

# Rosary Meditations - The Joyful Mysteries

passages taken from The Mystical City of God by Mary of Agreda - Vol. 2 The Incarnation

*“O wonderful intercourse! The Creator of mankind, taking unto Himself a living body, vouchsafed to be born of a virgin; and coming forth amongst us, a Man without human generation, bestowed upon us - His Divinity.”* Antiphon from Christmas Vespers, Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## The First Joyful Mystery - The Annunciation

1. At the bidding of the Divine Will, the Holy Gabriel presented himself at the foot of the throne of the Most High, Who then expressly charged him with the message which he was to bring to the Most Holy Mary in the very words with which he was to salute and address her.
2. The heavenly spirits heard the voice of their Creator and with incomparable joy and thanksgiving for the fulfillment of His eternal and perfect will, intoned new canticles of praise.
3. The supernal prince, Gabriel, obeying with singular delight the divine command and accompanied by many thousands of most beautiful angels in visible forms, descended from the highest heaven.
4. As the Embassy of Heaven drew nigh unto Her, She was engaged in the highest contemplation concerning the mysteries which the Lord had renewed in Her by so many favors during the nine preceding days.
5. The Holy Archangel accompanied by innumerable angels in visible forms, resplendent with incomparable beauty, entered into the chamber where Most Holy Mary was praying.
6. Recognizing him as an angel of the Lord, She, in Her usual humility, wished to do him reverence; the holy prince would not allow it; on the contrary he himself bowed profoundly as before his Queen and Mistress, in whom he adored the heavenly mysteries of his Creator.
7. When She heard St. Gabriel's salutation and began to consider within Herself how She should receive it, She was interiorly made to understand by the Lord, that He chose Her for His Mother: this caused a still greater perturbation, having such a humble opinion of Herself.
8. At the pronouncement of Her "fiat", in one instant, four things happened: the Most Holy Body of Christ Our Lord was formed from the three drops of blood furnished by the heart of the Most Holy Mary; the Most Holy Soul of the same Lord was created; the soul and the body united in order to compose His perfect humanity; the Divinity united Itself in the Person of the Word with the humanity to become one composite Being - True God and Man.
9. This happened in springtime on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, at break or dawning of the day, in the same hour, in which Our First Father, Adam, was made and in the year of creation 5199.
10. Restored to Her faculties, Her first action was to prostrate Herself on the earth and adore Her Holiest Son, God and Man, conceived in Her virginal womb.

## **The Second Joyful Mystery - The Visitation**

1. Arising at the bidding of the Lord, She lovingly hastened to accomplish His Most Holy Will in procuring without delay, the sanctification of the Precursor of the Incarnate Word.
2. St. Joseph anxiously attended upon Most Holy Mary on the journey and without fathoming the real cause (the presence of the Divine Fire of the Incarnate Word within the virginal chamber of the Queen of Heaven) experienced in his soul new reactions, proceeding from the words and conversation of his Beloved Spouse.
3. After the first salutation, the two cousins retired and immediately the Mother of Grace saluted anew Her cousin saying: "May God save thee, my dearest cousin, and may His Divine Light communicate to thee Grace and Life".
4. At the sound of Most Holy Mary's voice, St. Elizabeth was filled by the Holy Ghost and so enlightened interiorly that she perceived the most exalted mysteries and sacraments.
5. At the pronouncement of the words above, God looked upon the child in the womb of St. Elizabeth and gave it perfect use of reason, enlightening him with His Divine Light; sanctified him from original sin and filled him with the most abundant graces and gifts of the Holy Ghost and his faculties were sanctified, subjected and subordinated to reason.
6. At the same time the fortunate child, looking through the walls of the maternal womb as through clear glass upon the Incarnate Word and assuming a kneeling posture, adored His Redeemer and Creator Whom he beheld in Most Holy Mary as if enclosed in a chamber made of the purest crystal.
7. St. Elizabeth was instructed at the same time in the mystery of the Incarnation, the sanctification of her own son; also, she became aware of the virginal purity and of the dignity of the Most Holy Mary.
8. St. Elizabeth saw the Word made man as through a most pure and clear glass in the Virginal Chamber, lying as it were on a couch of burning and enlivened crystal.
9. The Heavenly Princess offered to serve and assist Elizabeth as a handmaid, for She said, that this was the purpose of visiting and consoling her.
10. The holy husband St. Joseph, after staying 3 days, left them with the understanding that he was to return in order to accompany the Queen home as soon as they should give him notice.

## **The Third Joyful Mystery - The Nativity**

1. The Most Pure Mary and the glorious St. Joseph departed from Nazareth for Bethelhem alone, poor and humble in the eyes of the world but they carried with them the Treasure of Heaven, the Deity Itself, and were accompanied by ten thousand angels which were appointed by God Himself during the whole journey.
2. Our Holy Pilgrims were obliged repeatedly to listen to sharp reprimands in the taverns and in some of them they were refused admittance as worthless and despicable people; several times they assigned to the Mistress of Heaven and Earth some corner of the hallway, while at others She did not fare even so well.
3. After having been rejected at more than 50 places in Bethelhem, the most faithful Joseph, full of bitter and heart rending sorrow, remembered that outside the city walls there was a cave which served as a shelter for the shepherds and their flocks.

