

## THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

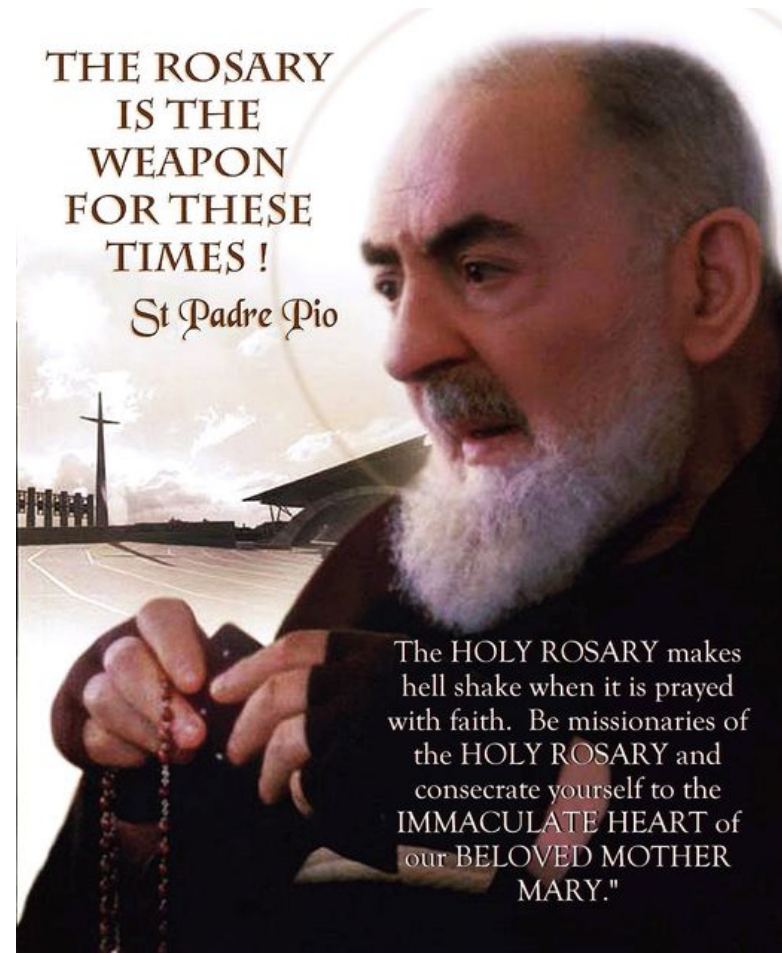


### The Rosary, a Contemplative Prayer

*The Rosary, precisely because it starts with Mary's own experience, is an exquisitely contemplative prayer. Without this contemplative dimension, it would lose its meaning, as Pope Paul VI clearly pointed out: "Without contemplation, the Rosary is a body without a soul, and its recitation runs the risk of becoming a mechanical repetition of formulas, in violation of the admonition of Christ: 'In praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think they will be heard for their many words' (Mt 6:7). By its nature the recitation of the Rosary calls for a quiet rhythm and a lingering pace, helping the individual to meditate on the mysteries of the Lord's life as seen through the eyes of her who was closest to the Lord. In this way the unfathomable riches of these mysteries are disclosed". (Rosarium Virginis Mariae, St. John Paul II)*

### Inspiring Contemplation

The following pages contain Catholic art, excerpts from the scriptures and *The Mystical City of God*, and ten considerations (one for each Hail Mary) from an unknown author to feed one's soul and develop a *quiet rhythm and a lingering pace* to inspire contemplation.



## THE FIRST GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD



*Resurrection of Christ* - Noël Coypel, 1700

### **Matthew 27:62-66, 28:1-10**

Next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember how that imposter said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ Therefore order the sepulchre to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away, and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.”

Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.”

So they went and made the sepulchre secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard. Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Mag’dalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. 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. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 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.”

