

Concentrating on the mysteries of the rosary can be difficult. Reading the mysteries makes it much easier.

Joyful Mysteries

Monday and Saturday

1st Joyful Mystery The Annunciation

Luke 1

⁽²⁶⁾ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ⁽²⁷⁾ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ⁽²⁸⁾ And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" ⁽²⁹⁾ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. ⁽³⁰⁾ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ⁽³¹⁾ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ⁽³²⁾ He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of his father David, ⁽³³⁾ and He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his Kingdom there will be no end." ⁽³⁴⁾ And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" ⁽³⁵⁾ And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. ⁽³⁶⁾ And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ⁽³⁷⁾ For with God nothing will be impossible." ⁽³⁸⁾ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Mary

I was in prayer: it was evening. I was praying towards Jerusalem because my people prayed three times a day, morning, noon, and evening facing Jerusalem. I was praying for the liberation of my people. I was praying that soon the Messiah would come to take away all hatred: to take away all sins from my people. As I was praying, there suddenly appeared an angel. At first I was afraid because it was the first time an angel had ever come to me. When I heard Him say "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" I was very confused and yet I was very humbled that an angel would call me full of grace: that I had gained favour from God: that I was called to bear his Son. I asked the angel how this could happen? I am a virgin: I had intended to be a virgin the rest of my life even though I agreed to live with Joseph. The angel assured me, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you: the shadow of the Most High will enwrap you and the Child to be born to you will be called Son of God." At that instance, I remembered the prophesy of Isaiah. The prophecy of the Messiah. The prophecy that He would be a suffering servant. A servant rejected by his own people and yet raised by God. Knowing that, I said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

2nd Joyful Mystery The Visitation

Luke 1:39-45:

⁽³⁹⁾ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, ⁽⁴⁰⁾ and she entered the house of Zechari'ah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁽⁴¹⁾ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leapt in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁽⁴²⁾ and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb. ⁽⁴³⁾ And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁽⁴⁴⁾ For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leapt for joy. ⁽⁴⁵⁾ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." ⁽⁴⁶⁾ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁽⁴⁷⁾ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁽⁴⁸⁾ for He has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will

call me blessed; ⁽⁴⁹⁾ for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁽⁵⁰⁾ And his mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. ⁽⁵¹⁾ He has shown strength with his arm, He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, ⁽⁵²⁾ He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; ⁽⁵³⁾ He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away. ⁽⁵⁴⁾ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁽⁵⁵⁾ as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever.” ⁽⁵⁶⁾ And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

Commentary:

See how the Holy Spirit greets the Virgin Mary through the mouth of Elizabeth: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb. And blessed are you that has believed, because those things shall be accomplished that were spoken to you by the Lord.” Blessed indeed, for by this faith in the word of God the Virgin Mary became the mother of Christ. What finite creature has ever received honour such as this from the Infinite Being? Mary gives all the glory to the Lord for the marvellous things which are accomplished in her. From the moment of the Incarnation the Virgin Mother sings in her heart a canticle full of love and gratitude. In the presence of her cousin Elizabeth she allows the most profound sentiments of her heart to break forth in song; she intones The Magnificat which, in the course of centuries, her children will repeat with her to praise God for having chosen her among all women: “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, because He has regarded the lowliness of his handmaid... Because He who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.”

Mary:

As soon as I realized by Gabriel’s message that Elizabeth, my cousin, who had been barren for a long time and who was yet now old, had nonetheless conceived, I was prompted by God’s grace to go to help her in her need. She was in her sixth month: I went from Nazareth to Judea. I was only pondering the message that the angel had given me. It all seemed so wonderful that God would use me for his kingdom; for his glory. As I arrived at Zechariah’s house, I greeted Elizabeth. I had heard that Zechariah had become mute: he had doubted the Lord: he doubted that God could work a miracle in his life. As I entered and greeted Elizabeth, she shouted for joy and said, “Blessed are you among all women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Who am I that the Mother of my Lord should come to me.” Out of Elizabeth’s mouth came the confirmation of Gabriel’s message: that I had conceived the Son of God and later all ages were to proclaim me as blessed as the mother of their Lord, the mother of God. I began to sing the hymn of praise that came from my heart. I was so filled with God’s Love that I had to share my joy with Elizabeth and her household.

3rd Joyful Mystery

Birth of Jesus

Matthew 2

⁽¹⁾ Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, ⁽²⁾ “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship Him.” ⁽³⁾ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁽⁴⁾ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁽⁵⁾ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: ⁽⁶⁾ ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.’” ⁽⁷⁾ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; ⁽⁸⁾ and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the Child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.” ⁽⁹⁾ When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the east went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the Child was. ⁽¹⁰⁾ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly ⁽¹¹⁾ and going into the house they saw the Child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ⁽¹²⁾ And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Luke 2

(1) In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. (2) This was the first enrolment, when Quirin'ius was governor of Syria. (3) And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. (4) And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, (5) to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with Child. (6) And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. (7) And she gave birth to her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (8) And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (9) And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. (10) And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; (11) for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord. (12) And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." (13) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying (14) "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." (15) When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." (16) And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. (17) And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; (18) and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. (19) But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. (20) And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Mary

Joseph and I came to Bethlehem because there was a decree that all should go to their ancestral town to be registered. In obedience, Joseph and I went. We looked for a place but there was no room in the inn: the town was so full. What was offered us was a stable not too far from where the shepherds were guarding their flock. It was soon that my Son was born: the King of Kings was born a pauper. It was soon that the very Word would be made flesh. Joseph left me in the stable and went outside for a while thinking that he was not worthy to be present at such a great miracle. While he was thinking, the moment came when my Son was introduced to the world. Because of the immensity of love that the Lord had filled me with, I felt no pain at his birth. There was pure joy at the coming of my Son. I held Him in my arms: He was the very Saviour of the world. A while later, Joseph came in. He saw me with the Child and he was also filled with wondrous joy. As some time passed, the shepherds that were near the stable also came. They knew about the birth of my Son: the angels had told them. Heaven was rejoicing at the birth of my Son. My children, look upon the greatness of your Lord who has loved you so much as to come down to show the immensity of his love for you. Show your immensity of love for Him: be humble, be grateful for what you have, be it little or great, and whatever you do have, use it in a way that will give pleasure to my Son. See the face of my Son in those in need, those in want, and respond in love to them. Pray to the Heavenly Father in this mystery for the gift of simplicity and for the woes of the poor and I will pray with you. I will ask the Father to give you the grace to be generous with those less fortunate.

