

General Rosary Info

- It is widely believed that in 1214 St. Dominic had a vision of Mary. She is said to have presented him with the rosary, both the beads and the prayers to be prayed. It meditates on the divine life of her son Jesus.
- The Rosary is a combination a vocal prayer and mental prayer. We spend time reflecting on the important events in the life of Jesus Christ and his mother.
- The rosary is a very powerful weapon against all kinds of sin. It has the power to save souls and it helps us grow in virtue and gives us so many graces for Mary to help us in our spiritual battles.
- The mysteries of the Rosary are the Joyful Mysteries, the Luminous Mysteries, the Sorrowful Mysteries, and the Glorious Mysteries.
- The Joyful Mysteries are typically prayed on Monday and Saturday, the Luminous Mysteries on Thursday, the Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesday and Friday, and the Glorious Mysteries on Wednesday and Sunday.
- Each set of mysteries allows us to ponder very specific events in the lives of Jesus and Mary.
- The rosary has 59 beads, a crucifix, and a medal.
- Prayers said in the rosary are the Apostles Creed, Our Father, Glory Be, Hail Mary, Fatima Prayer, and Hail Holy Queen.

The Joyful Mysteries

The First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation.

- An angel appeared to Mary, and told her she would be the mother of the savior, the mother of God.
- During the annunciation Gabriel the angel appears to Mary. He greets her in a very special way he says "hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" He lets her know of god's plan, that she had found Grace with God and she was going to conceive a son. This son would be named Jesus, who would be called the son of the most high, he would rein in the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom would have no end.
- Mary took in all this information. She didn't say no, she didn't question or skip a beat. She said "behold the handmade of the Lord, let it be done to me according to thy word."
- Where Eve sinned, and said no to God, Mary is sinless and says yes.
- The annunciation was the greatest news ever brought from heaven to earth. It is the news that God is going to become a man.

The Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation

-After the Annunciation, the selfless Mary rushed off to serve her cousin, Elizabeth, who was pregnant in her old age.

-When Mary gets close to Elizabeth and speaks, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy and Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit.

-Elizabeth is now aware of what is going on with Mary. She says "blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb... How does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord you come to me?... Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." If you want to read the whole interaction, read Luke 1:39-45.

-Mary's reaction to what Elizabeth says is a beautiful song of praise that we call the Magnificat. It is with Mary herself, like the church, traces all her greatness back to God.

The Third Joyful Mystery: The Birth of Jesus

-Jesus, the king of kings, is born in meek and humble beginnings. He's born in a stable and then laid in the manger.

-Jesus enters the world in poverty to teach the lesson of detachment from earthly things.

-An angel announces to the shepherds: "Today there is born to you in the town of David, a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord."

-The angelic chorus sing: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth."

-The shepherds come to the stable to pay homage to the Infant Jesus.

-The Magi come to adore the Holy Child and offer Him gifts.

The Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation

-Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple forty days after his birth to complete Mary's ritual purification after childbirth, and to perform the redemption of the firstborn and dedicate him to God. This was in accordance to the Law of Moses, found in Leviticus and Exodus.

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

-When Jesus was 12, he and his parents are on their way home from celebrating the Passover in Jerusalem. Jesus wanders away from the caravan without telling them.

-They quickly returned to Jerusalem. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

-Jesus actually seemed surprised that Mary and Joseph would be worried about His whereabouts. He asked His mother when she found Him "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know I must be about my Father's business?"

The Luminous Mysteries

The First Luminous Mystery: The Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan

-Jesus came from Galilee to see John at the Jordan River to be baptized by him. John was surprised and a little confused. He basically tells Jesus, "I need to be baptized by you, and here you are coming to me?"

-Jesus said, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." John did as he was told.

-Once Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove. A voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

The Second Luminous Mystery: The Wedding Feast at Cana

-Mary, Jesus and his disciples are invited to a wedding. When the wine runs out, Mary says to Jesus, "They have no wine." And Jesus says to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and me? My hour has not come." Mary then says to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

-There were 6 stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification. Each one could hold 20 or 30 gallons of water. Jesus told them "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

-Then he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had now become wine and did not know where it came from (even though the servants who gave him the water knew) the steward called the bride-groom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

-This was Jesus's miracle. It revealed his glory and his disciples believed in him.

The Third Luminous Mystery: The Proclamation of the Kingdom.

-Our Lord proclaims the coming of the kingdom at various times in his years of public ministry; it wasn't a one-time event. However, when we pray the Third Luminous Mystery of the Rosary, we can recall any one of these events of his proclamation for our contemplation. One such reading is Matthew 5:1-12.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; And after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The Fourth Luminous Mystery: The Transfiguration.

-Jesus takes Peter, John and James up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became dazzling white.

-Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. He appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which was going to happen in Jerusalem.

-Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" -not knowing what he said.

-While he was saying this, a cloud came in and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they enter the cloud. Then from the cloud a voice came that said, "This is my son, my chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days and told no one of anything they had seen.

The 5th Luminous Mystery: The Institution of the Eucharist

-When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

-Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "take this and divide it amongst yourselves; I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

-Then he took a loaf of 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 he did the same with the cup after supper saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

The Glorious Mysteries

The First Glorious Mystery: The Resurrection

-Depending on the gospel you read, there are slightly different accounts about how things transpired after Jesus' resurrection. This is Matthew's account of events.

-After the Sabbath Mary Magdalen and the other Mary went to the tomb.

-When they arrived at the tomb, there was an earthquake and an angel came down from heaven, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. The guards were so frightened they ran away in fear.

-The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. "Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him."