So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Hail!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

## THE FIRST GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD



***The Mystical City of God*** by Venerable Mary of Agreda

The sacred wounds, which had disfigured his body, now shone forth from his hands and feet and side so refulgent and brilliant, that they added a most entrancing beauty and charm. In all this glory and heavenly adornment the Savior now arose from the grave; and in the presence of the saints and Patriarchs He promised universal resurrection in their own flesh and body to all men, and that they moreover, as an effect of his own Resurrection, should be similarly glorified. As an earnest and as a pledge of the universal resurrection, the Lord commanded the souls of many saints there present to reunite with their bodies and rise up to immortal life. Immediately this divine command was executed, and their bodies arose, as is mentioned by saint Matthew, in anticipation of this mystery. Among them was saint Anne, saint Joseph and saint Joachim, and others of the ancient Fathers and Patriarchs, who had distinguished themselves in the faith and hope of the Incarnation, and had desired and prayed for

it with greater earnestness to the Lord. As a reward for their zeal, the resurrection and glory of their bodies was now anticipated.

For the purpose of making his Resurrection known to his Apostles, He began by showing Himself to the women, not on account of their weakness, but because they were stronger in their belief and in their hope of the Resurrection; for this is the reason why they merited the privilege of being the first to see Him arisen.

A violent and wonderful quaking or trembling of the earth took place; at the same time an angel of the Lord opened the sepulchre and cast aside the stone that covered and obstructed the entrance. At this noise and the earthquake the guards of the sepulchre fell prostrate to the earth, struck motionless with fear and consternation, although they did not see the Lord. For the body of the Lord was no more in the grave; He had already arisen and issued from the monument before the angel cast aside the stone. The Marys, though in some fear, took heart and were encouraged by God to approach and enter the vault. Near the entrance they saw the angel who had thrown aside the stone, seated upon it, refulgent in countenance and in snow-white garments. He spoke to them saying: "Be not affrighted; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: He is risen, He is not here; behold the place where they laid Him." The holy women entered, and seeing the sepulchre vacant they were filled with grief; for as yet they were more deeply affected at seeing the Lord absent, than by the words of the angel. Then they saw two other angels seated at each end of the slab, who said to them: "Why seek you the Living with the dead? Remember how He spoke unto you, when he was yet in Galilee, that He was to rise on the third day. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, that He goeth before you into Galilee, there shall you see Him."

## THE FIRST GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD



*The Annunciation - Bozhena Fuchs, 2021*

1. The glorified soul of Christ is in Limbo among the elect of the Old Dispensations. The presence of Jesus puts an end to their long dark Advent. Jesus reveals Himself to them and converses with them. He transforms their prison into a paradise.
2. Like the most holy Eucharist enclosed in the tabernacle, the body of Jesus lies silent and motionless in the sepulchre. Sixteen soldiers keep watch. The eyes of all the world are turned towards this grave.
3. As suddenly as flint, when struck, emits fire, so, as the first touch of dawn in the East, Jesus rises glorious from the grave. Thus the Divine Prince begins a new life, which will know no end, He begins a new day, which will never wane.
4. Jesus is animate with the fullness of Divine Joy. His difficult task has been accomplished. He has gained the victory over death. He has freed us from sin and hell.
5. As at death, the soul of Jesus was an abyss of tribulation, so now it is the well-spring of Divine Blessedness. So shortly before, He was the prey of all manner of tribulation, now, He is inebriated with the fullness of joy. A short time before, He was loaded with reproach and contumely, now He is resplendent with power and glory.
6. The body of Jesus, lately all covered with wounds, is now exceedingly beautiful and wondrously glorified. The five wounds are more radiant than precious stones.
7. Like a bolt of lightning from the sky, an angel descends from Heaven and rolls back the stone from the tomb. The soldiers lie prostrate as if dead from fear; then rising up, they flee into the city. They are the first to proclaim the Easter message: "He is risen."
8. After His resurrection Jesus must surely have appeared first of all to His holy Mother. He embraces her and presses her to His Divine Heart. He changes the bitter sea of her tribulation into an abyss of indescribable joy.
9. The glorified Savior appears also to Peter and to the other Apostles, to the disciples of Emmaus, and indeed to several hundred others. During forty days, He converses with them of the Kingdom of God and inspires them with faith, and joy, and courage.
10. As for me, I will arise from the grave of my sins and wicked habits. Then like Jesus, I shall arise from the dead on the last day, and my body and soul will be transfigured like His. In like manner, the marks of my sufferings in soul and body will be glorious tokens of my reward. No suffering will have been in vain.