4th Joyful Mystery

Presentation in the temple

Luke 2

(22) And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (23) (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") (24) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." (25) Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. (26) And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. (27) And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, (28) he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, (29) "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; (30) for mine eyes have seen thy salvation (31) which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, (32) a light for revelation to the gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel." (33) And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about

Him; ⁽³⁴⁾ and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against. ⁽³⁵⁾ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.” ⁽³⁶⁾ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phan’u-el, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, ⁽³⁷⁾ and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ⁽³⁸⁾ And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Mary:

In obedience to the law of Moses, forty days after my Son was born, Joseph and I went to Jerusalem to present my Son before the Lord and to redeem Him with two turtledoves. I was presenting to God, The Father Almighty, your Redeemer in anticipation of the sacrifice He would make on Calvary for your salvation. When we entered the temple, there was a holy priest by the name of Simeon. Simeon took Jesus into his arms and said, “Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel.” Then Simeon turned to me and said “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against. (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.” Simeon was talking about my destiny: a destiny that would be so intimate with my Son.

5th Joyful Mystery

Finding Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2

⁽⁴¹⁾ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. ⁽⁴²⁾ And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; ⁽⁴³⁾ and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁽⁴⁴⁾ but supposing Him to be in the company they went a day’s journey, and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; ⁽⁴⁵⁾ and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. ⁽⁴⁶⁾ After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; ⁽⁴⁷⁾ and all who heard Him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁽⁴⁸⁾ And when they saw Him they were astonished; and his mother said to Him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously.” ⁽⁴⁹⁾ And He said to them, “How is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” ⁽⁵⁰⁾ And they did not understand the saying which He spoke to them.

Mary:

Jesus was twelve years old and Joseph and I, as custom dictates, wished to take Him to Jerusalem for the Passover. We went and we were filled with joy to worship God with his people. After the days of Passover were done, Joseph and I went back to Nazareth in the caravan of family members and friends that we came in. Joseph went with the men and I with the women. The children were either with their fathers or mothers. Both of us thought that Jesus was with the other. When evening came, Joseph and I came together and we did not find Jesus, neither among our relatives, nor among our friends. So we went back to Jerusalem to look for Him. My heart was torn in two: the sufferings predicted by Simeon were already starting. “What happened to my Son?” I questioned. It took us two days to go back to Jerusalem and on the third day we found my Son in the temple. He was among a group of elders, rabbis, and He was reading the Law with them. They were discussing the Law of Moses: He astonished the elders who marvelled at his insight into the law. As I was hearing Him, there was an amount of joy: joy to hear my Son teaching. God was giving me a taste of what He would be doing during his earthly ministry. I ran up to Him and said, “My Son, why did You do such a thing? Your father and I with so much sorrow have been looking for You.” Jesus looked at me with love and yet with conviction and He said to me, “But why were you looking for Me? Did you not know I should be about my Father’s business?” At first I could not understand such a response, and yet I did. My Son was aware of his vocation. He had to fulfil what He was created for. He was created for God: He was created to obey his Father in all things. I watched Him grow into maturity: I watched Him love and his love was only a reflection of the Father’s love.

Sorrowful Mysteries

Tuesday and Friday

1st Sorrowful Mystery The Agony in the Garden

Matthew 26:

⁽³⁶⁾ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsem'ane, and He said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go yonder and pray." ⁽³⁷⁾ And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zeb'edee, He began to be sorrowful and troubled. ⁽³⁸⁾ Then He said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with Me." ⁽³⁹⁾ And going a little farther He fell on his face and prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt." ⁽⁴⁰⁾ And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and He said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with Me one hour? ⁽⁴¹⁾ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁽⁴²⁾ Again, for the second time, He went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, thy will be done." ⁽⁴³⁾ And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁽⁴⁴⁾ So, leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁽⁴⁵⁾ Then He came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁽⁴⁶⁾ Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

Mark 14:

⁽³²⁾ And they went to a place which was called Gethsem'ane; and He said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I pray." ⁽³³⁾ And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ⁽³⁴⁾ And He said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch." ⁽³⁵⁾ And going a little farther, He fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. ⁽³⁶⁾ And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to Thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what Thou wilt." ⁽³⁷⁾ And He came and found them sleeping, and He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? ⁽³⁸⁾ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁽³⁹⁾ And again He went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁽⁴⁰⁾ And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. ⁽⁴¹⁾ And He came the third time, and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁽⁴²⁾ Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

Luke 23:

⁽³⁹⁾ And He came out, and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed Him. ⁽⁴⁰⁾ And when He came to the place He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." ⁽⁴¹⁾ And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁽⁴²⁾ "Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." ⁽⁴³⁾ And there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, strengthening Him. ⁽⁴⁴⁾ And being in agony He prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground. ⁽⁴⁵⁾ And when He rose from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁽⁴⁶⁾ and He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Mary:

My Son came with his apostles to the Mount of Olives. There was a garden there that He frequently went to pray: He felt a sadness; a deep, deep sadness. He felt lonely: my Son in his humanity felt a deeper sadness than anyone could ever feel because He was pure of heart: He was sinless. He took his closest friends, Peter whom He was to give charge of the Church, James, and John. John was the one who was going to take care of me after Jesus had risen from the dead and Peter was the one to whom He was to give charge of the Church. Jesus said to them: "My heart is sorrowful to the point of death: stay here and pray and keep watch while I go and pray by

