

MARY TREASURED ALL THESE THINGS

Reflections on the Mysteries of the Rosary

POWER HANDS

Rosary
• Evangelization Apostolate



The
JOYFUL
MYSTERIES

First Joyful Mystery

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE ANGEL GABRIEL TO MARY

The angel Gabriel is sent by the Father with a message to a young woman of Nazareth named Mary. Yes, an angel. And this should remind us that each of us has the awesome gift of our very own guardian angel.

The Message from the Angel Gabriel is profound and yet so simple. The Heavenly Father asks Mary to usher our salvation into human history by saying yes to God's eternal Word. All of creation and history has pointed to this moment and yearns to hear Mary's reply. Mary humbly asks a question of how this will come about. After hearing the answer from the angel that this will happen by the power of the Holy Spirit, she gives her loving consent to be the mother of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Jesus is our Savior and Redeemer, but He waits to hear Mary's fiat- her yes to bring this about.

God does not force his mercy and love, but always extends an invitation to open our hearts and minds, with the help of His grace. May each of us imitate Mary, and always be open, as well as ready, to give our "yes" to God in our daily life.

Second Joyful Mystery

THE VISITATION OF MARY TO HER COUSIN ELIZABETH

In the Scriptures, we read that after the Annunciation, Mary went in "haste" to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was with child. Mary could not contain herself, as she was filled with "joy" and the love of Jesus. Mary could not keep the "good news" of the Incarnation to herself. She also felt the natural desire to care for Elizabeth who was in need, which made Mary an angel of mercy, in her concern for others. Mary lived the beatitudes before even hearing them. Mary felt compelled to bring the "good news" to others.

Mary did not delay as we might tend to do. She did not check her schedule on her laptop, her appointment calendar, or her busy plans. She trusted in Divine Providence. She knew that God is in charge and there would be time to complete all her tasks. It was time to go, and she went in "haste". The word haste is so important. So also, Mary whispers to each of us to go in "haste" to care for others in need, and to bring the Good News of Jesus to others in our everyday life.

We are called especially to do this in the simple and common things of life. It need not be the spectacular or eye catching events which would make the news at night. God desires for us to serve others right where we are.

This Visitation to and for others was the life of Saint Teresa of Calcutta. May Our Lady escort each of us daily, as we also go in "haste" to bring Jesus to those we live with, then to others we encounter in the simple things of everyday life. May Our Lady help us to see Jesus in others and care for them, as if we are caring for Jesus Himself.

Third Joyful Mystery

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

At Christmas we all celebrate the birth of a newborn baby. There is such joy, excitement and preparation for this birthday, and this is rightly so since the babe is the Divine Infant Jesus. But good friends, this should be the same for all new life that comes from the breath of God's love.

As we all know too well, this is not the case in modern culture. Men and women have so often focused on selfishness and rejected the gift of human life. It is now years since the Supreme Court has legalized the killing of unborn babies. The numbers are staggering and overwhelming; little lives which cry out to us for compassion, love and help have been deprived of the light of day.

We must and will not ignore this ongoing act of terrorism in our land. Good friends, there is hope! Christmas shows us this. Jesus came to give us life. He came to show us the way that is Himself. He came to exchange the crib for a cross of redemption. On the cross, He thirsted for us and cried out to all "it is finished." But our part is not completed, until we each breathe our last and return to Him, after having persevered in the faith.

To be a follower of Jesus means to go the journey with Him and not go by the world's ways. So, we each must find we have knees to pray on. We find we have legs to walk for Christ. We have words of mercy and compassion for those whose voices have been silenced.

Fourth Joyful Mystery

THE PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Joseph and Mary bring the baby Jesus to the Temple to consecrate Him to the Father. While they are there, Simeon approaches them and takes the Child in his arms. Simeon declares this newborn Child to be the glory of Israel, the Light to the Gentiles; and then says those words which pierce the heart of Mary and Joseph:

"Behold this child... [will be] a sign which shall be contradicted; And thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that, out of many hearts, thoughts may be revealed." Luke 2:34-35

The Joyful moment in the Temple is contrasted with a glimpse of the Cross. This Child came into the world to give us joy, but this will happen only as a result of His cross and Passion. So, we imitate Mary and present ourselves and offer all that we have each day to the Heavenly Father. We give it all to Him. And we journey through our lives with our own crosses and walk with Jesus, with Mary at our side, not only to the Calvary of our lives, but to the incomprehensible joy of the Resurrection.