## THE SECOND GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST



The Ascension of Christ - Garofalo, 1515

### Acts 1:4-12

And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. 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 Samar’ia and to the end of the earth.”

And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 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.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away;

## THE SECOND GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST



*Ascension - John Singleton Copley, 1775*

### ***The Mystical City of God*** by Venerable Mary of Agreda

Jesus, having taken leave of this holy and fortunate gathering of the faithful, his countenance beaming forth peace and majesty, joined his hands and, by his own power, began to raise Himself

from the earth, leaving thereon the impression of his sacred feet. In gentlest motion He was wafted toward the aerial regions, drawing after Him the eyes and the hearts of those first-born children, who amid sighs and tears vented their affection. And as, at the moving of the first Cause of all motion, it is proper that also the nether spheres should be set in motion, so the Savior Jesus drew after Him also the celestial choirs of the angels, the holy Patriarchs and the rest of the glorified saints, some of them with body and soul, others only as to their soul. All of them in heavenly order were raised up together from the earth, accompanying and following their King, their Chief and Head.

“Open, ye princes, open your gates eternal; let them be raised and opened up, and receive into his dwelling the great King of glory, the Lord of virtues, the Powerful in battle, the Strong and Invincible, who comes triumphant and victorious over all his enemies. Open the gates of the heavenly paradise, and let them remain open and free forever, since the new Adam is coming, the Repairer of the whole human race, rich in mercy, overflowing with the merits of his copious Redemption wrought by his Death in the world. He has restored our loss and has raised human nature to the supreme dignity of his own immensity.”

Then the eternal Father placed upon the throne of his Divinity at his right hand, the incarnate Word, and in such glory and majesty, that He filled with new admiration and reverential fear all the inhabitants of heaven. In clear and intuitive vision they recognized the infinite glory and perfection of the Divinity inseparably and substantially united in one personality to the most holy humanity, beautified and exalted by the pre-eminence and glory due to this union, such as eyes have not seen, nor ears heard, nor ever has entered into the thoughts of creatures.

## THE SECOND GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST



*The Ascension - Benjamin West, 1801*

1. Jesus, accompanied by His Apostles, ascends the Mount of Olives. There the traces of His bitter agony are still visible. Once again He rests His gaze upon the various scenes of His sufferings. For the last time, He gazes down on Golgotha, on Jerusalem, on the temple, on Bethlehem, on the streets that His feet so often trod.
2. Jesus gathered around Him the little company of His dear oneness: His beloved Mother whom it is His will to leave behind Him for a while, clad in the vesture of mortality; His Apostles and disciples, - that little flock, which He loves so much and from whom He must now part. The Heart of Christ aches, as if with homesickness, at the thought of the impending separation.
3. Jesus now imparts the last blessing of His earthly sojourn. And then before the eyes of all He ascends up to Heaven. With painful longing and still with infinite joy, His Mother and His disciples stand watching Jesus ascend on high.
4. The invisible, uncounted host of the just from Limbo proceed with their Savior into their Eternal Home. Their jubilant chant resounds up to Heaven: "Be ye lifted up, o eternal gates, and the King of Glory shall enter in."
5. Glorious beyond all human understanding is the entrance of Jesus into Heaven. After accomplishing the hardest of all tasks, after the strictest obedience, the Eternal Son returns to the bosom of His most dearly loved Father. The reward that Jesus receives is the everlasting love of His Father and the undying gratitude of the redeemed.
6. At the right hand of His Father Jesus Christ, the God-Man, is enthroned as Eternal King of the World.
7. But the Good Shepherd in Heaven does not forget His flock here below. Them also He shall one day take unto Himself. Meantime, He prepares for them glorious mansions in Heaven.
8. Unceasingly Jesus displays before the eyes of His Father, especially at the consecration of the Mass, the wounds of His bloody sacrifice and thus makes intercession for us.
9. The glorified Savior will come again on the last day. He will reveal His Kingdom to all, both the good and the bad; and He will judge the whole world. O Jesus, be thou unto me not a stern judge but a gracious redeemer.
10. "Love not the world nor what is in the world, for the world passeth away and the concupiscence thereof." Seek ye the things that are above, where Christ sits at the right hand of the Father." I will then ever live in such a manner, that my way of life may be a path leading to Heaven.