Myself.” Jesus went over further to pray: He wanted to pray by Himself. He wanted to pour out his heart to his Father as I often have seen Him do with his prayer. My Son always prayed continuously to his Father: He always looked to the Father for his consolation. During the time He prayed, He saw all the agony He was going to suffer: every sin, every injustice, every infidelity He saw and felt at that very moment. His agony, his sorrow, and so much sinfulness caused the blood to burst from his forehead. It was just another anticipation of when his precious blood would be shed on the cross. That blood that was sweated on Gethsemane blessed that very spot of Jesus’ sacred place of prayer. My children, never seek your comfort in anyone but God. In your times of loneliness, in your times of depression, in your times of doubt, have recourse to prayer. When you go to the Father, offer this mystery for those who are in doubt: those who do not know where to turn to: those who are depressed - the mentally ill and the emotionally ill. Pray that as the Father sent an angel to comfort my Son, the Lord in his mercy will comfort them and enlighten them.

2nd Sorrowful Mystery

The Scourging

Commentary

Flogging was a legal preliminary to every Roman execution, and only women and Roman senators or soldiers (except in cases of desertion) were exempt. The usual instrument was a short whip with several single or braided leather thongs of variable lengths, in which small iron balls and sharp pieces of sheep bones were tied at intervals. For scourging, the man was stripped of his clothing. The back, buttocks, and legs were flogged either by two soldiers (lictors) or by one who alternated positions. The severity of the scourging depended on the disposition of the lictors and was intended to weaken the victim to a state just short of collapse or death. As the Roman soldiers repeatedly struck the victim’s back with full force, the iron balls would cause deep contusions, and the leather thongs and sheep bones would cut into the skin and subcutaneous tissues. Then, as the flogging continued, they would tear into the underlying skeletal muscles and produce quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh. Pain and blood loss generally set the stage for circulatory shock. The extent of blood loss may well have determined how long the victim would survive on the cross. After the scourging, the soldiers often taunted their victim. At the Praetorium, Jesus was severely whipped. It is not known whether the number of lashes was limited to 39, in accordance with Jewish law. The Roman soldiers, amused that this weakened man had claimed to be a king, began to mock Him by placing a robe on his shoulders, a crown of thorns on his head, and a reed as a scepter in his right hand. Next, they spat on Jesus and struck Him on the head with the reed. Moreover, when the soldiers tore the robe from Jesus’ back, they would have reopened the scourging wounds. The severe scourging, with its intense pain and appreciable blood loss, most probably left Jesus in a pre-shock state. Moreover, hematomas had rendered his skin particularly tender. The physical and mental abuse meted out by the Jews and the Romans, as well as the lack of food, water, and sleep, also contributed to his generally weakened state. Therefore, even before the actual crucifixion, Jesus’ physical condition was at least serious and possibly critical.

Mary:

My Son was sent to Pilate after being judged by the Jewish authorities. I was there in spirit: I heard Pontius Pilate as He came out to talk to the crowd. He said: “I find no fault in this Man worthy of death: so I will have Him scourged: then I will set Him free.” Pilate said this to placate the crowd because he knew my Son was innocent of all the accusations that they were throwing at Him. Pilate sent my Son to be scourged: He was whipped. The normal procedure was to be whipped 39 times. My Son was whipped furiously: the demons took possession of the soldiers. All the anger of hell was vented out on my Son. The soldiers that scourged Him were filled with the very hatred of hell itself. That was the reaction they had to the purity of my Son. When Jesus received all this scourging it was for the love of you. He wanted you to be healed of your sins - of all the diseases of the soul, mind, and body. He did not take all this punishment to condemn you - He took it all to save you. Behold the love of my Son for you and yet behold his meekness as the Lamb that is brought to the slaughter: He was scourged without even opening his mouth. My children, He wishes to heal you by his stripes. By the scourging He received, He wants to set you free of all types of oppression and of all types of bondage. By the stripes of my Son you are healed and set free. My children, pray to the Father that He will heal the wounds of your heart so that you can pray with love. Ask the Father to teach you how to love the way my Son loves. Pray for those who are possessed by hatred: pray for those who have an insatiable need to seek revenge. Pray that they too will be liberated and healed by the stripes of my Son.

3rd Sorrowful Mystery

The Crowning with Thorns

Matthew 27:

⁽²⁸⁾ And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe upon Him, ⁽²⁹⁾ and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before Him they mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ⁽³⁰⁾ And they spat upon Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. ⁽³¹⁾ And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the robe, and put his own clothes on Him, and led Him away to crucify him.

Mark 15:

⁽¹⁶⁾ And the soldiers led Him away inside the palace (that is, the praetorium); and they called together the whole battalion. ⁽¹⁷⁾ And they clothed Him in a purple cloak, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on Him. ⁽¹⁸⁾ And they began to salute Him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ⁽¹⁹⁾ And they struck his head with a reed, and spat upon Him, and they knelt down in homage to Him. ⁽²⁰⁾ And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the purple cloak, and put his own clothes on Him. And they led Him out to crucify him.