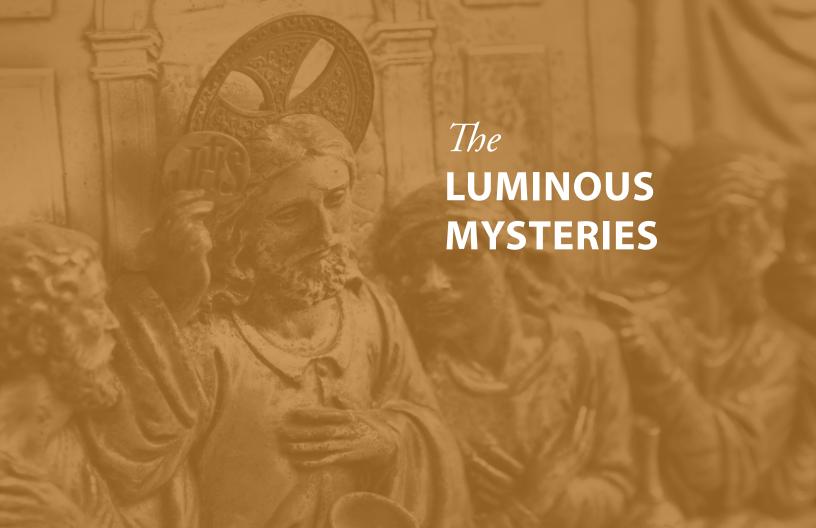
Fifth Joyful Mystery

THE FINDING OF THE CHILD JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Jesus is twelve years old when He celebrates the Passover in Jerusalem with Joseph and Mary. Unknown to Mary and Joseph, Jesus does not return to Nazareth but remains in the Temple. For three days, Joseph and Mary search for the Child Jesus. Their hearts must have been seared with pain. They return to Jerusalem and finally find Him in the Temple amidst the teachers.

Jesus, when asked why, tells Mary, that He must be in His Father's house.

How often, modern men and women of all ages, search for joy and fulfillment in material things, careers, money and worldly pleasures. These things are sought and found to be wanting. It is Jesus where true peace and joy are found. Yes, we can find Jesus in so many diverse ways. Scripture, personal prayer, good works for people, the Church, and the Sacraments. By far the most excellent and perfect finding of Jesus is where He told Mary and Joseph some 2000 years ago: in the Temple! In the tabernacles of His Church in the Holy Eucharist! He is here waiting for each of us as if we were the only person in the world. Go and find Him there; and joy and peace will fill your soul and heart! And then take Jesus home with you in your heart.



First Mystery of Light

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD IN THE JORDAN

In this mystery, we see the Holy Trinity. We hear the Heavenly Father's voice that this is my beloved Son. Then there is the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovering over Jesus and investing Him in His Mission. This scene should help to remind us of our Baptism, whenever it took place. We were baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Our Baptismal sponsors spoke for us and declared our baptismal promises.

The Church reminds us of this awesome event in our lives every year at Easter when we are asked to renew those promises. But this is something which should not be relegated to one day of the year.

We became a new creation and part of God's family at our Baptism. Therefore, let each of us with profound thankfulness, reflect often during the year and throughout our lives, that our lives are now different. Our Baptism is not only some event of the past. May we renew those promises often and apply them to our daily life.

Second Mystery of Light

THE WEDDING FEAST AT CANA

They have run out of wine. Mary notices this first and tells Jesus. It is Mary who intercedes, and simply tells the servants of the wedding to do whatever her Son Jesus tells them. This, in its simplicity, describes Mary's role in our lives. Her only concern and never ending desire is to have us do whatever her Son Jesus asks of us. No wonder, Jesus from the cross would give Mary to each of us as our very own mother.

Behold your mother! She is ours!

What a gift from God Himself as He speaks His last will and testament from the cross. John the Evangelist took Mary into his home on that Good Friday. Will each of us do the same?

Third Mystery of Light

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE KINGDOM AND THE CALL TO CONVERSION

Let us reflect on the scene in the Scriptures when a paralyzed man, carried by others on a mat, could not reach Jesus where He was preaching in a house. Look carefully at this scene of mercy and love.

The men cut a hole in the roof and then lower the ailing man down. Jesus, seeing such faith, forgives the man's sins, even before he cures him physically. Jesus, Who is Mercy Himself, gives mercy. He wants to extend His Mercy to all who will approach Him with true contrition and sorrow for sins. Down through the ages, we see Jesus giving His mercy in so many ways.