## THE THIRD GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



*Pentecost - Jean Restout, 1732*

### **Acts 2:1-14, 16-17, 36-41**

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Par'thians and Medes and E'lamites and residents of

Mesopota'mia, Judea and Cappado'cia, Pontus and Asia, Phryg'ia and Pamphyl'ia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyre'ne, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

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.

This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: '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;

Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

And Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other words and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.



## THE THIRD GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



*The Mystical City of God* by Venerable Mary of Agreda

On Pentecost morning the blessed Virgin Mary exhorted the Apostles, the disciples and the pious women, numbering about one hundred and twenty, to pray more fervently and renew their hopes, since the hour was at hand in which they were to be visited by the divine Spirit from on high. At the third hour (nine o'clock), when all of them were gathered around their heavenly Mistress and engaged in fervent prayer, the air resounded with a tremendous thunder and the blowing of a violent wind mixed with the brightness of fire or lightning, all centering upon the house of the Cenacle. The house was enveloped in light and the divine fire was poured out over all of that holy gathering. Over the head of each of the hundred and twenty persons appeared a tongue of that same fire, in which the Holy Ghost had come, filling each one with divine influences and heavenly gifts and causing at one and the same time the most diverse and contrary effects in the Cenacle and in the whole of Jerusalem, according to the diversity of the persons affected.

The sacred Apostles, who were filled with charity by the plenitude of the gifts of the Holy Ghost and who knew that all Jerusalem was gathering at the doors of the Cenacle, asked permission of

their Mistress and Queen to go forth and preach to them; in order that such great graces might not even for a moment fail to redound to the benefit of souls and to new glory of their Author. They all left the house of the Cenacle and, placing themselves before the multitudes, began to preach the mysteries of the faith and of eternal life. Though until then they had been so shy and seclusive, they now stepped forth with unhesitating boldness and poured forth burning words, that like a flashing fire penetrated to the souls of their hearers. All the people were filled with wonder and astonishment at these events, the like of which had never before been heard or seen in the world. They looked at each other and in consternation asked each other, saying: "What is this that we witness? Are not all these that speak Galileans? How then do we hear them speaking in the language in which we were born? We Jews and Proselytes, Romans, Latins, Greeks, Cretans, Arabs, Parthians, Medes and all the rest of us from different parts of the world, hear them speak and we understand them in our own languages? O greatness of God! How admirable is He in all His works!"

Saint Peter, as the head of the Church, stepped forth and, speaking in a loud voice, said: "Let then the whole house of Israel understand, and let them be assured, that God hath made this Jesus, whom you have crucified, his Anointed and the Lord of all, and that He has raised Him from the dead on the third day." On hearing these words the hearts of many, that stood there, were moved to compunction and with great wailing they asked saint Peter and the rest of the Apostles, what they should do for their salvation. Thereupon saint Peter said to them: "Do penance and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all that are far off, whomsoever the Lord our God shall call. Seek therefore now to make use of the remedy, and to save yourselves from this perverse and incredulous generation."