Mary:

After the scourging, my Son was led to the praetorium where the soldiers wanted to further amuse themselves. They took some twine filled with thorns and made a skull like cap. They placed the cap on the head of Jesus and pressed, causing the thorns to penetrate his scalp until He began to bleed. Then they put a reed in his hand and they knelt before Him and they mocked Him and said to Him. “All hail, King of the Jews,” and they spat in his face, they hit his head with the reed, they slapped his face, and plucked his beard. Jesus continued to say nothing. He received it all. My children, Jesus still receives a crown of thorns from many. It is normal for Him to be mocked by his enemies but it is more painful when Jesus is mocked by his own people. Even today, my children, Christians mock Him by living in mortal sin, by receiving Communion in mortal sin, by not believing the truth contained in the scriptures which is the word of God. My children, Christians mock Jesus and crown Him with thorns when they invent their own doctrines at their convenience - when they use the Gospel of my Son to justify their own teachings, their own doctrine. My children, I call you to make reparation to my Son. Follow Him by leaving all sin behind: by loving Him and revering Him in the Blessed Sacrament. When you receive Him in Holy Communion, tell Him that you love Him for those who will not love Him. Offer this mystery to the Father in reparation for all the blasphemies that were ever said against Him. Pray for those who take the name of God in vain: pray for those who will not keep Sunday holy. Promise the Father that you will keep Sunday holy by going to Mass and receiving Holy Communion and avoiding all unnecessary work in order to give yourself to prayer and doing the will of God. I am praying for you, my children and I will guide you in loving Jesus for those who will not love Him.

4th Sorrowful Mystery

Carrying the Cross

Matthew 27:

⁽³¹⁾ And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the robe, and put his own clothes on Him, and led Him away to crucify him. ⁽³²⁾ As they went out, they came upon a man of Cyre'ne, Simon by name; this man they compelled to carry his cross.

Mark 15:

⁽²⁰⁾ And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the purple cloak, and put his own clothes on Him. And they led Him out to crucify Him. ⁽²¹⁾ And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyre'ne, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Ruffis, to carry his cross.

Luke 23:

⁽²⁶⁾ And as they led Him away, they seized one Simon of Cyre'ne, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ⁽²⁷⁾ And there followed Him a great multitude of the people, and of

women who bewailed and lamented Him. ⁽²⁸⁾ But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ⁽²⁹⁾ For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed!’ ⁽³⁰⁾ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ⁽³¹⁾ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

John 19:

⁽¹⁶⁾ Then he handed Him over to them to be crucified. ⁽¹⁷⁾ So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Gol’gotha.

Mary:

That Friday, that first Good Friday, Jesus, my Son, after He was scourged and was crowned with thorns, was given a cross to carry through the streets of Jerusalem all the way to Mount Calvary where they had crucified others. I was there along the way and I met my Son: his face all beaten all covered with blood from his bleeding head, tired and dirty, and yet our eyes met. Our eyes filled with love for each other. Both of us knew that it was totally unavoidable that He should go through this agony for the salvation of the world. Out of obedience to his Father, Jesus continued the journey until He reached Calvary. He met a group of women who were weeping and He said to them: “Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for Me, but for yourselves and your children.” My children pray for the gift of tears, that through that gift the Lord will cleanse your souls of sin and the effects of sin. My children pray for the gift of obedience - that each one of you will be obedient to the call that the Father has given to you. Pray for those who have burdens on their hearts and the weight of their trials seems more than they can bear, pray to the Father that these people will have the strength to carry their crosses following Jesus. Finally, ask the Father for the gift of being true disciples of Jesus. Tell the Father that you will always say yes to Jesus and to his way even though it may mean suffering and sorrow. Pray to the Father that you will have the grace to take all out of love for Him.

5th Sorrowful Mystery The Crucifixion

Matthew 27:

⁽³³⁾ And when they came to a place called Gol’gotha (which means the place of a skull), ⁽³⁴⁾ they offered Him wine to drink, mingled with gall; but when He tasted it, He would not drink it. ⁽³⁵⁾ And when they had crucified Him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots; ⁽³⁶⁾ then they sat down and kept watch over Him there. ⁽³⁷⁾ And over his head they put the charge against Him, which read, “This is Jesus the King of the Jews.” ⁽³⁸⁾ Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. ⁽³⁹⁾ And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads ⁽⁴⁰⁾ and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” ⁽⁴¹⁾ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked Him, saying, ⁽⁴²⁾ “He saved others; He cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. ⁽⁴³⁾ He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now, if He desires Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” ⁽⁴⁴⁾ And the robbers who were crucified with Him also reviled Him in the same way. ⁽⁴⁵⁾ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁽⁴⁶⁾ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, Ia’ma sabach-tha’ni” that is, “My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?” ⁽⁴⁷⁾ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “This man is calling Elijah.” ⁽⁴⁸⁾ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to Him to drink. ⁽⁴⁹⁾ But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him.” ⁽⁵⁰⁾ And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

Mark 15:

⁽²²⁾ And they brought Him to the place called Golgotha, (which means the place of the skull). ⁽²³⁾ And they offered Him wine mingled with myrrh; but He did not take it. ⁽²⁴⁾ And they crucified Him, and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ⁽²⁵⁾ And it was the third hour, when they crucified Him. ⁽²⁶⁾ And the inscription of the charge against Him read, “The King of the Jews.” ⁽²⁷⁾ And with Him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ⁽²⁸⁾ And the scripture was fulfilled which says, “He was counted with the lawless ones” (Isaiah 53:12) ⁽²⁹⁾ And those who passed by derided Him,

wagging their heads, and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ⁽³⁰⁾ save Yourself, and come down from the cross!” ⁽³¹⁾ So also the chief priests mocked Him to one another with the scribes, saying, “He saved others; He cannot save himself. ⁽³²⁾ Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with Him also reviled Him. ⁽³³⁾ And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ⁽³⁴⁾ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “E’loi, E’loi, la’ma sabachtha’ni?” which means, “My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?” ⁽³⁵⁾ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “Behold, He is calling Eli’jah.” ⁽³⁶⁾ And one ran and, filling a sponge full of vinegar, put it on a reed and gave it to Him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Eli’jah will come to take Him down.” ⁽³⁷⁾ And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last. ⁽³⁸⁾ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ⁽³⁹⁾ And when the centurion, who stood facing Him, saw that He thus breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

Luke 23

⁽³²⁾ Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Him.

