

MEDITATIONS ON THE ROSARY

for Parish Renewal

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In 1999, St. Pope John Paul II declared Our Lady of Guadalupe as the Patroness of the New Evangelization. John Paul said that through her intercession, the new evangelization in America would “yield a splendid flowering of Christian life.” She is, therefore, the Star of the New Evangelization.

For decades now our popes have been calling parishes to be dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ and live out the call of the New Evangelization. This means nothing less than becoming a community of missionary disciples:



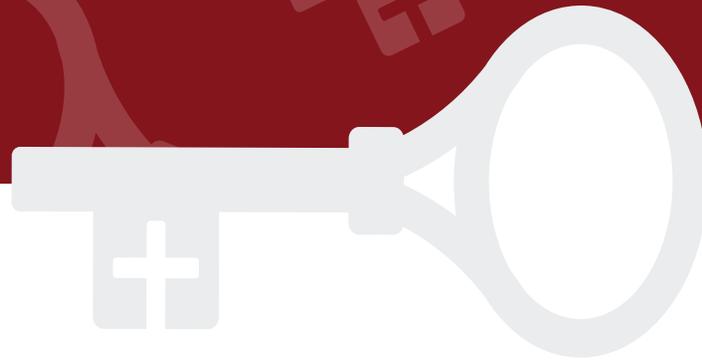
A REAL WELCOMING COMMUNITY,
and not just a gathering of strangers



Disciples who have **ENCOUNTERED JESUS**
and are **COMMITTED** to becoming like him



Disciples who are on mission so that
OUR PARISH CEASES TO BE ABOUT US,
but about those we are called to reach through
evangelization and works of mercy
to those on the periphery



In the Catholic Tradition the Communion of Saints does not just mean the present community of the baptized here and now, but refers to all who have gone before us and are "in Christ." They are models, teachers and intercessors. Our Blessed Mother is the primordial model of what it means to follow Jesus. She is the one who teaches us to **"do whatever he tells you,"** **(John 2:5)** and she is the intercessor par excellence.

For this reason, I invite all the parishioners of Our Lady of Guadalupe to seek her intercession for the missionary renewal of our parish by the frequent praying of the Mysteries of the Rosary. I offer these reflections as a guide as we pray the rosary for the sake of renewal and future of our parish.

This guide to praying the rosary will invite you to meditate on the particular aspects of the lives of Jesus and Mary and to pray for a specific grace for the renewal of our parish. As you pray each "Hail Mary" prayer, the invitation is to move beyond the mere recitation of the words and allow our minds and hearts to reflect on the particular "mystery" and intention.

JOYFUL MYSTERIES

MONDAY AND SATURDAY

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

THURSDAY

JOYFUL MYSTERIES

OF THE ROSARY

MONDAY AND SATURDAY

1. The Annunciation of the Lord to Mary
2. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
3. The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
4. The Presentation of the Lord
5. Finding Jesus in the Temple

1

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD TO MARY

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and invites her to play a pivotal role in the unfolding of Salvation History. Mary responds *"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."* (Luke 1:38).

In this mystery let us reflect on Mary's "Yes" to the Lord and ask for the grace, as parishioners and as a parish, to give the Lord an unconditional "yes," so that his salvation can unfold in our midst.

 **1. The Annunciation of the Lord to Mary**

2. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

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JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

2

THE VISITATION OF MARY TO ELIZABETH

Mary undertakes a journey to visit her cousin Elizabeth. This journey leads to her unborn child leaping for joy: *“For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.”* (Luke 1:44).

In this mystery let us reflect on the journey we are called to undertake as a parish and ask for the grace to persevere in going where the Lord is calling us. Let us also pray for the spiritual gift of Joy to pervade all that we do.

1. The Annunciation of the Lord to Mary

 2. **The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth**

3. The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

4. The Presentation of the Lord

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JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

3

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Jesus is born in simplicity and in the midst of the ordinary people of his day. The shepherds were told by the angel, *“Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”* (Luke 2:10)

In this mystery let us reflect on the fact that Jesus desires to be born in our parish which means that he is to be born in our own hearts. Let us pray for the grace to not be afraid of what this will mean and that the renewal of our parish will bring great joy to all who encounter us.

