

## **The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary - Theme: God's Unconditional Love**

Our theme this evening, as we pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, is God's unconditional love for us. This means that there is nothing we can do to stop God from loving us. Nothing. This is surely Good News.

So as we pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, we are invited to ask for the grace to have a deeper sense of the wonderful love God has for us. You are also invited to pray that others, including members of our family, may discover, perhaps for the first time, a sense of God's unconditional and transforming love.

### ***First Mystery: The Annunciation***

The Annunciation is God knocking not only at the door of Mary's heart, but also at our heart, asking if his love can enter. During this decade, let us pray that we and others can open wide the doors of our hearts to Jesus to receive all the love he wants to pour into them.

### ***Second Mystery: The Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth***

In this event, we ponder the love Mary carried in her heart for her cousin Elizabeth as she made about an 80-mile journey across the Judean countryside. Both Mary and Elizabeth are wonderful examples of people who opened wide their hearts to God. God's love for us frequently comes through our encounters with others. During this decade, let us pray to obtain the grace we need to *discern* how God's love comes to us through our encounters with others during this coming week.

### ***Third Mystery: The Birth of Jesus***

2,000 years ago, the Word of God—the Love of God—became flesh and took on human form in the child Jesus. Amazing that the God who created the heavens and the earth was now a tiny vulnerable, dependent infant. As we ponder this mystery, this great example of God's love for us, let us pray that the Holy Spirit will open our eyes to *see* the many human ways God loves us.

### ***Fourth Mystery: The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple***

In this mystery or event, we ponder that moment in time when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple to dedicate him to God. When we were brought to Church for baptism, the love of God was poured into our hearts. So during this decade, let us pray for the grace to be more aware of God's unconditional love that was poured into our hearts at Baptism and continues to be poured into our hearts when we receive the Eucharist.

### ***Fifth Mystery: The Finding of Jesus in the Temple***

Few, if any, things are scarier for parents than the experience that their child is missing. This was what Mary and Joseph dealt with in this event. We can only imagine how it grieves the hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph when we lose sense of their unconditional love for each of us. During this decade, let us pray for loved ones, and ourselves, too, that God's love for us may be restored or found again, if missing.