light,  
Jesus, eternal Wisdom,  
Jesus, infinite Goodness,  
Jesus, our Way and our Life,  
Jesus, joy of the Angels,  
Jesus, Light of Confessors,  
Jesus, Purity of Virgins,  
Jesus, Crown of all Saints,

*Response: Jesus, Save your People!*

Lord, be merciful,  
From all evil,  
From all sin,  
From Your wrath,  
From the snares of the devil,  
From the spirit of fornication,  
From everlasting death,  
From the neglect of Your inspirations,  
Through the mystery of Your Holy  
Incarnation,  
Through Your Nativity,  
Through Your Infancy,

Through Your most divine Life,  
Through Your Labors,  
Through Your Agony and Passion,  
Through Your cross and Dereliction,  
Through your Sufferings,  
Through Your Death and Burial,  
Through Your Resurrection,  
Through Your Ascension,  
Through Your Institution of the Most  
Holy Eucharist,  
Through Your Joys,  
Through Your Glory,

1. By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Seraphim may the Lord make us worthy to burn with the fire of perfect charity. Amen.

2. By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Cherubim may the Lord grant us the grace to leave the ways of sin and run in the paths of Christian perfection. Amen.

3. By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Thrones may the Lord infuse into our hearts a true and sincere spirit of humility. Amen.

4. By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Dominations may the Lord give us grace to govern our senses and overcome any unruly passions. Amen.

5. By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Virtues may the Lord preserve us from evil and falling into temptation. Amen.

6. By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Powers may the Lord protect our souls against the snares and temptations of the devil. Amen.

7. By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Principalities may God fill our souls with a true spirit of obedience. Amen.

8. By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Archangels may the Lord give us perseverance in faith and in all good works in order that we may attain the glory of Heaven. Amen.

9. By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Angels may the Lord grant us to be protected by them in this mortal life and conducted in the life to come to Heaven. Amen.

Say one Our Father in honor of each of the following leading Angels: St. Michael, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael and our Guardian Angel.

### **Concluding prayers:**

O glorious prince St. Michael, chief and commander of the heavenly hosts, guardian of souls, vanquisher of rebel spirits, servant in the house of the Divine King and our admirable conductor, you who shine with excellence and superhuman virtue deliver us from all evil, who turn to you with confidence and enable us by your gracious protection to serve God more and more faithfully every day.

Pray for us, O glorious St. Michael, Prince of the Church of Jesus Christ, that we may be made worthy of His promises.

Almighty and Everlasting God, Who, by a prodigy of goodness and a merciful desire for the salvation of all men, has appointed the most glorious Archangel St. Michael Prince of Your Church, make us worthy, we ask You, to be delivered from all our enemies, that none of them may harass us at the hour of death, but that we may be conducted by him into Your Presence. This we ask through the merits of Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**



## OPENING PRAYER

### LEADER:

Father, You prepared the Virgin Mary to be the worthy mother of Your Son. You let her share beforehand in the salvation Christ would bring by His death, and kept her sinless from the first moment of her conception. You allowed no stain of Adam's sin to touch the Virgin Mary. Full of grace, she was to be a worthy mother of Your Son, Your sign of favor to the Church at its beginning, and the promise of its perfection as the bride of Christ, radiant in beauty. Purest of Virgins, she was to bring forth Your Son, the innocent lamb who takes away our sins. You chose her from all women to be our advocate with You and our pattern of holiness. Help us by her prayers to live in Your presence without sin. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

### ALL:

O Mary Immaculate, lily of purity, I salute you, because from the very first instant of your conception you were filled with grace. I thank and adore the Most Holy Trinity for having imparted to you favors so sublime. O Mary, full of grace, help me to share, even though just a little, in the fullness of grace so wonderfully bestowed on you in your Immaculate Conception. With firm confidence in your never failing intercession, we beseech you to obtain for us the intention of this novena, and also that purity of mind, heart, and body necessary to unite us with God.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother, to thee do I come, before thee I stand sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate!

