

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

(for Monday and Saturday)

1st Joyful Mystery:

The Annunciation

Suggested Reading: Luke 1: 26-38

REFLECTION: God so loved the world that for our sake He willed His only begotten Son to become a man. In fulfilling His Father's will, Christ came to earth to redeem us, and to show us the path to heaven. In this mystery Jesus teaches us to love God effectively by doing His will.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, you replied to God's angel: "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." Simply and humbly, you made yourself available for the service God required. May I never forget your lesson of prompt availability to our Father's will. Amen.

2nd Joyful Mystery:

The Visitation

Suggested Reading: Luke 1: 39-58

REFLECTION: Christ had hardly taken flesh and already He wanted to be shared: He longed to give Zachary, Elizabeth, and the unborn John the joy of His presence. In this mystery Jesus invites us to share Him with our fellowmen: "Freely you have received, freely give."

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, your example of charity and apostolic zeal is a precious lesson. Make me understand how to preserve the faith by sharing Christ with others less privileged spiritually. Whenever I keep my faith in Christ to myself, please remind me to care and share, at least through the charity of prayer. Amen.

3rd Joyful Mystery:
The Nativity

Suggested Reading: Luke 2: 1-20

REFLECTION: At Bethlehem the kindness and graciousness of God our Savior appeared to invite a sin-saddened world to rejoice. The herald angels greeted Christ's birth as good news of great joy. We believe in Christ. So be full of the joy He gives us as a pledge of endless bliss in His presence.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, help me to serve the Lord with gladness. May I put away all gloom and sadness to look like a Christian firmly convinced of God's loving-kindness and mercy. Let me be glad in Him and joyful because of His spirit. Then like you I can be a cause of joy to all around me. Amen.

4th Joyful Mystery:
The Presentation

Suggested Reading: Luke 2: 22-35

REFLECTION: When we were baptized, we were presented to the Lord in His temple. We then agreed to serve Him faithfully on earth that we might worship Him and be His forever. May this Rosary mystery always recall our baptismal promises and inspire us to live up to them.

PRAYER: Thank you, dear Blessed Mother, for turning my thoughts to my first meeting with Christ at the baptismal font. In joining His company I rejected evil and sin by pledging lifelong fidelity to Christ. Virgin most faithful, please pray to the Lord for me that I may remain totally and generously dedicated to Him and keep my baptismal promises. Amen.

5th Joyful Mystery:
The Finding in the Temple

Suggested Reading: Luke 2: 41-52

REFLECTION: In our lives also there will be strange divine doings to puzzle us. We may wonder in dismay what God wants to accomplish. We may wish to probe in prayer to discover His hidden reasons. God does not ask us to understand His doings fully, but rather to align our wills with His in complete, filial trust.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, the thousand "whys" on my lips are not always the best response to God. May His Holy Spirit teach me, as He taught you, to accept His ways without always asking God to prove again His care of me. May I always reverence His presence within me as another living temple of His glory. Amen.

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

(for Tuesday and Friday)

1st Sorrowful Mystery:

The Agony in the Garden

Suggested Reading: Luke 22: 39-44

REFLECTION: "In His anguish He prayed with all the greater intensity." In this sorrowful episode Jesus shows us why, the greater our physical or emotional distress, the more earnest should be our prayer. God will not guarantee to remove our burden, but He will surely grant us at least the comfort, courage, and strength to endure.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, kindly teach me to give prayer a major place in my life. Guide me in the ways of that humble, confident, persevering prayer that links God's strength to my weakness. May I translate my belief into action, and pray with greater fervor when my days are beset with difficulties. Amen.

2nd Sorrowful Mystery:
The Scourging

Suggested Reading: Mark 15: 1-15

REFLECTION: With His mental anguish Jesus knew agony also in the flesh. His scourging reminds us of the excruciatingly painful blows inflicted upon His body. By those stripes sinners are healed, for it was sin that caused His scourging at the pillar.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, in baptism I died to sin and rose with Christ to a new life. It was a beautiful beginning, but I grieve at the many times sin has since gained the upper hand over me. Mother of Sorrows, please obtain for me the grace to be truly sorry for all my sins. By the stripes of Christ my Savior may I be healed and made holy. Amen.