⁽³³⁾ And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. ⁽³⁴⁾ And Jesus said “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ⁽³⁵⁾ And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at Him, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ⁽³⁶⁾ The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up and offering Him vinegar, ⁽³⁷⁾ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ⁽³⁸⁾ There was also an inscription over Him, “This is the King of the Jews.” ⁽³⁹⁾ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁽⁴⁰⁾ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁽⁴¹⁾ And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” ⁽⁴²⁾ And he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into your kingdom.” ⁽⁴³⁾ And He said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” ⁽⁴⁴⁾ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁽⁴⁵⁾ while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁽⁴⁶⁾ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into thy hands I commit my Spirit!” And having said this He breathed his last. ⁽⁴⁷⁾ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said, “Certainly this man was innocent!” ⁽⁴⁸⁾ And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁽⁴⁹⁾ And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed Him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things.

John 19:

⁽¹⁶⁾ Then he handed Him over to them to be crucified. ⁽¹⁷⁾ So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. ⁽¹⁸⁾ There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ⁽¹⁹⁾ Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” ⁽²⁰⁾ Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ⁽²¹⁾ The chief priests of the Jews then said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but ‘This Man said, I am King of the Jews.’” ⁽²²⁾ Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” ⁽²³⁾ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; ⁽²⁴⁾ so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfil the scripture, “They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” ⁽²⁵⁾ So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Mag’dalene. ⁽²⁶⁾ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom He loved standing near, He said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your Son!” ⁽²⁷⁾ Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. ⁽²⁸⁾ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), “I thirst.” ⁽²⁹⁾ A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. ⁽³⁰⁾ When Jesus had received the vinegar, He said, “It is finished”; and He bowed his head and gave up his Spirit.

Mary:

When we had finally reached Mount Calvary, my Son was thrown on the cross after being stripped naked in front of the crowd. They drove spikes through his hands and feet and yet the Lord gave me the strength to

withstand the sight of my Son being nailed on the cross and literally butchered by the soldiers. They lifted the cross to its place, and then my Son hung there for six hours. I heard Him say, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they're doing." Jesus prayed for his enemies and pleaded for their ignorance. There were two thieves crucified with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left, and to the repentant thief He promised Paradise. Finally He looked at me and at John: He told me, "Woman, behold your Son" and to John, "Behold your mother." When the sixth hour came, the sky became dark and Jesus cried out, "Father, into your hands I commend My Spirit." He bowed his head, and then the earth began to quake. There was a great storm in Heaven, the whole of creation was reacting to mans' crime, the killing of their God, the killing of their Saviour. After it was calm, Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, and John took my Son down and then placed Him in my arms. I remembered while I was holding Him the prophecy of Simeon, "and a sword will pierce through your own soul also." That prophecy was coming true. But just as I was holding my Son in my arms, I remembered his words that He would rise again. All that I needed to do was to wait until that prophecy was fulfilled. My children, ask the Father to extend his salvation and forgiveness to your enemies. Pray for those who abuse you: pray for those who hurt you in any form. Ask the Father that they will also be cleansed by the blood of Jesus shed on the cross. Come, my children, to the foot of the cross and there I will pray with you and for you that your sins will be blotted out: that you will experience the redeeming power of my Son. Pray before the crucifix and I will pray with you. Ask the Father that you will constantly remember the death of my Son and be ever grateful for the salvation He has obtained for you.

Glorious Mysteries

Wednesday and Sunday

1st Glorious Mystery The Resurrection

Mathew 28:

(1) Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. (2) And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from Heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. (3) His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. (4) And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. (5) But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. (6) He is not here; for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. (7) Then go quickly and tell his disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. Lo, I have told you." (8) So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Mark 16:

(1) And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. (2) And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. (3) And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" (4) And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back. It was very large. (5) And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. (6) And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. (7) But go, tell his disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you." (8) And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Luke 24:

(1) But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. (2) And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, (3) but when they went in they did not find the

body. ⁽⁴⁾ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; ⁽⁵⁾ and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁽⁶⁾ Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, ⁽⁷⁾ that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise?” ⁽⁸⁾ And they remembered his words, ⁽⁹⁾ and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ⁽¹⁰⁾ Now it was Mary Magdalene and Jo-an’na and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the apostles; ⁽¹¹⁾ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ⁽¹²⁾ But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home wondering at what had happened.

John 20

⁽¹⁾ Now on the first day of the week Mary Mag’dalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ⁽²⁾ So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” ⁽³⁾ Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. ⁽⁴⁾ They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; ⁽⁵⁾ and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. ⁽⁶⁾ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, ⁽⁷⁾ and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁽⁸⁾ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁽⁹⁾ for as yet they did not know the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. ⁽¹⁰⁾ Then the disciples went back to their homes. ⁽¹¹⁾ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; ⁽¹²⁾ and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ⁽¹³⁾ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” ⁽¹⁴⁾ Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ⁽¹⁵⁾ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?” Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” ⁽¹⁶⁾ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rab-bo’ni!” (which means Teacher). ⁽¹⁷⁾ Jesus said to her, “Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” ⁽¹⁸⁾ Mary Mag’dalene went and said to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that He had said these things to her.

Mary:

At dawn of the first day of the week, I was with John and Peter. I was in my room alone: John and Peter were in the next room. I woke up. There was a light: it was all over the room. There was my Son: He came forward, He said to me, “Come, for you are the one worthy to be the first to see my risen Body.” The Lord permitted me to kiss his hand and to be embraced. The Lord in his glorified body in which He had the scars of the nail prints in his hands and feet and the scar of the lance in his side, was no longer the bleeding Son I saw on the way to Calvary: his Body was full of light, a light that was emanating from Him. Jesus then said to me, “Do not, my mother, tell my disciples until I have sent Mary Magdalene because it is all in the plan of the Father. They will come to faith by seeing and touching. I have come to you because you have faith.” Then He went away to appear to Mary Magdalene, to the women, and then to his disciples. My children, the most precious gift you have is your faith. Your faith must not be hidden: your faith must be your main motivation in your life. Cast away all doubt by prayer: give yourselves totally to Jesus who will illuminate your mind and heart through the power of the resurrection.

