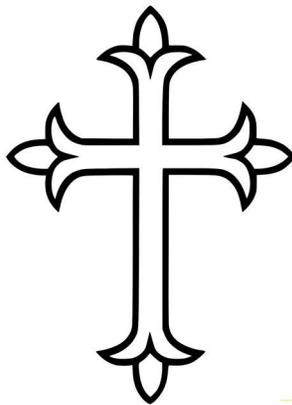


The Contemplative Rosary



with St. John Paul II
and St. Teresa of Avila



DAN BURKE and CONNIE ROSSINI

THE FIRST JOYFUL MYSTERY: The Annunciation

The angel Gabriel announces the incarnation to Mary. FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: Humility

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee called Nazareth,²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man named 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 for ever; and of His kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How can 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 done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

- HAIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, *who was conceived in you by the Holy Spirit*. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS-----

- Salvation history culminates in Gabriel's greeting, "an invitation to messianic joy: "Rejoice, Mary."
- "The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience."
- "What the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith."
- Mary's humble and unreserved yes "in the name of all human nature" is the ultimate example of what it means to say yes to God.
- At this moment, the Word becomes flesh, a tiny embryo in Mary's womb.
- God lowered Himself to become an embryo. Thus, we raise ourselves above God when we refuse service that is "beneath us."
- As with Mary certain souls' salvation depends on our yes to God's call to holiness and evangelization.
- Mary says yes to God without knowing what will happen and how it will all end.
- Our yes should not be contingent on our understanding or approval of God's plan

CONCLUDING PRAYER-----

Pray for us, Mary cause of our joy, that we may follow God's will in perfect humility.

THE SECOND JOYFUL MYSTERY: The Visitation

Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth. FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: Love of Neighbor

Luke 1:39-50

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. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation."

- HAIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, *whom you carried to Elizabeth*. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS-----

- It is in Mary's nature to say yes to the needs of those around her. She will be quick to say yes when you are in need.
- Mary will bring Jesus to us and to others if we will but ask.
- Christ is central but hidden in these scenes, as He often is in our lives.
- Mary's first Christian apostolate was doing seemingly insignificant house chores at the service of others.
- Much of our Christian lives consists in small, hidden acts of love.
- Mary's canticle, the Magnificat in Luke 1:46-56, presents God's priorities in stark contrast to the way our world thinks.
- When life seems unfair, it is important to realize that God's ways are not our ways.
- John the Baptist leaps for joy at the sound of Mary's voice and at the presence of Christ.
- Elizabeth calls the unborn Jesus "Lord" (and John the Baptist witnesses to Him) at the beginning of Mary's pregnancy.

CONCLUDING PRAYER-----

Pray for us, Mary cause of our joy, that we may love our neighbors and bring Christ into their lives.

THE THIRD JOYFUL MYSTERY: The Nativity of Our Lord

Jesus is born in Bethlehem. FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: Poverty of Spirit

Luke 2:4-17

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this things that has happened, which the Lord has made know to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told to them concerning this child.

- HAIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, *who was born to you in Bethlehem*. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS-----

- The all-powerful God condescended to the weakness and smallness of a helpless baby to redeem us from the bondage of sin.
- The innkeeper could have been transformed by saying yes to Christ.
- How often do we refuse Christ in our lives because we are too busy or have other *important* things to do?
- What are the consequences of our no—our refusal to give God all that we are and all that we aspire to in this life?
- The angels shared the good news first with those who were lowly and despised.
- We can count on God's answers to our prayers, but often in unexpected ways—a stable instead of a room.
- The Wise Men demonstrated extraordinary effort to give their best to God.
- Do we give God our best time, best efforts, best talents—or just what is left over?
- The angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest!" We echo their words at every Sunday Mass and at the end of each decade of the Rosary.

CONCLUDING PRAYER-----

Pray for us, Mary cause of our joy, that our of our love for Christ we may detach our hearts from the material things and the esteem of the world.

THE FOURTH JOYFUL MYSTERY: The Presentation

Jesus is presented in the temple. FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: Obedience.

Luke 2:22-35

And when time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, she brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord" (as it is written in the law of the Lord)) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." 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 lettest thou 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 risings 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."

- HAIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, *whom you presented in the Temple*. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS-----

- At the Presentation, Mary experience joy yet glimpses the pain to come. Her response is to maintain her steadfast yes as an act of trust in and obedience to God.
- Trust in God's promises sustained Simeon. Do we cling to God when we don't understand or when answers seem to be slow in coming?
- Are we obedient to God in spite of our lack of understanding or even desire?
- "The presentation of Jesus in the temple shows Him to be the firstborn son who belongs to the Lord."
- Simeon's faith and desire for God allowed him to recognize Christ.
- Joseph's faithful offering of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons was a poor man's alternative to a lamb. When we offer all that we can, God receives it with no less value than an offering that might be greater in the eyes of the world.
- The Holy Family faithfully obeyed the law of Moses as if God had personally given the law.
- Do we obey the teachings of the Church in the same way, or do we pridefully elevate ourselves above the Wisdom of the ages?
- In this mystery, as in most of the Gospel, Joseph is content to be the quiet protector of Jesus and Mary without desiring any recognition for himself.

CONCLUDING PRAYER-----

Pray for us, Mary cause of our joy, that we may wholeheartedly obey Christ and His Church.

THE FIFTH JOYFUL MYSTERY: The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

After searching for Him for three days, Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple.

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: Piety

Luke 2:41-52

Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; all who heard Him were amazed and his understanding and His answers. And when they saw Him they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And He said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I would be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

- HAIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, *whom you found in the Temple*. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS-----

- God promises, "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."
- Do we actively and purposefully seek God daily in all aspects of our lives?
- "Even the closest of human relationships are challenged by the absolute demands of the Kingdom."
- Are we aware of our call to holiness, and have we embraced it?
- The Holy Family made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem every year. Do we follow this wise pattern of rest and renewal and take our families on pilgrimages to holy places?
- Jesus imparted wisdom to the rabbis in the Temple. He will give us wisdom if we spend time adoring Him in the Blessed Sacrament and engaging Him in prayer through the Scriptures.
- The teachers were impressed with the young Jesus' words. Are we open to being taught by God through faces and circumstances that are unexpected and out of the norm?
- Mary's question is direct, simple, and honest: "Son, why have you treated us so?" Our prayers should likewise be direct, simple, and honest.
- Mary "treasured all these things in her heart." Do we practice daily mental prayer and reflection on the person and work of Christ?

CONCLUDING PRAYER-----

Pray for us, Mary cause of our joy, that we will seek, find, and embrace Jesus in the Mass and in the sacraments.

HAIL HOLY QUEEN, CONCLUDING PRAYER, ST. MICHAEL PRAYER

— THE —
CONTEMPLATIVE
ROSAARY



with St. John Paul II
and St. Teresa of Avila

—
DAN BURKE and CONNIE ROSSINI



Includes the *National Catholic Register's* New Guide to the Rosary

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

THE FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY: The Agony in the Garden

Jesus prays in Gethsemane on the night before his death. **FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY:** Conformity to God's Will

Luke 22:39-46

And He came out, and went, as was His custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed Him. And when He came to the place He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, "Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." And there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly; and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground. And when He rose from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

HAIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, **who suffered agony in the garden for my sins**. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS -----

- In the Garden of Gethsemane, "Jesus encounters all the temptations and confronts all the sins of humanity, in order to say to the Father: 'Not my will but yours be done.'"
- Jesus' intense agony was rooted in what He knew He was about to face – His own brutal torture and execution. Like Jesus, though in a much smaller way, we face difficult decisions, stress, and pain in our daily lives.
- As we face these trials, we can face them with Him, knowing that He understands what it means to suffer and that He will give us the strength to endure and overcome.
- "By accepting in His human will that the Father's will be done, He accepts His death as redemptive."
- "Could you not stay one hour with me?" Are we too busy to make a holy hour in the presence of the Eucharist for the one who gave all for us?
- "Father, if you are willing . . . "It is no shame to pray, and hope, for the pain to pass us by, so long as our final prayer is to trust God for the answer that we or others need most.
- Jesus asked His closest friend to pray with Him in His agony. When I am in trouble, others' prayers can support me.
- Do I comfort Christ in His suffering by comforting those who suffer?
- The disciples disobey Christ's command not because they are wicked, but because they give in to the weakness or draw of their nature. That is often the reason I sin and the reason I need to practice self-denial daily or weekly as a regular spiritual exercise to strengthen me against my weakness.

CONCLUDING PRAYER -----

Pray for us, Mary, Mother of Sorrows,

That we may humbly embrace God's will in all things.

