

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Sign of the Cross: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

The Apostles Creed: **I believe in God**, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father, Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

3 times: **Hail Mary** full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death Amen.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

First Mystery: The Annunciation

I like to imagine Mary praying in a garden when the Angel Gabriel appears to ask her if she will bear the Messiah. Mary's fiat (or "yes") reverses the disobedience ("no") of Eve in the Garden of Eden. The Annunciation reminds us that we can follow Mary's example and do God's will for us (Luke 1:38), or we can follow Eve's example and defy God (Genesis 3:6). He gives us free will to make each choice. How will you choose today?

Our Father...
10 Hail Mary's
Glory be...

Second Mystery: The Visitation

Mary brings the tiny baby Jesus out into the world for the first time as she makes the long journey to visit her cousin Elizabeth. When we receive the Eucharist at Mass, we are taking Jesus out into the world, hidden within our bodies as He was once hidden in the womb of His mother. Do we act as if we are human tabernacles, carrying the precious presence of Jesus to others, or do we go back to our normal behavior when we leave the church?

Our Father...
10 Hail Mary's
Glory be...

Third Mystery: The Nativity of Our Lord

Jesus was born on a piercing cold winter night in a shelter for animals, the most humble place imaginable! He came to earth to serve, not to be served (Mark 10:45). Do we live our lives in service to others or to ourselves? Are we storing up earthly treasures, or do we strive each day to add more heavenly treasures to our stockpile?

Our Father...
10 Hail Mary's
Glory be...

Fourth Mystery: The Presentation in the Temple

I often wonder if the people on the road to Jerusalem ever stopped to notice a poor young couple and their tiny infant, slowly making their way toward the Temple. Did they realize that the very Messiah was in their midst, or did they rush on by, too preoccupied with their own concerns? Jesus is present in each and every one of us. Do we take the time to notice our fellow human beings and treat them with love?

Our Father...
10 Hail Mary's
Glory be...

Fifth Mystery: The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

It was so obvious, wasn't it? Yet not even Jesus' own parents thought to look for Him in His Father's house! Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament in every Catholic church. He's waiting for us, hoping that we will look in the obvious place. Do you take the time to stop and visit Him, even for just a few minutes?

Our Father...
10 Hail Mary's
Glory be...

Fatima Prayer: O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are in most need of Thy mercy.

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

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

Prayer at the end:

O, God, Whose only-begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech Thee, that, meditating upon these mysteries of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

The Angelus

V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. (*Hail Mary*)

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to Thy word. (*Hail Mary*)

V. And the Word was made flesh.

R. And dwelt among us. (*Hail Mary*)

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

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

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may, by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His resurrection. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord

and let perpetual light shine upon them (*three times*)

May they rest in peace. Amen.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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