3rd Sorrowful Mystery:
The Crowning with Thorns

Suggested Reading: Matt. 27: 27-31

REFLECTION: In this sorrowful mystery Christ's Mystical Body acquired a thorn-crowned Head. Let the pain and shame of this mock crowning be an unforgettable lesson for us. If we accept the kingship of our blessed Redeemer, we must let Him reign and truly rule in every area of our lives.

PRAYER: Dear Mother of my Lord and King, intercede for me in His presence. Pray that He may reign ever more completely in my mind, my will, my

heart, and in all the members of my body. May His kingdom come more fully in my life, in all the lives that touch mine, and in all hearts the world over. Amen.

4th Sorrowful Mystery:
The Carrying of the Cross

Suggested Reading: Mark 15: 20-25

REFLECTION: Rise and fall, rise and fall: that was the pattern for the Master. It remains the same for all His disciples and for us! When we fall, we must rise again and keep going forward as Jesus did. Keep moving ahead with Him, and the cruel cross on our shoulders will be a little lighter.

PRAYER: Dear Mother Mary, Jesus wants me to take up my cross daily and go forward with Him. When you see me dragging my burden, please remind me that there is a better and more Christ like way to bear it. Pray for me now that I may carry today's cross with love. Pray for me daily that I may rise with courage after each fall. Amen.

5th Sorrowful Mystery:
The Crucifixion

Suggested Reading: Mark 15: 29-41

REFLECTION: Jesus died on the cross for us. Now He wants us to live no longer for ourselves, but for Him.

Whether we live or whether we die, we belong to Him. He redeemed us; we were consecrated to Him in baptism. Lift up our hearts, then! Beyond our personal Good Friday there awaits a radiant Easter. Our Easter!

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, strengthen my faith that the cross and the tomb were not the end for Jesus. They were the beginning of something great and glorious, the necessary preludes to His magnificent Easter victory. May I always see death in the perspective of resurrection and new life in His heavenly kingdom. Amen.

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES **(for Wednesday and Sunday)**

1st Glorious Mystery: **The Resurrection**

Suggested Reading: Matt. 28: 1-15

REFLECTION: We are a sign that God is alive. We must stand before the world as witnesses to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and a sign that God lives. In His infinite mercy and love God made us His "Easter people" in holy baptism. Let us ask ourselves this question: Does Jesus Christ risen from the dead make all the difference in our lives?

PRAYER: Queen of heaven, rejoice, because your Son has risen as He foretold. May the Risen Jesus be the light of my life, the joy of my heart, my

constant intercessor at the Father's right hand. May I be willing to suffer with Christ that I may be glorified with Him. Amen.

2nd Glorious Mystery:
The Ascension

Suggested Reading: Acts 1: 1-14

REFLECTION: The people of God are like the men of Galilee who stood looking up to heaven. We, His people, know that heaven is the holy city to which we journey as pilgrims. May we all advance in joyful hope; and confident that God will keep His word and glorify us for all eternity.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, I know by faith that Christ has opened the gates of heaven. He is even now preparing a place for each of His servants. Help us always with your maternal and merciful aid, dear Mother of God, that we may be faithful until we come to the glory of His presence. Amen.

3rd Glorious Mystery:
The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Suggested Reading: Acts 2: 2-41

REFLECTION: There is a sense in which Pentecost is an ongoing miracle. Christ is continually sending His Spirit to make His followers better Christians, more effective witnesses, more authentic lovers of God and

of God's children. The more receptive we are, the more the Holy Spirit will work in us and through us for God's honor and glory.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, it was after the Holy Spirit first came upon you that the Son of the Most High took flesh and form within your chaste body. May I remember always that it is with your cooperation, together with the same Blessed Spirit, that Christ wills to be formed in me. Amen.