4. Most Holy Mary and St. Joseph entered the lodging provided for them and without delay the two Holy Travelers fell on their knees and praised the Lord giving Him thanks for His benefit, which they knew had been provided by His wisdom for His own hidden designs.
5. St. Joseph retired to a corner of the entrance where he began to pray. He was immediately visited by the Divine Spirit and wrapped and elevated into an ecstasy in which was shown to him all that passed during that night.
6. Thus at the end of the beatific rapture and vision of Most Holy Mary as she was kneeling, Her eyes raised to Heaven, Her hands joined and folded at Her breast, the Most Exalted Lady gave to the world the Only-begotten of the Father and Her Own, Our Savior Jesus Christ, at midnight on a Sunday.
7. He penetrated the Virginal Chamber as the rays of the sun penetrate the crystal shrine and came forth glorious and transfigured, for the Divine and Infinite Wisdom decreed and ordained that the Glory of His Most Holy Soul should in His birth, overflow and communicate Itself to His Body.
8. The two sovereign princes, St. Michael and St. Gabriel, presented the Divine Child to His Mother as the Prince of All the Heavens spoke to His Holy Mother: "Mother, become like unto Me..."
9. Heaven was as it were emptied of its inhabitants, for the Whole Heavenly Court had betaken itself to that Blessed Cave of Bethlehem and was adoring the Creator in His garb and habit of a Pilgrim.
10. The first sight of St. Joseph as he issued from his ecstasy was the Divine Child in the arms of the Virgin Mother reclining against Her sacred countenance and breast. There he adored Him in profoundest humility and in tears of joy, kissing His Feet in joy and admiration.

#### **The Fourth Joyful Mystery - The Presentation**

1. The Mother of All Purity prepared to go to Jerusalem, where She was to appear in the Temple with Her Son as the Only-begotten of the Eternal Father and purify Herself according to the custom of other women.
2. The Holy Angels formed in procession and sang hymns of sweetest entrancing harmony in honor of the Infant God as well as bore shields of the Holy Name of Jesus and the guard of honor on the occasion of His Presentation.
3. Being inspired by the Holy Ghost, Simeon and Anne approached the place where the Queen stood with the Infant Jesus in Her arms and saw both Mother and Child enveloped in splendor and glory.
4. In the joy of their spirit, both of them approached the Queen of Heaven and the priest received the Infant Jesus from Her arms upon his hands and offered Him up to the Eternal Father while pronouncing the "Nunc dimittis" (Now Thou dost dismiss Thy servant, O Lord ...)
5. At the moment when the priest Simeon mentioned the sword and the sign of contradiction which were prophetic of the Passion and Death of the Lord, the Child bowed His Head and by many interior acts of obedience accepted it as the sentence of the Eternal Father.
6. As in a mirror the Blessed Lady was made to see all the mysteries included in the prophecy; thus in advance was She wounded by the sword and began to feel the sorrow predicted by Simeon.
7. The Presentation thus being over, the Great Lady kissed the hand of the priest and also Anne, Her former teacher, for Her dignity as Mother of God did not prevent Her from these acts of deepest humility.

8. Most Holy Mary and Glorious St. Joseph concluded to stay in Jerusalem for 9 days in order to be able each day to visit the Temple and repeat the offering of the Sacred Victim, Their Divine Son.
9. On the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the novena, the Most High spoke to Her, "...In order to save the life of Thy Son and raise Him up, Thou must leave Thy home and Thy country, fly with Him and Thy Spouse, Joseph, into Egypt...so Thou suffer it all for My sake; for I am and always will be with Thee."
10. The same night while St. Joseph was asleep, the Angel of the Lord appeared to him and the Holy Family departed shortly after midnight, and hastened without delay on Their journey to Egypt.

### **The Fifth Joyful Mystery - The Finding in the Temple**

1. Having spent all the 7 days of the feast of the Unleavened Bread in Jerusalem, the Heavenly Pilgrims betook Themselves on Their way home to Nazareth.
2. The Child Jesus withdrew from Them without Their knowledge: St. Joseph supposing that He remained with His Most Holy Mother, while the Great Lady was diverted by the Lord Himself in contemplation and later supposed Blessed Joseph had taken Him along.
3. When the Great Lady saw that the Child was not with St. Joseph and the Holy Patriarch found He was not with His Mother, the two were struck dumb with amazement and overwhelmed with self-reproach at Their remissness thus blaming Themselves for His absence.
4. Although not all the sorrows suffered by all the martyrs ever reached the height of the sorrows of Most Holy Mary in this trial, the Mistress of all virtue held all Her powers in heavenly order and harmony.
5. For 3 days, without sleeping or eating, the Queen of Heaven roamed the streets of Jerusalem and was informed that a Child of Her description had paid His visits to the hospital, leaving some alms and speaking words of much consolation.
6. During this time, St. Joseph was in serious danger of losing his life if the hand of the Lord had not strengthened him and if the Most Prudent Lady had not consoled him; such was his sincere and exquisite love for the Divine Child.
7. The Child Jesus betook Himself to the Temple and presented Himself before the teachers to hear their discussion on whether the Messiah was already come or, if not, concerning the time in which He should come into the world.
8. But although the scribes and learned men who heard Him were dumfounded and convinced by His arguments, they did not recognize or suspect Who it was that thus taught and enlightened them concerning such an important truth.
9. The Most Holy Mother and St. Joseph arrived just in time to hear Him advance His last arguments, when the Heavenly Lady, absorbed in joy, approached Her Loving Son saying, with equal reverence and affection, "Son, why hast Thou done so to us?..."
10. The Divine Child received Her with signs of pleasure and offered Himself as Her Teacher and Companion until the proper time should arrive.