

The Joyful Mysteries with St. Joseph

Sign of the Cross

Introduction

Pope Francis has declared a Year of St. Joseph, which began on December 8, 2020, and will continue until December 8 of 2021. Today, we will pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary in company with St. Joseph, with reflections from "With a Father's Heart," Pope Francis' letter for this special year.

Apostles' Creed

Our Father

Hail Mary x3

Glory Be

The First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her." (Matthew 1:18-21)

From Pope Francis:

Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture. (*Patris Corde*)

Our Father

Hail Mary x10

Glory be

The Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation

Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior....

His mercy is from age to age
to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm,
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones
but lifted up the lowly." (Luke 1:46-47, 50-52)

From Pope Francis:

Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally. He trusted in the angel's words... Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion. Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history.... The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that *explains*, but *accepts*. Only as a result of this acceptance, this reconciliation, can we begin to glimpse a broader history, a deeper meaning. (*Patris Corde*)

Our Father

Hail Mary x10

Glory be

The Third Joyful Mystery: The Nativity of the Lord

A decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled.... So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And 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. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child and she gave birth to her firstborn son. (Luke 2:1, 3-7)

From Pope Francis:

As we read the infancy narratives, we may often wonder why God did not act in a more direct and clear way. Yet God acts through events and people. Joseph was the man chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true "miracle" by which God saves the child and his mother. God acted by trusting in Joseph's creative courage. Arriving in Bethlehem and finding no lodging where Mary could give birth, Joseph took a stable and, as best he could, turned it into a welcoming home for the Son of God come into the world.... God always finds a way to save us, provided we show the same creative courage as the carpenter of Nazareth, who was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting always in divine providence. (*Patris Corde*)

Our Father

Hail Mary x10

Glory be

The Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation in the Temple

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord."... Simeon came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God.... The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him. (Luke 2:22-23, 27-28, 33)

From Pope Francis:

In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way. We can think of Moses' words to Israel: "In the wilderness... you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as one carries a child, all the way that you travelled" (Deut 1:31). In a similar way, Joseph acted as a father for his whole life. Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. (*Patris Corde*)

Our Father
Hail Mary x10
Glory be

The Fifth Joyful Mystery: The Finding in the Temple

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, 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.... 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.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:41-49)

From Pope Francis:

Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom: a father who realizes that he is most a father and educator at the point when he becomes "useless," when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care. In the end, this is what Jesus would have us understand when he says: "Call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven" (Mt 23:9). (*Patris Corde*)

Our Father
Hail Mary x10
Glory be

Hail, Holy Queen
Concluding Prayer (O God, whose only begotten Son)
Sign of the Cross