1. The Annunciation of the Lord to Mary

2. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

 3. **The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

4. The Presentation of the Lord

5. Finding Jesus in the Temple

JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

4

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Mary and Joseph dedicate the newborn Jesus to the Lord. *“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.”* (Luke 2:22)

In this mystery let us reflect that our entire parish is not ours and that it belongs to the Lord and is dedicated for his purpose and his mission. Let us ask for the grace to offer all that our parish is for his mission. Let us ask for the grace to truly sacrifice our own preferences for the sake of the mission.

1. The Annunciation of the Lord to Mary
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JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

5

FINDING JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

When Jesus was twelve years-old he visited Jerusalem and became separated from his family. Mary and Joseph found him teaching in the temple. When they found him Jesus told them, *“Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”* (Luke 2:49).

In this mystery let us pray for the grace to be single minded about our purpose as a parish: to be a parish that is focused on making missionary disciples. Pray that our parish may become a centre of evangelization where people come into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ and enter into the life of the Church.

1. The Annunciation of the Lord to Mary
2. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
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4. The Presentation of the Lord

 5. Finding Jesus in the Temple

JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

OF THE ROSARY

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. Jesus is Crowned with Thorns
4. Jesus Carries his Cross
5. The Crucifixion of Jesus

1

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

Jesus' passion begins as he consents to the sacrifice that is being asked of him. *"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."* (Luke 22:42)

In this mystery let us pray for the grace to transform our prayer life from asking God to do our will, to giving consent to God to do his will in and through us, as individuals and as a parish, even if this means sacrifice.



1. The Agony in the Garden

2. The Scourging at the Pillar

3. Jesus is Crowned with Thorns

4. Jesus Carries his Cross

5. The Crucifixion of Jesus

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

2

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Jesus was brutally whipped by the Roman soldiers as a prelude to his crucifixion. *“So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.”* (Mark 15:15) This torture was so terrible that some prisoners would actually die in the process.

In this mystery let us ask for the grace to endure whatever hardship we must for the sake of the renewal of our parish. Let us ask the Lord for the courage and endurance we will need to see the grace of his salvation shine forth from our parish community.

1. The Agony in the Garden

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SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

3

JESUS IS CROWNED WITH THORNS

The soldiers *“clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!”* (Mark 15:17-18). Think of the humility of Jesus. The King of Kings wears thorns for a crown.

C.S. Lewis said that humility does not mean thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less. In this mystery let us ask for the grace of true humility, thinking of ourselves less, as we labour to see our parish come to life.

1. The Agony in the Garden

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4. Jesus Carries his Cross

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SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

4

JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

"After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him." (Mark 15:20) Jesus, not uttering a word, carries his own cross to Golgotha.

Pope Francis said *"I dream of a 'missionary option,' that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation."* (EG 27) In this mystery let us ask for the grace to endure whatever small or large inconveniences may come our way through such a process of change. Let us pray for the grace to refrain from complaining or being negative because we are inconvenienced.

1. The Agony in the Garden
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-  4. **Jesus Carries his Cross**
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SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

5

THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

Jesus gives himself up to death for the sake of our salvation. He embraced death so that all would have life. He was broken so that others would be made whole. St. Paul said, *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* (Gal 2:19-20)

In this mystery let us pray for the grace to be crucified with him, to allow him to put to death in us, as a parish, what needs to die and to break what needs to be broken so that we and others may have new life and be made whole. Let us pray for the grace to truly live a life of faith in the one who loved us and gave himself for us.

1. The Agony in the Garden
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SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

OF THE ROSARY

WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY

1. The Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ
2. The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven
3. The Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
5. The Crowning of Our Blessed Mother as Queen of Heaven

1

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Jesus rises from the dead and, in doing so, he restores life, not as before but to an entirely new level. St Paul; writes, *“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”* (Rom 6:5)

In this mystery let us pray that the miracle of the resurrection will take place in the midst of our parish. That as we unite ourselves to a death like his, we may truly experience his resurrection and see a new parish born with greater life and vibrancy than ever before.

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GLORIOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

2

THE ASCENSION OF JESUS INTO HEAVEN

St. Matthew gives us the final words of Jesus before he ascends into heaven: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”* (Mat 28:19)

This final mandate of Jesus to the Church is known as The Great Commission. At the heart of what Jesus calls us to do is to “make disciples” who will worship, celebrate the Sacraments and put into action all that he taught us. In this mystery let us pray that our parish may place making and equipping of disciples at the heart of all that we do.