THE SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY: The Scourging at the Pillar

Christ is scourged by the soldiers at Pilate's command. **FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY:** Mortification

Mark 15:15

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas; and having scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

HAIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, **who was scourged for my iniquities.** Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS -----

- "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed."
- Roman scourges would tear away flesh, and the victim would lose blood, weakening him for crucifixion.
- The soldiers avoided striking over the heart, to keep the victim alive and thus to maximize his suffering.
- "The Church does not hesitate to impute to Christians the gravest responsibility for the torments inflicted upon Jesus."
- If He suffered this because of us and for us, there is nothing we should ever refuse to do for Him.
- In imitation of Christ, we must offer ourselves to God and entrust all that we are to Him, even if that means suffering.
- We must offer our suffering on behalf of others and the suffering that comes when we say no to self and yes to God and the needs of others.
- Now the cost of Christ's faithfulness to His Father's will is made manifest.
- In the garden, Heaven's help was obvious – an angel. In the scourging, the interior grace of hope is Christ's only help. We can expect the same when we give ourselves to God and offer up our pain for others in the midst of our suffering.

CONCLUDING PRAYER -----

Pray for us, Mary, Mother of Sorrows,

That we may accept sufferings and setbacks out of love for Christ.

THE THIRD SORROWFUL MYSTERY: The Crowning with Thorns

The soldiers weave a crown of thorns and press it onto Christ's head. **FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY:**
Moral Courage

Matthew 27:28-30; John 19:4-6

And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe upon Him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on His head, and put a reed in His right hand. And kneeling before Him they mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spat upon Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.

Pilate went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in Him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no crime in Him."

HAIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, ***who was mocked and crowned with thorns because of my transgressions***. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS -----

- "Ecce homo! This abject suffering reveals not only the love of God but also the meaning of man himself."
- We too must accept suffering that comes when we authentically and unequivocally identify ourselves with Christ before the world.
- "There is not, never has been, and never will be a single human being for whom Christ did not suffer." This includes those we most dislike or despise.
- Jesus is truly our King, but we give Him the thorns of our pride.
- We might avoid evangelizing out of fear of ridicule. But without risking ridicule, we will never fully imitate Christ.
- Even the Rosary can be an empty crown if we merely "say" it instead of pray it.
- My sincere adoration of Jesus as I pray the Rosary combats the mockery of the Roman soldiers.
- Jesus returns the soldiers' hate with love. How often do we do the same?
- Jesus' suffering can purify my heart and my thoughts and grant me "the mind of Christ."

CONCLUDING PRAYER -----

Pray for us, Mary, Mother of Sorrows,

That we may witness to the Gospel, even at cost to ourselves.

THE FOURTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY: The Carrying of the Cross

Jesus Carries His Heavy Cross to Calvary. **FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY:** Patience

John 19:17; Luke 23:26

So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing His own cross. And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus.

HAIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, ***who embraced the Cross because of my sins***. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS -----

- “The meaning, origin and fulfillment of man is to be found in Christ, the God who humbles himself out of love ‘even until death, death on a cross.’”
- Jesus was ridiculed, tortured, and crucified for us. He understands the plight of the abused, oppressed, and all those who suffer at the hands of others.
- Christ accepted His heavy Cross without professing His innocence, because He was carrying it for the guilty - for us.
- In His suffering, Christ is surrounded not by throngs of those who love Him, but instead by those who hate and mock Him.
- Although He has the power to stop it all and bring all to justice, He patiently endures His torture so that we might be redeemed.
- The cross I have been given has been hand-tested by Christ so that it will be neither too heavy nor too light.
- The Blessed Mother was close by when her Son was suffering. She is also close by when we, her other children, suffer.
- Are we sick of trying to be holy and always failing?
- Our struggle for holiness, with all of its stumbling and fumbling, is our lifelong way of the cross. We need not despair, but we must get up and keep trying and ask Christ, the exemplar of patience, to help us to be patient in our trials.

CONCLUDING PRAYER -----

Pray for us, Mary, Mother of Sorrows,

That we may practice patience with ourselves and with others.

THE FIFTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY: The Crucifixion

Jesus is nailed to the Cross and dies. **FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY:** Salvation

John 19:23-30

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 seams, 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 Clopas, 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 to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst." A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, He said, "It is finished;" and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

HAIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, **who was crucified because of my sins**. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS -----

- "The sorrowful mysteries help the believer to relive the death of Jesus, to stand at the foot of the Cross beside Mary, to enter with her into the depths of God's love for man and to experience all its life-giving power."
- "On the cross, Jesus became sin personified that we may never be afraid to come to Him Who never will reject us."
- "He has suffered everything we suffer and He is closest to those who feel the most sinful and the farthest away, for they are the ones who resemble Him the most when He was alone and abandoned on the cross."
- "It is 'love to the end' that confers on Christ's sacrifice, its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction."
- Christ died for the very people who were mocking Him, blaspheming Him, and killing Him. He created those whom He knew would torture and reject Him.
- His love transcends His suffering and discomfort. Do we love in a way that endures suffering and betrayal?
- "Apart from the Cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven."
- "Since our sins made the Lord Christ suffer the torment of the cross, those who plunge themselves into disorders and crimes crucify the Son of God anew."
- "The Church, following the apostles, teaches that Christ died for all men without exception." Do we offer His love to all, so that His death for them will not be in vain?

