



Rosary Meditations for the Joyful Mysteries



➤ **Annunciation:**

“The angel Gabriel was sent from God... to a virgin... and he came to her and said, ‘Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!’” (Lk 1:26-28)

Mary was a young woman totally filled with the grace of God. This means that through God’s power, spirit, and life dwelling within, her heart was completely open to the Lord, and her life was in perfect conformity with His ways. Imagine what it would be like to be living entirely for God with every ounce of our being. Imagine what it would be like to be utterly converted, turned completely towards God, without holding anything back. Imagine how much good you could accomplish in this life. God used this 14 year old girl to accomplish his plan to redeem the human race. Imagine that you are present when the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary. What does Mary look like? What does the room look like? What does the Angel look like? This event actually happened at a precise moment in history. How important is this encounter for the history of mankind?

➤ **Visitation:**

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” (Lk 1:42)

Mary commanded no armies, wasn’t wealthy, held no political office, did not have a PhD, never wrote a book, didn’t have her own TV show, wasn’t famous, and wasn’t married to someone famous. What greater gift could anyone give the world than the Christ, the Son of the Living God? Is there any greater single contribution to mankind? Picture her standing there in the house of Elizabeth with child by the Holy Spirit. She is powerless in the eyes of the world, and yet she has more power growing in her womb than a million nuclear power plants. The creative power that brought the universe into existence is completely entrusted to her protective and nurturing care. She appears so weak by worldly standards, but God loves weakness. Are you weak? Almighty God loves you, and will do powerful things through you if you let him.

➤ **Nativity:**

“Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.” (Lk 2:19)

The Blessed Mother was a teenager when she gave birth to the second Person of the Blessed Trinity of three divine Persons. God chose a teenager for this mission of such staggering importance that we cannot hardly begin to comprehend it. But we can spend our lives contemplating it. These mysteries of the rosary are deep wells that will never run dry. The rosary is a contemplative prayer. Mary shows us how to contemplate this mystery of the nativity, because she herself kept all these mysterious events and happenings, and pondered them in her heart.

➤ **The Presentation:**

“Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against. And a sword will pierce through your own soul also.’” (Lk 2:34-35)

Mary walked bravely towards Calvary after the prophecy of Simeon, without the benefit of some further explanation. Some more details about the form this sword would take perhaps? What was in store for her? Where was God leading her? How would his mysterious plan work itself out? She was brave, and she had unshakeable confidence in the Lord God who had led Abraham on his journey of faith, lead her people out of Egypt, and lead her up to this point in her life. Following God is the ultimate adventure. Webster’s dictionary defines an adventure as: *“a bold undertaking, in which hazards are to be encountered and the issue is staked upon unforeseen events”*. This certainly describes the situation Mary has found herself in. Do we see our life as an adventurous journey of faith in the Lord’s plan for our lives?

➤ **Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple:**

“After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions... and his mother kept all these things in her heart.” (Lk 2:46-51)

She lost her child in the crowd. How many women have had this experience at some point. It is such an ordinary story, and yet laced with extraordinary significance. God is instructing her through this occurrence, and she is always attuned to God instruction. She must grow in her understanding of the role she must play in her Son’s mission. She doesn’t fully understand, but she is always patient and trusting. She trusts patiently that the meaning of God’s words and actions will make more sense with time. Are we always looking to see what it is God is trying to teach us through the events,

relationships, and circumstances of our lives? Are we patient and trusting? We also have a role to play in the ongoing mission of our Lord to save the human race.