But there is a most beautiful way in which the scene of the Gospel is renewed and relived over and over again. Every time one goes to talk with Jesus in the Sacrament of Confession, Jesus is there to give us His Mercy. In this Sacrament, we hear Jesus say those earth shattering words spoken through His chosen priests: I absolve you from your sins. An awesome moment of joy! Let us go to Jesus often in Confession and encounter Mercy and Love.

Fourth Mystery of Light

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

Jesus with tender love prepares Peter, James and John for His bitter Passion and Death. He takes these three beloved followers to Mount Tabor and is transfigured before their eyes. They see the glory of God's Son Jesus. They hear the voice of the heavenly Father tell them to listen to Jesus, Who is His beloved Son. Each of us also has our sorrowful mysteries during our lives. It is inescapable. So, Jesus wants also to strengthen us along our journey of life. He gives us many sources of strength and help.

He loves us so much that He chose to remain with us in the Holy Eucharist.

In contrast with the Transfiguration, now His glory is hidden under the simple appearances of bread and wine. He does this so we are better able to approach Him and remain with Him. Jesus waits for us day and night in His home which is the tabernacles of our Churches. Go to Him often and then trust in Him; Be not afraid.

Fifth Mystery of Light

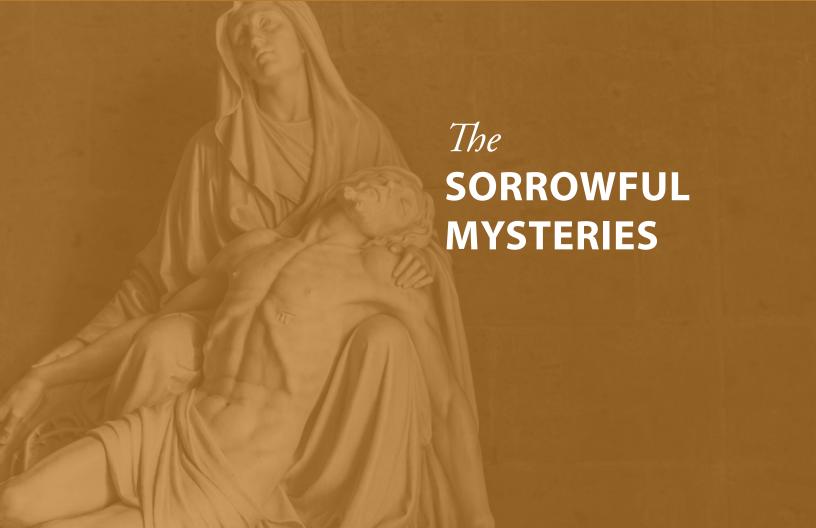
THE INSTITUTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

This is My Body. This is My Blood.

These words of Jesus first spoken by Him at the Last Supper, are repeated at every Holy Mass. We are brought to experience the greatest act of love. Jesus is still here with us. And we are amazed.

There is so much that happens at every Holy Mass at the Consecration. The bread and wine are changed entirely into Jesus. No longer is there just bread or wine. Everything that happened 2000 years at Calvary is re-presented on our altar in our very Churches, before our very eyes. We are there at Calvary. God makes present in our time what occurred on a single Good Friday afternoon. And this happens at every single Holy Mass we are present at. As the song asks: were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Yes! We were and are there. Jesus dying on the cross for us at Holy Mass.

And the words which Jesus spoke from the Cross on Calvary; can you hear them at every Mass you participate at? Listen carefully in your heart and soul during the consecration of the Mass, and you will hear Jesus speaking to you. I thirst for your love. And here, is Mary. She is your mother; I give her to you.



First Sorrowful Mystery

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

In the garden of Gethsemane, all of our sins and temptations brought such anguish to Him, causing Him to sweat blood. Jesus asked then and asks us now, "Will you keep company with Me and pray with Me?" What is our answer? Yes, Jesus, we will spend the short time of our life on this earth, with You in a spirit of prayer. And we will end our prayer with the same yes that You gave the Heavenly Father.

Second Sorrowful Mystery

THE SCOURGING

Yes, we were there at His scourging. All of the times that we may have failed and were not modest, or pure in thought, word or action, or failed to turn our eyes away from temptation.

Third Sorrowful Mystery

THE CROWNING OF THORNS

Yes, we were there at His crowning with thorns. Jesus is truly our king, but we give Him the thorns of our pride. But will we now give Him the crown of our love and humility?

Fourth Sorrowful Mystery

THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

Yes, we were there on the road to Calvary. Look — Jesus falls three times, but He gets up to go on. This shows us that we must get up after we fall into sin; we must have sorrow for our sins through frequent confession.