## THE THIRD GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



*Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost - Lambert Lombard, 1558*

1. After witnessing the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven, the Mother of God, the Apostles, the disciples, and the holy women return to the cenacle. They betake themselves to prayer in preparation for the coming of the Holy Ghost. What a charming picture is this of Holy Church!
2. Although founded by Christ, the Church is still only a lifeless, impotent form. She still lacks the breath of life, a soul, the strength of the conflict. Therefore the young Church prays with great earnestness for the coming of the Holy Ghost. From this fact, I infer that I also must learn to invoke the Holy Spirit. Without Him the good in me cannot grow; without Him all is dead.
3. During the forenoon of Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Ghost descends upon the Church in the visible form of tongues of fire. The chosen ones of Christ are transformed, since animated with the Divine Breath.
4. The descent of the Holy Ghost was like the roar of a mighty wind, to signify that He will drive out of our hearts, like dust before the wind, everything within us that is old and unholy. Remove then from my heart, O Holy Ghost, all weakness and sin.
5. The fiery tongues show that the Apostles are being furnished direct from Heaven with knowledge, wisdom, and the gift of tongues. They are destined to go out among the nations and unite them all in the one Kingdom of Christ. Holy Church speaks with the wisdom of the Holy Ghost. Hence I will always listen to her voice.
6. The Holy Ghost comes amid flames of fire. He ignites in the hearts of men the fire of Divine Love and an enthusiasm that quails not in the face of death. Come, O Holy Ghost, and enter likewise into my lukewarm heart! Set it on fire with Divine Love.
7. The Church now lives. She speaks and acts through Peter, who on this day as fisherman of the Kingdom of Heaven, takes his first draught of fishes. In response to his preaching, three thousand people join the Church and thus bear public witness to the Christ as having sojourned among them, died for them, and rose again from the dead.
8. The Holy Ghost will remain in the Church until the end of the world to be her divine life. He abides with her in the exercise of her infallible teaching office. He abides with both the shepherds and their flocks. These truths are a great joy for me as a child of the Church.
9. The Holy Ghost imparts to the faithful all graces, all His seven gifts. Hence I shall often pray to the Holy Ghost for myself and for all men.
10. I will continually pay homage to the Holy Ghost and be a most faithful member of Holy Church in which He dwells.

## THE FOURTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



*Assumption of the Divine and Holy Virgin Mary - Peter Paul Rubens*

### **St. John Damascene on the Assumption of Mary**

The Blessed Virgin Mary did not on this day return to dust. For no sinful propensity ever inclined her towards the earth. No, the sentiments of her heart were ever directed upward towards Heaven. And since she had long since become a living Heaven, it was proper that she should be assumed into Heaven. Why should she have to taste death from whom was born the true Life of All? Still she submits to the general law of the death, since it was promulgated by her Son. As a daughter of Eve she submits to the ancient decree, as indeed her Son who is the Life Itself, submitted to it. But, in as much as she is the Mother of the Living God, she was worthy to be taken up to Him.

Eve harkened to the inspiration of the serpent. The pains of motherhood and of death are therefore her punishment and in the gloomy dungeons of Limbo she is appointed a dwelling. But the Blessed Mother of Christ harkened to the word of God and then the efficacious might of the Holy Ghost descended upon her. After the angelic salutation she conceived in a virginal manner the Son of the Most High. She bore Him without any pain and devoted herself thereafter without reserve to the Incarnate God. How could she become the prey of the ravages of death? Why should she have to descend into the penal dungeons of the after-life? How could decomposition claim the possession of that body in which the life of Our Life was conceived? Rather a direct, plain and easy path to Heaven was prepared for her. Did not Christ, the Truth and the Life, Himself say: "Where I am, there also my minister shall be." How much more should not Christ's very own Mother be in Heaven where Christ is. (Second Sermon, On the Assumption)