2nd Glorious Mystery The Ascension

Luke 24:

⁽⁵⁰⁾ Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands He blessed them. ⁽⁵¹⁾ While He blessed them, He parted from them, and was carried up into Heaven. ⁽⁵²⁾ And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy

Mark 16

⁽¹⁹⁾ So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into Heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. ⁽²⁰⁾ And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen.

Acts 1:

⁽⁶⁾ So when they had come together, they asked Him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁽⁷⁾ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁽⁸⁾ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.” ⁽⁹⁾ And when He had said this, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. ⁽¹⁰⁾ And while they were gazing into Heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ⁽¹¹⁾ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into Heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into Heaven.”

Mary:

After forty days when Jesus appeared to his disciples, He led us to the outskirts of Bethany to the Mount of Olives: that mount where He was transfigured in the sight of Peter, James and John. Jesus lifted up his arms and blessed everyone. He said to his apostles, “Go to the whole world and preach the good news to everyone. Teach all that I have commanded you. Baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. I am with you always even to the end of time.” Then He said to them, “Go to Jerusalem and stay there until my Father has sent you the promise: then when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will have power to be my witnesses: you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea, and even to the ends of the earth.” As Jesus was saying this, He was lifted up before our eyes. I longed to go with Him but He said to me “Woman, these are your children. It is not time for you to go now. Stay, I will call you when it is the proper time. Stay and pray with my disciples.” He went up into Heaven when finally a cloud came and took Him from our sight and we saw Him no more. Then I saw two men dressed in white. They were angels and said to the apostles, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking up into the heavens? This Jesus who you saw go up into Heaven will come again as He went.” Then we went to Jerusalem to the upper room where Jesus had changed bread and wine into his Body and Blood. There we stayed to pray. My children, learn from this mystery: learn that Jesus is Lord of Heaven and earth and all authority belongs to Him. There is no authority permitted without my Son’s consent. Pray for those in authority: for government leaders that they be submissive to the authority of Jesus. Pray for missionaries: that they will be faithful in teaching the gospel of Jesus and will teach people the means of salvation. Pray for holy patience: pray that you will wait upon the Lord and wait till He tells you what to do and when to do it. Be disposed to listen to and obey the voice of God. Finally, my children, be alert and united in prayer: it is the means that God wishes to use to bring the Church together. I am among you even now in prayer asking the Lord to bless you.

3rd Glorious Mystery

The Descent of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:

⁽¹⁾ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ⁽²⁾ And suddenly a sound came from Heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ⁽³⁾ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. ⁽⁴⁾ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁽⁵⁾ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.

⁽⁶⁾ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁽⁷⁾ And they were amazed and wondered, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁽⁸⁾ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁽⁹⁾ Par’thians and Medes and E’lamites and residents of Mesopota’mia, Judea and Cappado’cia, Pontus and Asia, ⁽¹⁰⁾ Phryg’ia and Pamphyl’ia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyre’ne, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ⁽¹¹⁾ Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” ⁽¹²⁾ And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ⁽¹³⁾ But others, mocking,

said, "They are filled with new wine." ⁽¹⁴⁾ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ⁽¹⁵⁾ For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day; ⁽¹⁶⁾ but this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ⁽¹⁷⁾ "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ⁽¹⁸⁾ yea, and on my menservants and my maidservants in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ⁽¹⁹⁾ And I will show wonders in the Heaven above and signs on the earth beneath, blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke; ⁽²⁰⁾ the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and manifest day. ⁽²¹⁾ And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." ⁽²²⁾ "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know - ⁽²³⁾ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ⁽²⁴⁾ But God raised Him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it.

Mary:

It was the day of Pentecost: the city of Jerusalem was crowded. Jewish people from every known nation of the world came to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Tabernacles. The disciples and the relatives of my Son and I were still in the upper room when suddenly we heard a rushing wind: In the room we could feel wind on our faces and then we saw fire right in the midst of us: a fire that was not of this world but a fire that came upon our heads and as it touched us we were all filled with the immense power of God. We felt joy and peace: we felt love. All our fear was gone: we no longer had a fear of who came to the door. The disciple John came to me and said "Mother we are free! We are free!" Peter came to me, "My Lady, look the promise of your Son is here." I said to Peter, "This must not be kept to yourselves: go and tell everyone about Jesus." The apostle Peter took the lead and opened the door of the upper room and the apostles and the disciples went out. There were people from every nation, from every language, and yet every one was understanding Peter's sermon. Everyone was understanding the message of salvation. Peter said, "We are not drunk. This is the fulfilment of what was said by the prophet Joel: 'The Spirit of the Lord will come down on all flesh.' Save yourselves," he said, "Repent of your sins and be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus and you too will receive the Holy Spirit." On that day three thousand entered the Church of my Son. Jesus again fulfilled his words: the power of the Spirit was upon his disciples who bore witness to Him. My children, pray to the Heavenly Father in this mystery for the power of the Holy Spirit to fill you with love and with boldness. Pray to the Father that the fire of the Spirit will purify you from all trace of sin. My children, if you are in sin, go and seek forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation and then pray to my Son that the Holy Spirit will fill your soul with every grace necessary for your salvation. Also, my children, share the good news that Jesus is the Saviour of the world and there is no other Saviour but Jesus. I will pray that the Lord will use you in power and by the grace of the Holy Spirit you will be transformed into witnesses for Jesus.