Yes, we were there when Veronica broke through the crowd. So, we must also care for others and for the truth, regardless of the cost. Yes, we were there when Simon was forced to help Jesus carry the cross. But we will willingly carry and offer with love our splinters of the cross, which we all have in our lives.

Yes, we were there when Jesus meets his mother Mary. So, Mary is also there for each of us as we journey through life with its trials and hardships. But Our Sorrowful Mother will be our strength and consolation.

Fifth Sorrowful Mystery

THE CRUCIFIXION

Yes, we were there at Calvary, as every holy Mass brings this reality into our presence. When the priest repeats those words of Jesus: "This is My Body... And this is My Blood," the bread and wine turns entirely into Jesus himself. But something else happens which is stupendous and awesome. Calvary and the Last Supper are happening right on our altars!! Yes, Jesus died only once on Calvary. But good friends, from an act of His love and mercy, Jesus makes His passion and death present at holy Mass! We are there!

Friends, Mary was there at the foot of the cross. Ask Mary to help you listen closely, and you will hear in the depth of your heart and souls the words that Jesus spoke from the cross. "I thirst." Jesus thirsts for our complete love. So, we will quench His thirst for us. Jesus, we are Yours. "Behold your mother." Jesus speaks to you at every holy Mass. What is our response? Mary is His mother. He wills to have her be ours also.

Take Mary to your home, as St. John did. Take Mary into your hearts.

"It is finished." Jesus has done it all! There is nothing lacking, as He has gone the whole road, for you and me. But our part is not finished. We each must do our part, and we will, with the help of Mary, the Holy Spirit, the sacraments, and the Church, which He has given to help us to attain and share the joy of the risen Savior Jesus, in heaven for all eternity. We repeat once again. Were you there? And our answer becomes not only were we there, but we are there right now.



First Glorious Mystery

THE RESURRECTION

The triumph and joy of Easter is reflected in this first mystery. Christ is Risen – this is the proof of Christ's divinity, His power over sin and death. He rose triumphant by His own power. The sadness of the Cross is overcome – the sadness of His death on the cross is REALLY His triumph!

"It is finished" He says on the cross. Jesus has redeemed us with His precious blood and now He shows us what our reward for our faithfulness can be. Our hope is in the Lord who made heaven and earth. We offer thanks and praise to You, Sweet Savior, for your passion and death, and rejoice with You in Your resurrection.

After the women at the tomb were told by the angel that Jesus had risen, they RAN to tell the disciples. They were so filled with joy that Jesus was alive, they couldn't contain themselves so they RAN to announce the risen Lord. We should all have the same feelings in our hearts everyday. We are privileged to know Jesus and His teachings and believe in His resurrection. We should be "running" to tell everyone about Him. Not by great speeches and preaching, but by the way we live. We show Jesus is alive in our lives. Jesus is truly alive in the Eucharist, we should be "running" to visit Him and to receive Him, running to the opportunities and privilege we have of receiving Jesus Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity into our hearts and souls as often as we can. If we cannot physically receive and visit Him, we should spiritually receive Him and visit Him often during each day.

Mary our Mother, help us to live our lives united to Jesus, and give us an increase of hope for eternal salvation.

Second Glorious Mystery

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD INTO HEAVEN

Jesus is going to prepare a place for us. We now have the right to heaven because of Him. Jesus has opened the gates. It is now our responsibility to live so we can attain that right. Jesus has done the will of the Father. He has completed His task on earth, He will now sit at the right hand of the Father, but would never leave us alone, He is still with us. In every tabernacle of the world, alone, and waiting for you to visit Him.

How can we understand this great love He has for us? He is our God and He wills to wait confined to a tabernacle on the altars of our churches waiting for His creatures to come and show Him the love He longs for. Each time we visit Him, we give Jesus the joy He felt at the reunion He had with the Father.

Dear Jesus, with Your permission I place my heart & soul in every tabernacle all over the world, that You may never be alone. I place myself there to keep You company, to love and adore You, to thank You for being there. I unite my presence there with all the angels and saints that adore You at the right hand of the Father in heaven. By Your powerful ascension into heaven, I beg for graces of salvation for all who will die today. May the happiness and joy at Your arrival in heaven spill over to the dying here below. Grant them, through the merits of Your passion, death, and resurrection, the joy of the ascension. Oh Jesus most powerful, yet merciful, grant them the grace of final good contrition. Mary our mother help us to be united to Jesus during our whole life, in a spiritual communion that never ends, until I am united to Him to adore Him with you in heaven.