## THE FOURTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



*Assumption Of The Virgin - Guido Reni*

### *The Mystical City of God* by Venerable Mary of Agreda

The most holy soul of Mary was immediately raised to the right hand of her Son and true God, and placed on the royal throne of the most holy Trinity, which neither men, nor angels nor the seraphim themselves attain, and will not attain for all eternity. The great Queen surpasses inaccessibly all the saints in glory and has a likeness to that of Christ, which cannot be understood in this life, nor ever described.

On the third day after the most pure soul of Mary had taken possession of this glory never to leave it, the Lord manifested to the saints his divine will, that She should return to the world, resuscitate her sacred body and unite Herself with it, so that She might in body and soul be again raised to the right hand of her divine Son without waiting for the general resurrection of the dead.

When the time for this wonder had arrived, Christ our Savior himself descended from heaven bringing with Him at his right hand the soul of his most blessed Mother and accompanied by many legions of Angels, the Patriarchs and ancient Prophets. They came to the sepulchre in the valley of Josaphat, and all being gathered in sight of the virginal temple, the Lord spoke the following words to the saints.

“My Mother was conceived without stain of sin, in order that from Her virginal substance I might stainlessly clothe Myself in the humanity in which I came to the world and redeemed it from sin. My flesh is her flesh; She co-operated with Me in the works of the Redemption; hence I must raise Her, just as I rose from the dead, and this shall be at the same time and hour. For I wish to make Her like Me in all things.”

Then the purest soul of the Queen, at the command of the Lord, entered the virginal body, reanimated it and raised it up, giving it a new life of immortality and glory and communicating to it the four

## THE FOURTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

gifts of clearness, impassibility, agility and subtlety, corresponding to those of the soul and overflowing from it into the body.

Endowed with these gifts the most blessed Mary issued from the tomb in body and soul, without raising the stone cover and without disturbing the position of the tunic and the mantle that had enveloped her sacred body. Since it is impossible to describe her beauty and refulgent glory, I will not make the attempt. It is sufficient to say, that just as the heavenly Mother had given to her divine Son in her womb the form of man, pure, unstained and sinless, for the Redemption of the world, so in return the Lord, in this resurrection and new regeneration, gave to Her a glory and beauty similar to his own.

Then from the sepulchre was started a most solemn procession, moving with celestial music through the regions of the air and toward the empyrean heaven. This happened in the hour immediately after midnight, in which also the Lord had risen from the grave; and therefore not all of the Apostles were witness of this prodigy, but only some of them, who were present and watching at the sepulchre. The saints and angels entered heaven in the order in which they had started; and in the last place came Christ our Savior and at his right hand the Queen, clothed in the gold of variety, and so beautiful that She was the admiration of the heavenly court.

Amid this glory the most blessed Mary arrived body and soul at the throne of the most blessed Trinity. And the three divine Persons received Her on it with an embrace eternally indissoluble. There the most blessed Mary was absorbed in the contemplation of the three divine Persons and as it were overwhelmed in the boundless ocean and abyss of the Divinity, while the saints were filled with wonder and new accidental delight.



