

The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary – Theme: Rosary of Thanksgiving

I am glad to be joined this evening by the Samler Family, Kirk, Theresa, Jacob and Brooke.

In the Rosary this evening our focus or theme is thanksgiving or gratitude. As you may know, one of the keys to a happy and meaningful life is the attitude of gratitude. I often say to our school-children, “*grateful people are happy people.*” So even though we are living in a time of global pandemic which can cause much stress, we also need to be aware of the things we are grateful for. In this Rosary, we will name some of these things.

First Mystery: The Annunciation

While we reflect on the wonderful moment when Mary said ‘Yes’ to being the mother of Jesus, we thank God and ask God’s blessings on all those who work in the ‘birthing’ section of hospitals or all those who deliver babies outside of hospitals in the poverty-stricken areas of our world. Also, we pray for and give thanks for all those who work in Pregnancy Crisis Centers all over the world helping women with difficult pregnancies to keep their child. We also remember all mothers who have miscarried a child that they may remember their child is now their heavenly child. During this Covid-19 Time, we thank God for all the brave people working on the front lines to fighting this terrible virus.

Second Mystery: The Visitation

This event recalls Mary’s 80 mile walk to visit her cousin Elizabeth who in her older years had conceived a child. During this decade we remember and give thanks for all who work with and visit the elderly. We also pray that we can develop an attitude of gratitude in our daily lives – grateful for all the things we can easily take for granted, e.g., food, shelter and health.

Third Mystery. The Birth of Jesus

In this mystery, we remember how Jesus, the divine Son of God, was born in poverty. We remember the millions of children who continue to be born in poverty and into loveless families. We give thanks for all the wonderful people who care for abandoned children and for all the generous people who adopt a child or who are foster parents. We also thank God for the members of our own family and for our church family.

Fourth Mystery: The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

As we meditate on this moment in Jesus’s life, we pray for all unbaptized children and for all who work in childcare centers.

Fifth Mystery: The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

In this mystery or event, we reflect on the frightening moment in Mary and Joseph’s life when they realized Jesus was missing. We also reflect on the joyful moment when they found Jesus. In this final decade, we pray for all parents who are currently living with the terrible experience of a missing child. We pray for the conversion of all who kidnap children. We give thanks for all of you who each Sunday join us in praying the Rosary. Finally, we pray again that all of us may grow in the spirit of gratitude for the blessings of life.