Despise not my petitions, but, in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

## LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God the Father of Heaven,

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

God the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, One God,

*Lord, have mercy.*

*Christ, have mercy.*

*Lord, have mercy.*

*Have mercy on us.*

*Have mercy on us.*

*Have mercy on us.*

*Have mercy on us.*

## CLOSING PRAYER:

LEADER: We praise you, Lord, in this daughter of Israel, who sang the songs of David, who knew the deeds of Judith, and held in her heart the burning words of Isaiah. We pray as Mary did: may your name be holy, may the hungry be filled and the rich know hunger, may the proud be scattered and the oppressed raised up, may your love be ever with your people.

*ALL: O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

LEADER: Father, the image of the Virgin is found in the Church. Mary had a faith that Your Spirit prepared and a love that never knew sin, for You kept her sinless from the first moment of her conception.

Trace in our actions the lines of her love, in our hearts her readiness of faith. Prepare once again a world for Your Son.

*ALL: O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

LEADER: O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son, we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son, You did preserve Her from all stain, so too, You would permit us, purified through Her intercession, to come unto You.

*ALL: O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

LEADER: We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

*ALL: Amen.*



## NINTH DAY: DECEMBER 7 ~ The Mother of God is our Mother

### PRAYER:

God of mercies, your only Son, while hanging on the cross, appointed Mary, his mother, to be our mother also. Like her, and under her loving care, may your Church grow day by day, rejoice in the holiness of its children, and so attract to itself all the peoples of the earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### READING:

**Jn 19:23-27**

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the scripture, "They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

### CONSIDERATION:

"If John's description of the event at Cana presents Mary's caring motherhood at the beginning of Christ's messianic activity, another passage from the same Gospel confirms this motherhood in the salvific economy of grace at its crowning moment, namely when Christ's sacrifice on the cross, his paschal mystery, is accomplished. And yet the 'testament of Christ's Cross' says more. Jesus highlights a new relationship between Mother and Son, the whole truth and reality of which he solemnly confirms. One can say that if Mary's motherhood of the human race had already been outlined, now it is clearly stated and established. It emerges from the definitive accomplishment of the Redeemer's paschal mystery. The mother of Christ, who stands at the very center of this mystery – a mystery which embraces each individual and all humanity – is given as mother to every single individual and all mankind."

### DAILY ROSARY

Response: *Pray for us*

Holy Virgin of virgins,  
Mother of Christ,  
Mother of divine grace,  
Mother most pure,  
Mother most chaste,  
Mother inviolate,  
Mother undefiled,  
Mother most amiable,  
Mother most admirable,  
Mother of good counsel,  
Mother of our Creator,  
Mother of our Savior,  
Mother of the Church,  
Virgin most prudent,  
Virgin most venerable,  
Virgin most renowned,  
Virgin most powerful,  
Virgin most merciful,  
Virgin most faithful,  
Mirror of justice,  
Seat of wisdom,  
Cause of our joy,  
Spiritual vessel,  
Vessel of honor,

Singular vessel of devotion,  
Mystical rose,  
Tower of David,  
Tower of ivory,  
House of gold,  
Ark of the covenant,  
Gate of Heaven,  
Morning star,  
Health of the sick  
Refuge of sinners,  
Comforter of the afflicted,  
Queen of angels,  
Queen of patriarchs,  
Queen of prophets,  
Queen of apostles,  
Queen of martyrs,  
Queen of confessors,  
Queen of virgins,  
Queen of all saints,  
Queen conceived without Original Sin,  
Queen assumed into Heaven,  
Queen of the holy Rosary,  
Queen of families,  
Queen of peace,

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Have mercy on us.*

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

*That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

*Let us pray - O God, by the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary, you bestowed upon the human race the rewards of eternal salvation; grant, we beg you, that we may feel the power of her intercession, through whom we have been made worthy to receive the Author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. Amen.*

## FIRST DAY: NOVEMBER 29 ~ Mary, the new Eve

### PRAYER:

*Lord God, may our gifts be sanctified by the Holy Spirit, who formed the Blessed Virgin Mary to be a new creation and sent down upon her the dew of heavenly grace, so that her womb might bear the fruit of our salvation, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.*

### READING:

**Gen 3:1-6, 13-15**

Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate. Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all cattle, and above all wild animals; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