4th Glorious Mystery:
The Assumption

Suggested Reading: Judith 13: 17-20

REFLECTION: As our thoughts turn heavenward, consider a few statements of the saints: St. Bonaventure: "The gates of heaven will open to all who confide in Mary's protection." St. Fulgentius: "Confidence in Mary is a ladder uniting heaven and earth." St. John Damascene: "To serve the Queen of heaven is already to reign there."

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, enthroned in the Father's kingdom, you reign gloriously with your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Pray for us that we may believe more firmly in the reality of heaven and desire it more earnestly. In death's hour welcome us with your Son so that we may dwell with Him forever. Amen.

5th Glorious Mystery:
The Coronation of Our Lady

Suggested Reading: 1 Peter 1: 3-9

REFLECTION: We have "cause for rejoicing"- cause for "inexpressible joy touched with glory," as St. Peter said. An imperishable inheritance is kept in heaven for us. A crown of glory awaits us. Every day brings us closer to our inheritance in the everlasting kingdom.

PRAYER: Queen of heaven and earth, teach me how to apply the lessons of the Rosary mysteries to my life. When my last Rosary on earth is said, assist me with your maternal protection. May I safely reach the paradise where you reign with God forever. Please grant the same loving help to all those for whom our Blessed Redeemer purchased the rewards of eternal life. Amen.

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES
(for Thursday)

1st Luminous Mystery

The Baptism in the Jordan

Fruit: Submission to the Will of the Father

A. "And when Jesus had been baptized, he at once came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And suddenly there was a voice from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favor rests on him.'" (Mt 3:16-17)

B. "The Baptism in the Jordan is first of all a mystery of light. Here, as Christ descends into the waters, the innocent one who became 'sin' for our sake, the heavens open wide and the voice of the Father declares him the beloved Son, while the Spirit descends on him to invest him with the mission which he is to carry out." (R.V.M., Pope John Paul II)

C. "Understand then how your true act of consecration is that of baptism. By this sacrament, instituted by Jesus, grace is communicated to you, placing you in an order of life higher than your own, namely the supernatural life. Through this you participate in the divine nature, you enter into a communion of love with God, and your actions, accordingly, have a new value exceeding that of your nature, because they have a value which is truly divine." (#287ij)

2nd Luminous Mystery

The Self-Manifestation at the Wedding of Cana

Fruit: Virtue of Faith

A. "...the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, what do you want from me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, '*Do whatever he tells you.*'" (Jn 2:4-6)

B. "Another mystery of light is the first of the signs, given at Cana, when Christ changes water into wine and opens the hearts of the disciples to faith, thanks to the intervention of Mary, the first among believers." (R.V.M., Pope John Paul II)

C. "When you invite me to pray for you, I accede to your request and mingle my voice with yours, and I unite my prayer to yours. (...) What I ask for I always obtain, because Jesus can never say *no* to what his Mother requests of Him." (275 j,l)

3rd Luminous Mystery

The Proclamation of the Kingdom with the Call to Conversion

Fruit: Sincere Repentance

A. "After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the gospel from God saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the gospel.' " (Mk 1:14-15)

B. "Another mystery of light is the preaching by which Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of God, calls to conversion and forgives the sins of all who draw near to him in humble trust: the inauguration of that ministry of mercy which he continues to exercise until the end of the world, particularly through the Sacrament of Reconciliation which he has entrusted to his Church." (R.V.M., Pope John Paul II)

C. "*I am the Mother of the Second Evangelization.* I am guiding you as a star along the bright way of fidelity to Christ and to his Gospel. You need to return to a belief in the Gospel of Jesus." (467h)