*The Assumption of the Virgin - Jacopo Amigoni*

## THE FOURTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



*Assumption of the Virgin Mary - San Petronio Basilica in Bologna, Italy*

1. I stand in spirit at the death-bed of the Mother of God in Jerusalem. She is tormented by no physical pain, simply the longing to be with her Divine Son is consuming her earthly tenement of flesh.
2. The Mother of God dies the most beautiful of deaths. Here, there is no disquiet of any kind of guilt to distress her last hours. Her life from her Immaculate Conception to her death lies stainless before her eyes. It has been adorned with the most resplendent virtues through the closest possible union with God. It has led her oh-so often through the way of the cross and of humiliations. For one who has led such a beautiful and fruitful life, death can have no terrors.
3. Mary dies without pain as gently as ripe fruit falls from the tree. Her soul ascends on high to exultant union with God.
4. Her sacred Body St. John lovingly consigns to the grave. I stand in spirit at Mary's tomb. The earth has lost the dearest of all mothers; no, not lost; for least of all in Heaven will this Mother forget her children.
5. Mary's body will not see corruption, for never has the stain of sin inclined her towards the dust, as is the case with me.
6. From this body the son of God assumed flesh and blood. Hence, it was as little possible for the holy body of Mary to be delivered over to corruption as it was for the body of Jesus, her Divine Son.
7. Christ awakens His Blessed Mother to a new life. He endows her with a most glorious transfiguration; while angels bear her on high into Heaven.
8. I rejoice exceedingly, O my Heavenly Mother, at the sublime privilege that has fallen to thy lot! To us thou has brought supernatural life. Hence thou shouldst not be subject to the law of corporal dissolution: thy deserts are incorruptibility and eternal glory.
9. O Mary, assist me through thy intercession to journey through life without reproach in the way that leads to Heaven. Help me to make my life rich in prayer and union with God and fruitful in good works. Help me, through resignation to God's Will, to transform the thorns of tribulation into the roses of eternal merit.
10. O Mother of God! Assist me at the hour of my death, receive my poor soul, and lead it with a plea for clemency to thy Divine Son, my Judge.

## THE FIFTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE CROWNING OF MARY IN HEAVEN



*Ascension and Coronation of the Virgin - Peter Paul Rubens*

### **St. Bernard on the Assumption of Mary**

As the Blessed Virgin Mary on this day ascended glorious into Heaven, beyond doubt did she immeasurably increase the blessedness of the citizens of Heaven. Through a mere word of greeting from her, one who was still imprisoned in the maternal womb, was made to exult and rejoice. If then, the heart of John, an unborn child, almost melted for joy on hearing Mary, how indescribably great must have been the joy of the heavenly citizens, when they were permitted to hear her voice, to gaze into her face, to enjoy her blessed presence?

Who could form an adequate idea of the resplendent spectacle enacted on this day, as the Queen of the Universe enters Heaven? Who can describe the veneration and enthusiasm with which the Heavenly Hosts come forth to receive her and the anthems of praise with which she was escorted to her glorious heavenly throne? What love glowed in the eyes of her Divine Son, what benevolence lighted up His face, what Divine tenderness was apparent in His embraces as He welcomes His mother and elevates her above all the other creatures of His hand? He received her with such honor as alone was worthy of the dignity of such a mother. He adorns her with such glory as only a Divine Son could grant her. (First Sermon, On the Assumption)

## THE FIFTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE CROWNING OF MARY IN HEAVEN



*The Coronation of the Virgin Mary - Bernardo Lorente Germán*

### ***The Mystical City of God*** by Venerable Mary of Agreda

The three divine Persons placed upon the head of the most blessed Mary a crown of such new splendor and value, that the like has been seen neither before nor after by any mere creature. At the same time a voice sounded from the throne saying: "My Beloved, chosen among the creatures, our kingdom is Thine; Thou shalt be the Lady and the Sovereign of the seraphim, of all the ministering spirits, the angels and of the entire universe of creatures. Attend, proceed and govern prosperously over them, for in our supreme consistory We give Thee power, majesty and sovereignty. Being