### CONSIDERATION:

"Mary, Mother of the Incarnate Word, is placed at the very center of that enmity, that struggle which accompanies the history of humanity on earth and the history of salvation itself. In this central place, she who belongs to the 'weak and poor of the Lord' bears in herself, like no other member of the human race, that 'glory of grace' which the Father 'has bestowed on us in his beloved Son,' and this grace determines the extraordinary greatness and beauty of her whole being. Mary thus remains before God, and also before the whole of humanity, as the unchangeable and inviolable sign of God's election, spoken of in Paul's letter: 'in Christ .he chose us .before the foundation of the world, .he destined us .for adoption' (Eph 1:4,5). This election is more powerful than any experience of evil and sin, than all that 'enmity' which marks the history of man. In this history, Mary remains a sign of sure hope."

### DAILY ROSARY

## EIGHTH DAY: DECEMBER 6 ~ Mediatrix of All Graces

### PRAYER:

*God of heaven and earth, your Son, Jesus the Lord, while dying on the altar of the cross, chose Mary, his mother, to be our mother also. Grant that we, who entrust ourselves to her maternal care, may always be protected when we call upon her name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### READING:

**Jn 2:1-11**

On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

### CONSIDERATION:

"Mary is present at Cana in Galilee as the Mother of Jesus, and in a significant way she contributes to that 'beginning of the signs' which reveal the messianic power of her Son. The wedding at Cana in Galilee offers us a sort of first announcement of Mary's mediation, wholly oriented towards Christ and tending to the revelation of his salvific power. It is evident that it is a mediation which is maternal. The Second Vatican Council teaching proclaims Mary became 'a mother to us in the order of grace,' which flows from her divine motherhood. Because she was, by the design of the divine Providence, the mother who nourished the divine Redeemer, Mary became 'an associate of unique nobility, and the Lord's humble handmaid,' who 'cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Savior's work of restoring supernatural life to souls.' And 'this maternity of Mary in the order of grace will last without interruption until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect.'"

### DAILY ROSARY

## SEVENTH DAY: DECEMBER 5 ~ First Disciple of Jesus

### PRAYER:

*Lord our God, you sent your Son from heaven into the womb of the Blessed Virgin to be your saving Word and our Bread of Life: grant that like Mary we may welcome Christ, by treasuring His words in our hearts and celebrating in faith the deep mysteries of our redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### READING:

**Lk 11:27-28**

A woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you nursed!" But He said, "Blessed, rather, are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

### CONSIDERATION:

"The Gospel of Luke records the moment when 'a woman in the crowd raised her voice' and said to Jesus: 'Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you nursed!' These words were an expression of praise of Mary as Jesus' mother according to the flesh. But to the blessing uttered by that woman upon her who was his mother according to the flesh, Jesus replies in a significant way: 'Blessed, rather, are those who hear the word of God and keep it.' He wishes to divert attention from motherhood understood only as a fleshly bond, in order to direct it towards those mysterious bonds of the spirit which develop from hearing and keeping God's word. Without any doubt, Mary is worthy of blessing by the very fact that she became the mother of Jesus according to the flesh, but also and especially because already at the Annunciation she accepted the word of God, because she believed it, because she was obedient to God, and because she 'kept' the word and 'pondered it in her heart,' and by means of her whole life accomplished it. Thus we can say that the blessing proclaimed by Jesus is not in opposition, despite appearances, to the blessing uttered by the unknown woman, but rather coincides with that blessing in the person of this Virgin Mother, who called herself only 'the handmaid of the Lord.' If through faith Mary became the bearer of the Son given to her by the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit, while preserving her virginity intact, in that same faith she discovered and accepted the other dimension of motherhood revealed by Jesus during his messianic mission. One can say that this dimension of motherhood belonged to Mary from the beginning, that is to say from the moment of the conception and birth of her Son. From that time she was 'the one who believed.' Thus in a sense Mary as mother became the first disciple of her Son, the first to whom he seemed to say 'Follow me,' even before he addressed this call to the apostles or to anyone else.

