

First Saturdays Devotion - Rosary Meditations

Select six or seven (the ones which touch your heart the most), and read them out loud every two to three minutes.

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation.

1. Coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." Luke 1:28
2. But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Luke 1:29
3. "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." Luke 1:30

Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation.

1. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit. Luke 1:41
2. "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Luke 1:42-43
3. "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness." Luke 1:46-48

Third Joyful Mystery: The Birth of Jesus.

1. In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled... Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. Luke 2:1, 4-5
2. When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. Galatians 4:4
3. The time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:6-7
4. Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:13-14
5. And on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11

Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation in the Temple.

1. "When a woman has a child, giving birth to a boy... when the [forty] days of her purification... are complete, she shall bring to the priest at the door of the meeting tent... two turtle doves or two young pigeons." Leviticus 12:2-8
2. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted." Luke 2:34

1. 3. There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher... And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. Luke 2:36,38

Fifth Joyful Mystery: Finding in the Temple.

1. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Luke 2:40
2. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Luke 2:42-43
3. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. Luke 2:46-47
4. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. Luke 2:51

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

First Sorrowful Mystery: The Agony in the Garden.

1. "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done." And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. Luke 22: 42-43
2. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became as drops of blood falling on the ground. Luke 22:44
3. Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and said to them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." He said to them, "I am He." Judas his betrayer was also with them. When he said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. John 18:4-6
4. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its scabbard. Shall I not drink the cup that the Father gave me?" John 18:11

Second Sorrowful Mystery: The Scourging at the Pillar.

1. Pilate addressed them a third time, "What evil has this man done? I found him guilty of no capital crime. Therefore, I shall have him flogged and then release him." Luke 23:22
2. They cried out again, "Not this one but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a revolutionary. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. John 18:40, 19:1
3. So he released the man who had been imprisoned for rebellion and murder, for whom they asked, and he handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they wished. Luke 23:25

Third Sorrowful Mystery: The Crowning with Thorns.

1. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. Matthew 27:27-30
2. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them, "Behold, the man!" John 19:2-5
3. They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him. They began to salute him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. Mark 15:17-19

Fourth Sorrowful Mystery: The Carrying of the Cross.

1. As they led him away, they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus. Luke 23:16
2. A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children. Luke 23:27-28

3. And carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. John 19:17
4. "At that time people will say to the mountains, fall upon us!' and to the hills, Cover us!'" Luke 23:30

Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion.

1. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Luke 23:33
2. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." Luke 23:34
3. The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (Luke 23:40-42)
4. Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. (John 19:25-27)
5. It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this, he breathed his last. (Luke 23:44-46)

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

First Glorious Mystery: The Resurrection.

1. After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. Matthew 28:1-2
2. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here." Mark 16:6
3. Mary [Magdalene] stayed outside the tomb weeping... Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. John 20:11-16
4. Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." John 20:27-29

Second Glorious Mystery: The Ascension.

1. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3
2. When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. Acts 1:6-7
3. But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. Acts 1:8-9
4. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven." Acts 1:11
5. "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Matthew 28:20b

Third Glorious Mystery: The Descent of the Holy Spirit.

1. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the holy Spirit." Acts 1:4-5
2. When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Acts 2:1-2
3. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. Acts 2:4
4. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language? Acts 2:7-8
5. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'It will come to pass in the last days,' God says, 'that I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all flesh. Acts 2:16-17

Fourth Glorious Mystery: Assumption of Mary into Heaven.

1. "Who is this that comes forth like the dawn, beautiful as the white moon, pure as the blazing sun, fearsome as celestial visions?" Song of songs 6:10
2. A princess arrayed in Ophir's gold/ comes to stand at your right hand. Psalm 45:10
3. The throne of your fathers your sons will have; you shall make them princes through all the land. I will make your name renowned through all generations; thus nations shall praise you forever. Psalm 45:17-18
4. The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let the hearer say, "Come." Let the one who thirsts come forward, and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water. Revelation 22:17

Fifth Glorious Mystery: Coronation of Mary.

1. A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. Revelation 12:1
2. The king stood up to meet [his mother] and paid her homage. Then he sat down upon his throne, and a throne was provided for the king's mother, who sat at his right. 1 Kings 2:19
3. "Blessed are you, daughter, by the Most High God, above all the women on earth; and blessed be the Lord God, the creator of heaven and earth, who guided your blow at the head of the leader of our enemies. Judith 13:18
4. "Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all." Proverbs 31:29
5. The king said to her, "Ask it, my mother, for I will not refuse you." 1 Kings 2:20

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

First Luminous Mystery: Baptism of the Lord.

1. [John] It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: "A voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" Matthew 3:3
2. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. Matthew 3:11
3. The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me. John 1:29-30
4. Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed him. Matthew 3:13-15
5. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:16-17

Second Luminous Mystery: The Wedding at Cana.

1. There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. John 2:1-2
2. 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." John 2:3-5.
3. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the [six stone] 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." John 2:7-8
4. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine...[he] 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." John 2:9-11
5. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. John 15:7

Third Luminous Mystery: The Preaching of the Kingdom of God.

1. Jesus said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew. 5:3-4.
2. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." Mt. 5:5-6.
3. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Mt. 5:7-8.
4. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

5. While he was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed." He replied, "Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it." Luke 11:27-28

Fourth Luminous Mystery: The Transfiguration.

1. After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Mark 9:2-3
2. And behold, two men talked with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem. Luke 9:30-31
3. He was still speaking, when behold, 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." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. Matthew 17: 5-6
4. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Matthew 17:7-8

Fifth Luminous Mystery: The Institution of the Most Holy Eucharist.

1. "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst." John 6:35
2. 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." Luke 22:19
3. "Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and never die." John 6:49-50
4. "For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him." John 6: 55-56
5. Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." And likewise [he took] the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you. Luke 22:19-20