filled with grace beyond all the rest, Thou hast humiliated Thyself in thy own estimation to the lowest place; receive now the supreme dignity deserved by Thee and, as a participation in our Divinity, the dominion over all the creatures of our Omnipotence. From thy royal throne to the center of the earth Thou shalt reign; and by the power We now give Thee Thou shalt subject hell with all its demons and inhabitants. Let all of them fear Thee as the supreme Empress and Mistress of those caverns and dwelling-places of our enemies. In the hands and at thy pleasure We place the influences and forces of the heavens, the moisture of the clouds, the growths of the earth; and of all of them do Thou distribute according to thy will, and our own will shall be at thy disposal for the execution of thy wishes. Thou shalt be the Empress and Mistress of the militant Church, its Protectress, its Advocate, its Mother and Teacher. Thou shalt be the special Patroness of the Catholic countries; and whenever they, or the faithful, or any of the children of Adam call upon Thee from their heart, serve or oblige Thee, Thou shalt relieve and help them in their labors and necessities. Thou shalt be the Friend, the Defender and the Chieftainess of all the just and of our friends; all of them Thou shalt comfort, console and fill with blessings according to their devotion to Thee. In view of all this We make Thee the Depository of our riches, the Treasurer of our goods; we place into thy hands the helps and blessings of our grace for distribution; nothing do We wish to be given to the world, which does not pass through thy hands; and nothing do We deny, which Thou wishest to concede to men. Grace shall be diffused in thy lips for obtaining all that Thou wishest and ordainest in heaven and on earth, and everywhere shall angels and men obey Thee; because whatever is ours shall be thine, just as Thou hast always been ours; and Thou shalt reign with Us forever."

In the execution of this decree and privilege conceded to the mistress of the world, the Almighty commanded all the cortiers of heaven, angels and men, to show Her obedience and recognize Her as their Queen and Lady.



## THE FIFTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY - THE CROWNING OF MARY IN HEAVEN



*Coronation of the Virgin - Diego Velázquez*

1. The Mother of God, greeted by the infinite jubilation of angels and saints, enters body and soul into Heaven. “Eye hath not seen nor ear heard nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive, what God hath prepared for those who love Him.” May my soul also have some day its glorious entrance into Heaven.
2. The Heavenly Father welcomes Mary as the most highly favored of all His children, for she is more innocent than Abel, wiser than Solomon, more beautiful than the angels, more virtuous than all the saints, more steadfast than all the martyrs. He bids her welcome as the Mother of His Only-begotten Son.
3. The Eternal Son places upon His Mothers’s brow the crown of Heavenly Queenship. The real glory and greatness of Mary, formerly hidden so long in her own interior, is now revealed to all: “A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and a crown of twelve stars upon her head.”
4. The Holy Ghost in turn heaps ever more grace and beatitude upon her. He crowns her as Mistress of all the angels and saints.
5. Mary is Queen of the Angels, because she is more glorious than they; Queen of Patriarchs and Prophets, because they were sent in remote expectation of her; Queen of Apostles, as having not merely announced the glad tidings of salvation but as having brought us the Savior. Mary is Queen of Martyrs, having surpassed them in the vehemence of her sufferings; Queen of Confessors, having given proof of greater fortitude: Queen of Virgins while surpassing them in the splendor of her purity. Mary is a worthy Queen of all the Saints.
6. Nevertheless Mary was and still is, the humblest of all God’s creatures. Hence God elevated her above all. Mary will remain forever more the handmaid of the Lord as well as Queen of Heaven and Earth.
7. Mary had the heaviest crosses to bear, therefore she is the most blessed in Heaven. “For I reckon that the sufferings of this time are nor worthy to be compared to the glory to come, that shall be revealed in us.”
8. She was not like the earthly-minded Martha, but rather like Martha’s sister Mary, whose mind was fixed upon the things of eternity. “Mary has chosen the better part, which shall not be taken from her.” She has not been one of those foolish virgins, who gave no thought to preserve the grace of God in their hearts: Mary is therefore “The Seat of Wisdom”.
9. O most humble and loving Queen of Heaven! Pray for me in my struggles and temptations, in my labors and sufferings, until I am permitted to kneel in homage before thy throne!
10. Look down upon the tribulations and dangers of all poor pilgrims of earth! See how the games of hell rage against us! Be thou the protector of our Holy Mother, the Church! Ave Maria!