4th Glorious Mystery

The Assumption

Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. - Pope Pius XII

"O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God and Mother of Men, — we believe with all the fervour of our faith in your triumphal Assumption, both in body and soul, into heaven where you are acclaimed as Queen of the choirs of angels and all the legions of the Saints." (from the Assumption Prayer of Pope Pius XII)

Mary was without sin. She accepted God's will for her life and freely and perfectly obeyed. She served God, and followed her son, Jesus Christ. She was present at his death and resurrection. As a just reward for her goodness and devotion, she was assumed body and soul into heaven where she resides today in the company of God, and all the saints.

Mary was glorified, and taken body and soul to heaven.

The Catholic Church teaches that when Mary ended her earthly life, God assumed her, body and soul into heaven.

“The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven.” “It is in our own age that the privilege of the bodily Assumption into heaven of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, has certainly shone forth more clearly.”

- Pope Pius XII

St. Germanus of Constantinople considered the fact that the body of Mary, the virgin Mother of God, was incorrupt and had been taken up into heaven to be in keeping, not only with her divine motherhood, but also with the special holiness of her virginal body.

There are theologians and preachers who have looked upon the Ark of the Covenant, built of incorruptible wood and placed in the Lord’s temple, as a type of the most pure body of the Virgin Mary, preserved and exempt from all the corruption of the tomb and raised up to such glory in heaven.

Amadeus, Bishop of Lausarne, held that the Virgin Mary’s flesh had remained incorrupt.

“From this we can see that she is there bodily...her blessedness would not have been complete unless she were there as a person. The soul is not a person, but the soul, joined to the body, is a person. It is manifest that she is there in soul and in body. Otherwise she would not possess her complete beatitude.” - St. Albert the Great

The revered Mother of God...finally obtained, as the supreme culmination of her privileges, that she should be preserved free from the corruption of the tomb and that, like her own Son, having overcome death, she might be taken up body and soul to the glory of heaven where, as Queen, she sits in splendour at the right hand of her Son, the immortal; King of the Ages. - Pope Pius XII

“By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.” - Pope Pius XII

Mary shared her Son’s victory over death, and was carried up to heaven, soul and body, there to reign as queen at his right hand, who is the King of Ages, the immortal.

Mary remained on earth for several years after her Son ascended into Heaven. At the end of her natural life, she was taken, body and soul, into Heaven to live in eternal joy with the Blessed Trinity.

The church’s tradition has held for centuries that Mary was assumed into Heaven body and soul at the end of her natural life.

We praise You Lord for assuming Your mother body and soul into Heaven that she may stand as a sign of hope for all of us who await the fullness of eternal life.

Mary is ever virgin, she was taken up body and soul to Heaven and has been crowned Queen of all creation.

The Blessed Virgin Mary was brought into Heaven body and soul and then crowned as Queen to intercede for us, her children.

5th Glorious Mystery

Coronation

The Person of the Eternal Father, as the first principle of all things, speaking to the angels and saints, said to them: “Our Daughter Mary was chosen according to our pleasure from amongst all creatures, the first one to delight Us, and who never fell from the title and position of a true Daughter, such as We had given Her in our divine mind; She has a claim on our dominion, which We shall recognize by crowning Her as the legitimate and peerless Lady and Sovereign.”

The incarnate Word said: “To my true and natural Mother belong all the creatures which were created and redeemed my Me; and of all things over which I am King, She too shall be the legitimate and supreme Queen.”

It is indeed just that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit should crown the Blessed Virgin as Queen and Lady of all created things.

Mary is ever virgin, she was taken up body and soul to Heaven and has been crowned Queen of all creation.

The Blessed Virgin Mary was brought into Heaven body and soul and then crowned as Queen to intercede for us, her children.

Assumed into heaven, Mary is now crowned as Queen of Heaven and Earth by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Because of her humility and obedience to the divine will, our Lady now reigns in glory. As our Queen, she intercedes for all those who turn to her in their needs.

The most glorious queen of heaven, the true spouse of God, was crowned in eternity.

The humble servant of the Lord who became the Mother of God is crowned the Queen of Heaven.

The three divine Persons placed upon the head of the most blessed Mary a crown of such new splendour and value, that the like has been seen neither before nor after by any mere creature.

The Holy Ghost said: “Since She is called my beloved and chosen Spouse, She deserves to be crowned as Queen for all eternity.”

As Mary enters, the entire court of Heaven greets with joy this masterpiece of God’s creation. She is crowned by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as Queen of Heaven and earth. Crowned in glory, Mary shines forth as Queen of the Angels and Saints, the anticipation and the supreme realization of the end times state of the Church.

Luminous Mysteries

Thursday

1st Luminous Mystery

Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:

⁽¹³⁾ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptised by him. ⁽¹⁴⁾ John would have prevented Him, saying, “I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?” ⁽¹⁵⁾ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.” Then he consented. ⁽¹⁶⁾ And when Jesus was baptised,

He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Mark 1:

⁽⁹⁾ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. ⁽¹⁰⁾ And when He came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove; ⁽¹¹⁾ and a voice came from heaven, "Thou art my beloved Son; with Thee I am well pleased."

Luke 3:

⁽²¹⁾ Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the Heaven was opened, ⁽²²⁾ and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form, as a dove, and a voice came from heaven, "Thou art my beloved Son; with Thee I am well pleased."

Commentary:

John is baptising in the Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance. "I am the voice of one crying in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord. One mightier than I is coming after me." "I have baptised you with water, He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." Seeing Jesus, John exclaims: "Behold the Lamb of God." After Jesus' baptism a voice comes from Heaven: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." The Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove. In this heavenly manifestation the sacrament of baptism is instituted. The Divine Trinity is manifested: the voice of the Father is heard as the Spirit descends upon the Son. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert for 40 days.