-So they ran quickly to tell his disciples, and the way they saw Jesus. They stopped took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there you will see me."

The Second Glorious Mystery: The Ascension

-For forty days since the Resurrection, Jesus lived among the apostles.

-He ate with them and taught them new things concerning the Kingdom of God.

-One night, they came together and they asked Him, "Lord, is this the time you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

-"But he said to them: It is not for you to know the times or moments, which the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive the power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

-When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight.

-While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why stand you looking up to heaven? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him going into heaven."

The Third Glorious Mystery- Pentecost (Descent of the Holy Spirit)

-When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the spirit gave them ability.

-Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?"

The Fourth Glorious Mystery: The Assumption of Mary

-The Assumption of Mary into heaven is not recorded in Scriptures. It can however be deduced from Scripture and is a dogma of the Catholic Faith.

-When Mary died Jesus' apostles and disciples felt an overwhelming joy and a profound grief. Joy that Mary was now united with her Son and grief at the loss of their Mother. They would have to wait for their own earthly journey to come to an end before they would see her and their Lord, Jesus again.

-Mary was conceived without sin and Jesus would not allow her body to decay.

-The devil had no power over her.

-Jesus took her, body and soul up to Heaven where He had a place prepared for her.

-There she is now, among the angels and the saints praising God and interceding on her dear children's behalf.

The Fifth Glorious Mystery- The Coronation of Mary

-The Coronation of Mary is also not recounted in scripture, nevertheless it is deeply rooted in scripture.

-It is said that after Jesus took Mary, body and soul into heaven, He crowned her Queen of heaven and earth.

-This only makes sense because by her very relationship as the mother of Jesus, Mary is queen because Jesus is King. And who is a king's mother? A queen of course. And Mary is the greatest queen ever for she is the mother of the King of Kings and the Prince of Peace, Jesus.

-The Angel Gabriel declared this to be true when he said, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the most High; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of David his father; and he shall reign in the house of Jacob forever. And of his kingdom there shall be no end." -Luke 1:32-33

-In the book of revelations we read "A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, the moon was under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars"

-According to a reading from the First Letter of Peter, Mary received the promised "never fading crown of glory" because her life so perfectly resembled that of her Son's and because she shared in all His sufferings. -1Peter 5:4

-As a reward for her holiness and perfection of virtues, Jesus gave her dominion over the Angels and the Saints as their queen.

Sorrowful Mysteries

First Sorrowful Mystery: The Agony in the Garden

-Jesus comes with his disciples to Gethsemane: "Stay here, while I go there and pray."

-He enters the garden with Peter, James, and John, Jesus prays, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here and stay awake with me"

-Jesus walked further and through himself on the ground to pray. He sees the sins of all mankind, whose guilt He has taken upon Himself.

-An angel appears to Him from heaven to strengthen Him.

-He finds the disciples asleep 3 times: "Could you not watch one hour with me?"

-Jesus is betrayed by Judas, cruelly bound and led away.

The Second Sorrowful Mystery – The Scourging at the Pillar

- Jesus is taken before the High Priest where He is falsely accused
- The Jewish leaders take Jesus before Pilate, for only he can impose the death penalty.
- The robber, Barabbas, is preferred to Jesus.
- Pilate can “find no cause in Him”, yet to appease the Jews, he orders Jesus to be scourged/ flogged and sent to his death.
- The scourge is made of leather thongs to which are attached small sharp bones or stones.
- Jesus is bound to a pillar and cruelly scourged until His whole body is covered with deep wounds.

The Third Sorrowful Mystery – The Crowning With Thorns

- Having Jesus Scourged, the cruel soldiers mocked Him and crowned Him with thorns.
- They clothed Him in a scarlet robe, the color of royalty.
- Then they pressed upon his head a thorn crown.
- They placed a reed into His right hand, like a scepter, to made fun of His Divine Kingship.
- The executioners pranced around Jesus shouting, "Hail King of the Jews" and they mocked him by bowing down before Him.
- They taunted Him and took the reed from His hand and struck His head with it, driving the thorns more deeply into His scalp.
- Pilate brings Jesus before the people, hoping His pitiful sight will soften them: “Behold the man!”
- Their response: “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”

Fourth Sorrowful Mystery: The Carrying of the Cross

- Once condemned to death by crucifixion he is forced to carry the cross to the place of execution.
- The suffering of Jesus is intense as the cross is laid on His bruised and wounded back and shoulders.
- Weak and exhausted from loss of blood, lack of food and rest, -Jesus falls three times under the cross.
- Jesus meets His afflicted Mother causing untold anguish in the Hearts of Son and Mother.
- The countenance of Jesus is disfigured with blood and sweat, and dust. Veronica wipes His face, leaving on her towel the image of His countenance.
- Fearing that Jesus might die on the way, the soldiers force Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross behind Jesus.
- Jesus speaks to weeping women: “Weep not for Me, but for yourselves and your children.”

Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion and Death

-After the miserable journey carrying his cross, Jesus finally arrived at the place where He is going to be crucified. He is exhausted.

-The executioners offered Him wine mixed with a sedative, but when Jesus tasted it, He refused to drink.

-Between the hours of 9 and 12 o'clock, Jesus was crucified between two thieves, one on His right and the other on His left.

-The hands and feet of Jesus are nailed to the cross in the presence of His Mother.

-Some of Jesus' last words:

“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”

“This day you will be with Me in paradise.”

“Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your Mother.”

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

“I thirst.”

“It is paid in full.”

“Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.”

-When he was dead, the side of Jesus is pierced with a lance. His body is taken down and placed in the arms of His Mother.