

Some Suggested Meditations on the Mysteries of the Rosary

Rev. Peter J. Pacini, C.S.C.

The Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary

Mary's initial response to the angel's announcement is fear and confusion, for she does not realize how richly the Lord has already blessed her in preparation for this day, nor does she understand what more the Lord is now promising to do with her cooperation. Imagine the immense joy that Mary must have felt once all of this was explained to her by the angel and she was able to give her full consent to God's plan. Think of a time when the Lord presented you with a burden that turned into a great blessing and source of joy.

2. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

Elizabeth proclaims Mary "blessed" because she is carrying the Savior of the world and because she believed that God's promise to her would be fulfilled. But Mary, in her "Magnificat," says that she rejoices in God because he has looked upon her in her lowliness and has done great things for her. Mary's joy is a result of her humility and her gratitude for undeserved blessings. Reflect on a blessing that you have received by God's grace, without any merit on your part. Share in Mary's joy and gratitude.

3. The Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem of Judea

The birth of a child always brings great joy to the child's family and those who are close to them, but the birth of Jesus is a source of joy for the whole human family. By becoming one with us, Jesus made it possible for us to be one with God. As you recall Jesus' entry into our world, ponder your own future "birth" into the heavenly world that he inhabits now.

4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Simeon and Anna both waited a very long time to see the Messiah. Neither of them knew when the Lord would fulfill his promise of a Savior or how God's Anointed One would appear to them. It is unlikely that either of them expected their sign to be a poor couple carrying a newborn child. Fortunately, they waited patiently and trusted in the Lord, and they were ready to see the sign when it appeared. Ask the Lord for patience as you wait for him to answer your prayers and fulfill all his promises.

5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Imagine the immense joy of finding your lost child safe and sound after frantically searching for him for three days. Jesus shows no concern for his safety, for he is in "his Father's house," the Temple, which the Jews regarded as the principal sign of God's presence among them. Ponder some of the ways in which you experience God's presence. Feel the comfort and security of knowing that God is near.