2nd Luminous Mystery Wedding Feast at Cana

John 2

⁽¹⁾ On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; ⁽²⁾ Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. ⁽³⁾ When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." ⁽⁴⁾ And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." ⁽⁵⁾ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." ⁽⁶⁾ Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁽⁷⁾ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁽⁸⁾ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. ⁽⁹⁾ When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom ⁽¹⁰⁾ 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." ⁽¹¹⁾ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in Him.

Commentary:

It would have been a big embarrassment in Cana when the wedding party ran out of wine. When we consider that at that time a wedding celebration lasted not just for a day like our celebrations but for a whole week the embarrassment would be even more acute. Because the wedding celebration was so long it is no wonder that Jesus changed so many gallons of water into wine. The bad situation began to turn right when Mary turned to Jesus and said, "They have no wine." Mary interceded and pleaded before Jesus to turn the situation around. It was not just then that Mary intervened in Cana, she continues to plea before God on our behalf now. Mary's response to Jesus was to tell the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." It shows us Mary's total trust in the Word of God. She is the first person in John's Gospel to show total trust in the Word of God. Mary is therefore a model Christian for us as she says, "Do whatever He tells you." Let us ask Mary to help us to do whatever Jesus tells us. As she says this, once again we see Mary's importance as our intercessor, pleading on our behalf. This scene also serves as a pattern for Marian intercession. Just as Mary at Cana noticed the family's needs before anyone else did, so Mary in Heaven continues to notice our needs before we do. And just as Mary at Cana brought those needs to Christ, so does she continue to bring our needs to her Son through her intercession for us. The Catholic tradition has pointed out how this scene expresses Mary's compassion and attentiveness to

others' needs. Lumen Gentium describes Mary at Cana being "moved with pity." Pope John Paul II said Mary was "prompted by her merciful heart to help this family by bringing her concern for them to Jesus." "Having sensed the eventual disappointment of the newly married couple and guests because of the lack of wine, the Blessed Virgin compassionately suggested to Jesus that He intervene with his messianic power."

3rd Luminous Mystery

Preaching the Kingdom with Call to Conversion

Commentary:

Jesus began his public ministry with the announcement that: "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News!" * From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." * And after John had been delivered up, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel." * Being asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God was coming, He answered them, "The Kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Lo, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the Kingdom of God is within you." * "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." * "My Kingdom is not of this world." * "Unless a man be born again of water and the Spirit, He cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven." * "Whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God as a little child will not enter into it." * "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." * "Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." * "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church... I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven." * And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people. * "And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" * "...the kingdom of God has come upon you." * And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people. * "And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" * "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." * "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven."

4th Luminous Mystery

The Transfiguration

Matthew 17:

(1) And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. (2) And He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. (3) And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with Him. (4) And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if You wish, I will make three booths here, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah." (5) He was still speaking, when lo, 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." (6) When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. (7) But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." (8) And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. (9) And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one of the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

Mark 9:

(2) And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them, (3) and his garments became glistening, intensely white, as no fuller on earth could bleach them. (4) And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses; and they were talking to Jesus. (5) And Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah." (6) For He did not know what to say, for they were exceedingly afraid. (7) And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to Him." (8) And suddenly looking around they no longer saw any one with them but Jesus only. (9) And as they were coming down the mountain, He charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of man should have risen from the dead.

Luke 9:

⁽²⁸⁾ Now about eight days after these sayings He took with Him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ⁽²⁹⁾ And as He was praying, the appearance of his countenance was altered, and his raiment became dazzling white. ⁽³⁰⁾ And behold, two men talked with Him, Moses and Elijah, ⁽³¹⁾ who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which He was to accomplish at Jerusalem. ⁽³²⁾ Now Peter and those who were with Him were heavy with sleep, and when they wakened they saw his glory and the two men who stood with Him. ⁽³³⁾ And as the men were parting from Him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is well that we are here; let us make three booths, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah” not knowing what He said. ⁽³⁴⁾ As He said this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ⁽³⁵⁾ And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to Him!” ⁽³⁶⁾ And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silence and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

5th Luminous Mystery

Christ’s Institution of the Eucharist

Matthew 26

⁽²⁵⁾ Judas, who betrayed Him, said, “Is it I, Master?” He said to him, “You have said so.” ⁽²⁶⁾ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ⁽²⁷⁾ And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you; ⁽²⁸⁾ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ⁽²⁹⁾ “I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s Kingdom.” ⁽³⁰⁾ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Mark 14

⁽²²⁾ And as they were eating, He took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” ⁽²³⁾ And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ⁽²⁴⁾ And He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ⁽²⁵⁾ Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the Kingdom of God.” ⁽²⁶⁾ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Luke 22

⁽¹⁴⁾ And when the hour came, He sat at table, and the apostles with Him. ⁽¹⁵⁾ And He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ⁽¹⁶⁾ for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.” ⁽¹⁷⁾ And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves; ⁽¹⁸⁾ for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the Kingdom of God comes.” ⁽¹⁹⁾ 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.” ⁽²⁰⁾ And likewise the cup after supper, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

Commentary:

At that Eucharistic meal, Jesus celebrated the first Mass. At every Mass the sacrifice of Calvary is made present. At the Last Supper Jesus instituted the sacrament of Holy Orders to perpetuate this sacrifice. “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in Me and I in him.” The Eucharist is a sacrifice inasmuch as it is offered up, and a sacrament inasmuch as it is received. In the Mass we offer ourselves to God, and God gives Himself to us. The Mass will be fruitful in the measure of our surrender to the Father.

Hail Mary error

When people are praying the Hail Mary they often say “...and blessed is the fruit of thy wombjesus.” What is a wombjesus?

The correct way here is “...and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.”

There must be a pause between womb and Jesus for this prayer to make sense.

Also, the word “Hail” at the beginning should be emphasised.