CONCLUDING PRAYER -----

Pray for us, Mary, Mother of Sorrows,

That Christ's death on the Cross may save us from sin and condemnation.

HAIL! HOLY QUEEN, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile, show unto us the Blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement! O loving! O sweet Virgin Mary!

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

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

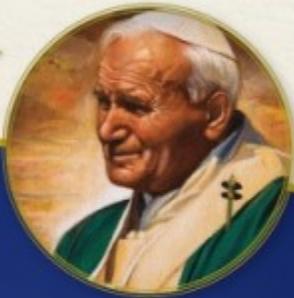
Let us pray.

O God, Whose, only-begotten Son, by His life, Death, and Resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation; grant we beseech thee, that meditating upon these mysteries in the most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain, and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into Hell Satan and all evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

THE
CONTEMPLATIVE
ROSARY



with St. John Paul II
and St. Teresa of Avila

DAN BURKE and CONNIE ROSSINI



Includes the *National Catholic Register's* New Guide to the Rosary

Excerpts from

The Luminous Mysteries

The First Luminous Mystery

The Baptism of the Lord in the River Jordan

Fruit of the Mystery: Openness to the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

(Matthew 3:1-2, 11-17)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying "I need to be baptized by You and do You come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; For thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized he went up immediately from the water and behold the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove alighting on Him; And lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Our Father....

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, **who was baptized by John**. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS:

- "The Baptism of Jesus is on His part the humble acceptance and inauguration of his mission as God's suffering servant." (CCC 546) Are we open to our mission from God? Do we humbly accept it, or do we insist on our way?
- "The Christian must enter into this mystery of humble self-abasement and repentance, go down into the water with Jesus in order to rise with Him, and be reborn of water and the Spirit so as to become the Father's beloved son in the Son and 'walk in the newness of life.'" (CCC537, Rom. 6:4)
- With this mystery begins "the revelation of the Kingdom now present in the very person of Jesus." (RVM 21)
- As God was pleased with Jesus, so to he is pleased with us when we follow his promptings and avoid quenching the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- For John, only Christ's message mattered, not the world's standards what are our priorities?
- Are there people, places, or things that we are more concerned about than our relationship with him?
- People were attracted to John, despite his appearance, because of his radical fidelity to God.
- When we are open to the Holy Spirit, he will shine through us and draw others to himself because of our radical fidelity to him and his church.
- Like the ancient Israelites Jesus passed through water and then God led him into the desert. We too must be open to God's redemption and the leading of the Holy Spirit as he works to purify us and prepare us for heaven.

Glory Be...

Fatima Prayer...

CONCLUDING PRAYER: Pray for us, Mary, star of the New Evangelization, *that we may be radically faithful to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.*

The Second Luminous Mystery

The Wedding Feast at Cana

Fruit of the Mystery: Meeting Jesus through Mary

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

(John 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 20 or 30 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. 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."

Our Father....

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, **who revealed his glory at your request**. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS:

- From the beginning, Christ imparts the faith to his disciples through Mary, "the first among believers."
- This, the first of His signs, manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.
- Jesus chooses this for His first miracle to demonstrate clearly His regard for Mary's petitions and for marriage.
- Mary notices the needs of those around her and commends them to Christ. We can rely on her to do the same for us, and we should do the same for others.
- Through the rosary, we ask Mary to intercede on our behalf, just as Mary interceded with Jesus at the wedding at Cana.
- Jesus "saves the best for last."
- As we grow in intimacy with Jesus our joy and peace will increase.
- If we bring our needs to Mary she will take care of them with and through her Son.
- Mary's only directive in Scripture, and the focal point of the entire rosary, is: "Do whatever He tells you."

Glory Be...

Fatima Prayer...

CONCLUDING PRAYER: Pray for us, Mary, star of the New Evangelization, *Be our advocate; Bring us to Christ.*

The Third Luminous Mystery

The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

Fruit of the Mystery: Repentance

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

(Matthew 4:17, 23-25)

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand." And He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people. So His fame spread throughout all Syria and they brought Him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and He healed them. And great crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.