### DAILY ROSARY

## SECOND DAY: NOVEMBER 30 ~ Mary, Full of Grace

### PRAYER:

*Father, in your plan for our salvation, your Word became man, announced by an angel and born of the Virgin Mary. May we who believe that she is the Mother of God receive the help of her prayers. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### READING:

**Lk 1: 26-33**

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

### CONSIDERATION:

"When we read that the angel messenger addresses Mary as 'full of grace,' the Gospel context, which mingles revelations and ancient promises, enables us to understand that among all the 'spiritual blessings in Christ' this is a special 'blessing.' In the mystery of Christ, she is *present* even 'before the creation of the world,' as the one whom the Father 'has chosen' as Mother of His Son in the Incarnation. And, what is more, together with the Father, the Son has chosen her, entrusting her eternally to the Spirit of holiness. In an entirely special and exceptional way Mary is united to Christ, and similarly *she is eternally loved in this 'beloved Son,'* this Son who is of one being with the Father, in whom is concentrated all the 'glory of grace.' At the same time she is and remains perfectly open to this 'gift from above.' As the Council teaches, Mary 'stands out among the poor and humble of the Lord, who confidently await and receive salvation from Him.'"

### DAILY ROSARY



### THIRD DAY: DECEMBER 1 ~ Mary, Handmaid of the Lord

#### PRAYER:

*Lord God, when your Son came down from heaven, Mary had conceived him in her heart before she conceived him in her womb: grant that by holy and just deeds we may show forth in our lives the Christ whom we have received by faith, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

#### READING:

**Lk 1:34-38**

And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And 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 called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

#### CONSIDERATION:

“Indeed, at the Annunciation Mary entrusted herself to God completely, with the ‘full submission of intellect and will,’ manifesting ‘the obedience of faith’ to him who spoke to her through his messenger. She responded, therefore, with all her human and feminine ‘I,’ and this response of faith included both perfect cooperation with ‘the grace of God that precedes and assists’ and perfect openness to the action of the Holy Spirit, who ‘constantly brings faith to completion by his gifts.’ The word of the living God, announced to Mary by the angel, referred to her: ‘And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son.’ By accepting this announcement, Mary was to become the ‘Mother of the Lord,’ and the divine mystery of the Incarnation was to be accomplished in her: ‘The Father of mercies willed that the consent of the predestined Mother should precede the Incarnation.’ And Mary gives this consent, after she has heard everything the messenger has to say. . . The mystery of the Incarnation was accomplished when Mary uttered her fiat: ‘Let it be done to me according to your word,’ which made possible, as far as it depended upon her in the divine plan, the granting of her Son’s desire.”

#### DAILY ROSARY

accomplish his mission, namely in misunderstanding and sorrow. While this announcement confirms her faith in the accomplishment of the divine promises of salvation, it also reveals to her that she will have to live her obedience of faith in suffering, at the side of the suffering Savior, and that her motherhood will be mysterious and sorrowful.”

#### DAILY ROSARY





## **SIXTH DAY: DECEMBER 4 ~ Mary, our Sorrowful Mother**

### **PRAYER:**

Lord our God, in your eternal wisdom you fill out the passion of Christ through the suffering that his members endure in the many trials of this life. As you gave his mother strength in her agony to stand by the cross of your Son, grant that we too may bring loving comfort to others in their distress of mind or body. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **READING:**

**Lk 2:25-35**

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel." And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed."

### **CONSIDERATION:**

"A just and God-fearing man, called Simeon, appears at this beginning of Mary's 'journey' of faith. His words, suggested by the Holy Spirit, confirm the truth of the Annunciation. He took up in his arms the child to whom in accordance with the angel's command, the name Jesus was given. Simeon's words match the meaning of this name, which is Savior: 'God is salvation.' Turning to the Lord, he says, 'For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.' Simeon addresses Mary, 'Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against, that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed'; and he adds with direct reference to her: 'and a sword will pierce through your own soul also.' Simeon's words cast new light on the announcement which Mary had heard from the angel: Jesus is the Savior, he is 'a light for revelation' to mankind. Is not this what was manifested in a way on Christmas night, when the shepherds came to the stable? Is not this what was to be manifested even more clearly in the coming of the Magi? Simeon's words seem like a second Annunciation to Mary, for they tell her of the actual historical situation in which the Son is to

## **FOURTH DAY: DECEMBER 2 ~ Blessed Among Women**

### **PRAYER:**

*Lord, our God, Savior of the human family, you brought salvation and joy to the house of Elizabeth through the visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Ark of the new Covenant. We ask that, in obedience to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we too may bring Christ to others and magnify your name by the praise of our lips and the holiness of our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **READING:**

**Lk 1:39-44**

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the 'mother of my Lord' should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy."