Third Glorious Mystery

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Know you not that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells within you?" 1 Corinthians: 3:16. The Holy Spirit is the gift of the Father and the Son, the spouse of the Blessed Mother, the Dispenser of all gifts. Let us ask Him to be always in our hearts, minds, and souls. May He help us to see Him in everyone we encounter and everything that happens to us.

Holy Spirit keep us in the presence of the Trinity, teach me to live the beatitudes and the joy of the fruits of Your gifts. Help me to NEVER do anything that will displease You, help me to turn to You, sweet Spirit, and follow all the inspirations that You whisper into my ears each day. You are the greatest friend I could have. Look into my heart and soul, and see my needs. I now ask You for all those graces that I need to get to heaven and the will to use them. I can do nothing on my own so guide me. I also ask for all the graces that are refused by others to enter my heart and soul so that none of these graces will be wasted. Come into our lives, sweet Spirit, and into the lives of all we hold dear, and all who have forgotten their need for You. Gift of the Father and the Son, if we have You in our lives we have everything we need to get to heaven. If we have You, we have God our Father and Jesus our Brother – We have the Trinity in our souls. If we have You, we will make right decisions in our lives. If we have You and follow Your promptings, we will have heaven. Sweet Spirit – Love of the Father and the Son, please open my mind to learn, open my heart to accept, open my mouth to proclaim. May I be Yours, mind, heart, and being- ever faithful. Mary our Blessed Mother, spouse of the Holy Spirit, through your powerful intercession, help us to use the graces and inspirations given to us by the Holy Spirit every day.

Fourth Glorious Mystery

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN INTO HEAVEN

St. Alphonsus said that Jesus was drawn to Mary's womb by her complete holiness. Mary assumed into heaven sitting at the right hand of her Son Jesus. You were conceived Immaculate, no stain of sin. God the Father would do no less for His Son. You were to be the first dwelling place of Jesus. Your womb must be perfect. Because of your cooperation with God, your obedience, your holiness, Jesus desired all the more to come into the world through your Holy and Immaculate Body that He created. You submitted obediently to God and because of the humble submission, Jesus deigned to be submissive to you as His earthly parent.

You became the human means to our salvation.

Mary was the only one worthy to be the mother of Our Savior. Jesus desired to dwell in her. You Mary are the most holy tabernacle of the Blessed Sacrament, a monstrance of incomparable beauty, the only worthy place for our Lord to reside. I salute your motherhood because of your Fiat, the Savior of the world was born. Our Lady, the pure and holy tabernacle that first contained Our Lord, was drawn by Jesus' great love for His mother, drawn body and soul into heaven. Mary our Mother, teach us to be obedient and humble in imitation of you so when we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, He will be pleased to reside in our body and souls, and at our death He will desire to draw us to heaven to be with Him forever.

Fifth Glorious Mystery

MARY IS CROWNED QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

St. Maximilian Kolbe wrote:

"Mary has a right to be Queen of all hearts so that through her, hearts would be cleansed and themselves become immaculate similar and like unto her own heart so worthy of union with God."

God the Father gave us Mary to be the mother of His Son, to be our Queen and Mother. She is Mary, Queen of the Angels and the Saints. Her Queenship comes from her Son, her Spouse the Holy Spirit, and her immaculate, humble obedience to the will of God the Father. She is an accessible Queen, more a mother than a royal or formal queen. She is our intercessor and advocate. Her only will is to draw us closer to her Son Jesus, Who is King of all the world & all of heaven.

She is queen and through her our Savior was born. She brought our salvation into the world by her humble yes to God the Father. She is Queen by her cooperation in our salvation by her union with Jesus in His first miracle of grace – the baptism of St. John in Elizabeth's womb, when John leapt for joy at His coming.

She is Queen by her interceding with her Son at Cana, when He performed the first physical miracle of changing water into wine, the miracle which was the start of His public life, and the precursor of the Miracle of the Eucharist. She is Queen by her union with her only Son as He suffered the passion and death for all of humanity. She willingly gave Him back to the Father and joined her soul to Jesus in all of His sufferings.

She is Queen by her immaculate existence and support of the new Church, before and after her assumption into heaven to sit at the right had of her Son, Jesus and her Spouse the Holy Spirit. She is Queen by her many urgings of straying humanity as she comes to earth to teach us and to help us to union with her son Jesus.

Mary Queen, loving mother and advocate, help us to strive for union with Jesus in all the days of our lives so we can be with Him in heaven forever.

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