1. The Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ
-  2. **The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven**
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GLORIOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

3

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AT PENTECOST

The Church is born not at Christmas, or Holy Thursday or Good Friday or even Easter Sunday, but at Pentecost. The Church is born when the Holy Spirit comes in power. The Church will be reborn when the Holy Spirit comes in power. Our parish will be reborn when the Spirit comes in power. This is our hope and, as St. Paul says, *"hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."* (Romans 5:5)

In this mystery let us pray for a new Pentecost within our parish so that all our parishioners will have a profound and life-altering experience of the Holy Spirit, and our parish be empowered for mission.

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GLORIOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

4

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY INTO HEAVEN

At the moment of death our Blessed Mother experiences what is promised to all believers through the resurrection of the body. The book of Revelation describes a great sign that appears in the heavens: *“a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.”* (Rev. 12:1) This is exactly what is represented in the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe found on the Tilma of St. Juan Diego.

In this mystery let us seek the intercession of Our Blessed Mother under her title of the Lady of Guadalupe. Let us pray for the grace to remember that everything in this life is passing, that nothing will last except the fruit of a relationship with her Son, Jesus Christ.

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GLORIOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

5

THE CROWNING OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER AS QUEEN OF HEAVEN

"The queen stands at your right hand arrayed in gold." (Psalm 45:9)
Jesus honours his mother. She is the first disciple of her son, the first to experience the grace and new life that comes from her son, and she is the first of all intercessors.

In this mystery let us ask Our Blessed Mother to intercede for the missionary renewal of our parish, that she may pray for the grace for us to be faithful to the mission of her Son and help countless others experience the new life that is found in him.

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GLORIOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

OF THE ROSARY

THURSDAY

1. The Baptism in the Jordan
2. The Wedding at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

1

THE BAPTISM IN THE JORDAN

As Jesus begins a new chapter in his life he is baptized by John. St. Luke tells us that *“when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.””* (Luke 3:21-22)

Jesus begins his public ministry with an affirmation of his identity as a beloved son. In this mystery let us ask for the grace to be missionary because it is our very identity and a loving response to the God who has first loved us.

 1. The Baptism in the Jordan

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LUMINOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

2

THE WEDDING AT CANA

Mary tells the servants to *“Do whatever he tells you.”* (John 2:5) They act in obedience to the word of Jesus and water is transformed into the finest of wines.

In this mystery let us pray for the grace to truly be obedient to the Lord in all that he is asking of us, so that our parish may be transformed in wonderful and unexpected ways, so that the glory of Jesus will be revealed, and many people come to believe in him.

1. The Baptism in the Jordan

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LUMINOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

3

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE KINGDOM

“Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”” (Mark 1:14-15)

In this mystery us pray that our parish may be a place where the Kingdom of God is made manifest to the people in our community by our preaching, by the manner of our lives and by signs and wonders. Let us pray that hearts may be touched and that many will repent and believe the good news.

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LUMINOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

4

THE TRANSFIGURATION

Jesus allows his disciples to experience his glory as the divine Son of God to help them endure the pain and scandal of the cross.

“Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.” (Luke 9:28-29). In this mystery let us pray that our parishioners may truly have “mountaintop experiences” of God revealed in Jesus Christ and that these experiences may help us navigate the difficult and painful moments that come with parish renewal.

1. The Baptism in the Jordan
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-  4. **The Transfiguration**
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LUMINOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

5

THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

On the night before he died for our sins, Jesus becomes the new Passover Lamb, the true Lamb of God. In this liturgical action he gives himself Sacramentally to his disciples and he commands his first believers to do the same.

“Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, *“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”* (Luke 22:19) In this mystery let us pray that the celebrations of the Eucharist that take place within our parish may be vibrant, reverent, joyful and welcoming, that they may truly be experienced as the source and the summit of our Christian lives.

1. The Baptism in the Jordan
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LUMINOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

AT THE END OF EACH ROSARY WE INVITE YOU TO PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER:

PRAYER FOR PARISH UNITY

Heavenly Father,

We humbly ask that by your grace, our hearts are joined together in worship, love and service to build one new vibrant community of faith.

Open our eyes to see this time of transition as an invitation to deepen our reliance on you. Help us to pray, to listen and to act in a way that follows how your Son prayed, listened and acted.

Surround us with courage and wisdom to accept new possibilities as we offer the gifts you have given each of us through baptism.

Grant us peace, healing and understanding as we discern your will and make the necessary decisions to become a more missionary church of Christian disciples.

We ask all this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**