### **CONSIDERATION:**

"Immediately after the narration of the Annunciation, the evangelist Luke guides us in the footsteps of the Virgin of Nazareth towards 'a city of Judah.' According to scholars, this city would be the modern Ain Karim, situated in the mountains, not far from Jerusalem. Moved by charity, therefore, Mary goes to the house of her kinswoman and arrived there 'in haste' to visit Elizabeth. When Mary enters, Elizabeth replies to her greeting and feels the child leap in her womb, and, being 'filled with the Holy Spirit' she greets Mary with a loud cry: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!' Elizabeth's exclamation or acclamation was subsequently to become part of the Hail Mary, as a continuation of the angel's greeting, thus becoming one of the Church's most frequently used prayers. But still more significant are the words of Elizabeth in the question which follows: 'And why is this granted me, that the 'mother of my Lord' should come to me?' Elizabeth bears witness to Mary: she recognizes and proclaims that before her stands the mother of the Lord, the mother of the Messiah. The son whom Elizabeth is carrying in her womb also shares in this witness: 'The babe in my womb leaped for joy!' This child is John the Baptist, who at the Jordan will point out Jesus as the Messiah."

### **DAILY ROSARY**

## **FIFTH DAY: DECEMBER 3 ~ Mary, Model of Faith**

### **PRAYER:**

*All-holy Father, eternal God, in your goodness you prepared a royal throne for your Wisdom in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary; bathe your Church in the radiance of your life-giving Word, that it may press forward on its pilgrim way in the light of your truth, and so come to the joy of a perfect knowledge of your love. God of wisdom, in your desire to restore us to your friendship after we had lost it by sin, you chose the Blessed Virgin Mary as the seat of your Wisdom. Grant through her intercession that we may seek not the folly of the wise but the loving service that marks out the poor in spirit. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **READING:**

**Lk 1:45-56**

[And Elizabeth exclaimed:] ‘Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.’ And Mary said, ‘My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed; the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. He has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation. He has shown the strength of His arm, He has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away. He has come to the help of His servant Israel, for He has remembered His promise of mercy, the promise He made to our fathers, to Abraham and to His descendants forever.’ Mary remained with her about three months, and then returned to her home.

### **CONSIDERATION:**

“Elizabeth’s words ‘blessed are you who believed’ do not apply only to that particular moment of the Annunciation. Certainly the Annunciation is the culminating moment of Mary’s faith in her awaiting of Christ, but it is also the point of departure from which her whole ‘journey towards God’ begins, her whole pilgrimage of faith. And on this road, in an eminent and truly heroic manner, the obedience which she professes to the word of divine revelation will be fulfilled. Mary’s ‘obedience of faith’ during the whole of her pilgrimage will show surprising similarities to the faith of Abraham. Just like the patriarch of the People of God, so too Mary, during the pilgrimage of her filial and maternal fiat, ‘in hope believed against hope.’ In the expression ‘Blessed are you who believed,’ we can therefore rightly find a kind of key which unlocks for us the innermost reality of Mary, whom the angel hailed as ‘full of grace.’ If as ‘full of grace’ she has been eternally present in the mystery of Christ, through faith she became a sharer in that mystery in every extension of her earthly journey. She ‘advanced in her pilgrimage of faith,’ and at

the same time, in a discreet yet direct and effective way she made present to humanity the mystery of Christ. And she still continues to do so. Through the mystery of Christ, she too is present within mankind. Thus, through the mystery of the Son, the mystery of the Mother is also made clear.”

### **DAILY ROSARY**