4th Luminous Mystery
The Transfiguration
Fruit: Virtue of Hope

A. "A voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' " (Lk 9:35)

B. "The mystery of light *par excellence* is the Transfiguration, tradition- ally believed to have taken place on Mount Tabor. The glory of the Godhead shines forth from the face of Christ as the Father commands the astonished Apostles to 'listen to Him' and to prepare to experience with him the agony of the Passion, so as to come with him to the joy of the Resurrection and a life transfigured by the Holy Spirit." (R.V.M., Pope John Paul II)

C. "As He was transfigured on Mount Tabor in the presence of the three Apostles, Peter, James and John, so also will He manifest Himself to you in the splendor of his divine glory, if you climb with me the holy mountain of humility and littleness, of love and purity, of silence and prayer." (597b)

5th Luminous Mystery
The Institution of the Eucharist
Fruit: Intimate Communion with God

A. "Then he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' He did the same with the cup after supper, and said,

'This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you.' " (Lk 22:19-20)

B. "A final mystery of light is the institution of the Eucharist, in which Christ offers his body and blood as food under the signs of bread and wine, and testifies 'to the end' his love for humanity, for whose salvation he will offer himself in sacrifice." (R.V.M., Pope John Paul II)

C. "Enter *into the cenacle of his divine love*, to savor all the sweetness. of this Last Supper. Jesus gives his body and his blood as spiritual food and drink for your new life. He wants thus to unite Himself intimately with each one of you, to the point of becoming totally one with you." (590d)

Other Reflections and Prayers that could be used:

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

1. The Annunciation of Our Lord

The angel said to Mary, "You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus. And he will be called Son of the Most High." Lk 1: 31-32

Fruit of the Mystery: Humility

2. The Visitation

"Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled." Lk 1: 42 & 45

Fruit of the Mystery: Love of Neighbor

3. The Nativity of Jesus

While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, "...she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger." Lk 2: 6-7

Fruit of the Mystery: Poverty

4. The Presentation in the Temple

When the days came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph

brought Jesus up to Jerusalem so that he could be presented to the Lord. Lk 2: 22

Fruit of the Mystery: Obedience

5. The Finding in the Temple

"They came upon him in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. All who heard him were amazed." Lk 2: 46-47

Fruit of the Mystery: Joy in Finding Jesus

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

1. The Agony in the Garden

"Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane. [...] He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer. 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by.' " Mt 26: 36 & 39

Fruit of the Mystery: Sorrow for Sin

2. The Scourging at the Pillar

The people said, "Let his blood be upon us and upon our children." At that, he released Barabbas to them. Jesus, however, he first had scourged. Mt27: 25-26

Fruit of the Mystery: Purity

3. The Crowning with Thorns

They stripped off his clothes and wrapped him in a scarlet cloak. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they fixed it on his head and began to mock him. Mt 27: 28-29

Fruit of the Mystery: Courage

4. The Carrying of the Cross

Jesus was led away, and carrying the cross by himself, went out to what is called the Place of the Skull. There they crucified him. Jn 19: 17-18

Fruit of the Mystery: Patience

5. The Crucifixion and Death

The curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two. Jesus uttered a loud cry and said, "Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit." After this, he expired. Lk 23: 45-46

Fruit of the Mystery: Perseverance

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

1. The Resurrection of Our Lord

The angel spoke, "Do not be frightened. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified, but he is not here. He has been raised, exactly as he promised." Mt 28: 5-6

Fruit of the Mystery: Faith

2. The Ascension into Heaven

"He then led them out near Bethany, and with hands up- raised, blessed them. As he blessed, he left them, and was taken up to heaven." Lk: 24:50-51

Fruit of the Mystery: Hope

3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit

Tongues as of fire appeared which parted and came to rest on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit.
Acts 2: 3-4

Fruit of the Mystery: Love of God

4. The Assumption of Mary

"Blessed are you, daughter, by God most high, above all women on earth; and may the Lord God be blessed, the Cre- ator of heaven and earth..." Jdt 13:18

Fruit of the Mystery: Grace of a Happy Death

5. The Coronation of Mary

"A gr at sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars." Rev 12:1

Fruit of the Mystery: Trust in Mary's Intercession