Our Father....

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, **who preached the Kingdom and forgiveness of sins**. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS:

- Jesus invites the broken hearted and those who have fallen into sin to the Kingdom and "forgives the sins of all who draw near to him in a humble trust." (RVM 21)
- Authentic repentance is the fruit of humility.
- To become a helpless and trusting child in relation to God "is the condition for entering the Kingdom." (Matt 18:3-4) "For this, we must humble ourselves and become little." (CCC 526)
- Christ is the King of everything: truth, our leisure time, the business world, our families.
- Do we recognize Christ's reign in all areas of our lives?
- We pray, "Thy Kingdom come!" but the next part of the Our Father demands something of us: "Thy will be done." Do we yield to God's will in everything?
- We act as if we were kings: things have to be our way. But Christ's is a Kingdom of service to others, not domination of others.
- "Now is the day of salvation." Are we ready?
- If there are areas of our lives that are not in conformity to His call, in what ways can we specifically turn away from sin and selfishness and turn to God today?

Glory Be...

Fatima Prayer...

CONCLUDING PRAYER: Pray for us, Mary, star of the New Evangelization. *That we may truly repent and avoid sin and its near occasion.*

The Fourth Luminous Mystery

The Transfiguration

Fruit of the Mystery: Desire for Holiness

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

(Matthew 17:1-9)

And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, his brother, and lead them up a high mountain. And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord it is well that we are here; If You wish I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him."

Our Father....

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, **who was transfigured on Mount Tabor**. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS:

- "The glory of the Godhead shines forth from the face of Christ" (RVM 21). Contemplating God in Christ is the goal of the Contemplative Rosary.
- "The Transfiguration gives us a foretaste of Christ's glorious coming...But it also recalls that 'it is through many persecutions that we must enter the Kingdom of God.' (Acts 14:22)" (CCC 556).
- Peter sought to stay on Mount Tabor and bask in the glory of the revelation of God. Christ calls him (and us) first to Calvary. We will have plenty of time for Tabor in Heaven.
- "It is good for us" to spend time in prayer contemplating the person and work of Jesus daily.
- Since all the Scriptures point to Christ, meditating on Sacred Scripture is an indispensable way to come to understand Jesus and His mission.
- The three apostles were rewarded for (1) saying yes to Christ's invitation, (2) praying, and (3) staying close to Him.
- The Blessed Trinity provided the apostles with a glimpse of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection in order to give them hope to last through His coming suffering and death.
- Do we spend time in prayer gazing upon Him in order to allow God to give us the strength and encouragement we need to face the crosses in our lives?
- The Transfiguration not only offers us a glimpse of Jesus in all his glory, it also offers each of us a foretaste of what God promises each of us in the fullness of the Kingdom.

Glory Be...

Fatima Prayer...

CONCLUDING PRAYER: Pray for us, Mary, star of the New Evangelization. *That desire for holiness may set our hearts ablaze.*

The Fifth Luminous Mystery

The Institution of the Eucharist

Fruit of the Mystery: Eucharistic Adoration

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

(Luke 22:15-20)

And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the Kingdom of God comes." And He took bread, and when He had given thanks He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after supper, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Our Father...

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, **who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist**. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

REFLECTIONS:

- In offering His Body and Blood as food and drink, Jesus "testifies 'to the end' his love for humanity, for whose salvation he will offer himself in sacrifice." (RVM 21; John 13:1)
- God said, "Let there be light." And there was. Here He says, "This is my Body." And it is.
- If I do not encounter or experience the reality of Christ in the Eucharist, it is likely that I need to change my life: forgive more, serve more, pray more, prepare better for Mass.
- God gives Himself totally to me in the Eucharist. How can I give myself more fully to Him in response?
- Do I prepare my heart to encounter Him at mass, or do I rush in and out as if it's no big deal?
- Do I spend time distracted or socializing rather than orienting my heart to Him?
- Eucharist means "thanksgiving." Am I properly thankful for God's love and forgiveness?
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will increase my love for the Eucharistic Jesus if I will take the time to give myself to Him.
- How can I better prepare myself for receiving this great gift at Mass?

Glory Be...

Fatima Prayer...

CONCLUDING PRAYER: Pray for us, Mary, star of the New Evangelization. *Help us receive Christ as you did, with reverence and love.*

Hail Holy Queen...

Closing Prayer...

Saint Michael Prayer...