

5. Mary's role in our lives.

After Eve had led Adam into the sin of disobedience, God spoke to the serpent first, then to Eve, and last of all to Adam. God explained the consequences of their actions.

To the serpent God said the following:

*"Be accursed beyond all cattle.all wild beasts.
You shall crawl on your belly and eat dust
every day of your life.
I will make you enemies of each other:
You and the woman, your offspring and her
offspring. It will crush your head and you
will strike its heel."(Genesis 3:14-15)*

Here in Genesis, the first book of the bible, we are given the first hint of salvation. The Woman and her Seed will oppose the Devil and its offspring. The Woman, Mary, and her seed, Jesus, will oppose and defeat evil. Evil's plan to destroy the Human Race will be ended.[Gen.3:14-15]

Many centuries later the Prophet Isaiah wrote the following:

*"Listen now, House of David:are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of God, too? The Lord Himself ,therefore, will give you a sign.
It is this: the virgin is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel."*

The Prophet Isaiah was born about 765 B.C. In his books of prophecies there are four passages, the 'Songs of the Servant of Yahweh.' (42:1-7; 50:4-9, 49:1-9, 52: 13-53) These verses speak of a perfect disciple of Yahweh who will proclaim the true faith and will suffer to atone for the sins of his people.

The Old Testament is the written account of God's plan of salvation.and His Covenants with His people. The Promised Messiah was the hope of the Jewish Nation throughout their troubled history.

Mary, the only child of Joachim and Anne, was the Woman of prophecy who was asked by the Angel Gabriel, God's messenger, to become the mother of Jesus.

In Matthew's Gospel we read that, 'Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph , being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce

her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "*Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.*" (**Matt.1:18-23.**)

Mary set out immediately for the hill country of Judah, to visit her cousin Elizabeth who, the Angel said, was to have a child, even though she was already old and considered barren.

The greeting of the Angel to Mary and Elizabeth's welcome to her make up the first part of the prayer the **Hail Mary**. Elizabeth's child was John the Baptist who was the Prophet of the Most High. He would prepare the Jewish Nation for the coming of Messiah.

Mary's beautiful prayer of joy spoken to Elizabeth is called **The Magnificat**.

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; because He has looked upon his lowly handmaid. All generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and His mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, He has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent away empty. He has come to the help of Israel His servant, mindful of His mercy-according to the promise he made to our ancestors-of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever." (**Lk.1:46-55**)

The Prophecy of Micah:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.' (**Mi 5:1**)

These words, written by the prophet Micah centuries before, were read to Herod, when the Magi visited him to inquire about the birth place of the child King of the Jews

Since the Romans asked for a census of the people in the lands they had conquered, everyone had to return to their place of birth to be registered. For Joseph this meant returning to Bethlehem to be included in the census in his hometown at the time Mary was due to give birth to Jesus.

The Magi visited the stable where Jesus was born, but they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod. Joseph and Mary were also warned to flee to Egypt with the child because Herod was planning to kill Him. Many years later they returned to their home in Nazareth, staying away from the jurisdiction of Herod's son who now ruled Judea.

.At the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, a holy man, Simeon, said the following:

"Now, master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my

eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel." Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "You see this child: he is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, destined to be rejected---and a sword will pierce your own soul too--so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare. "(Lk2:29-32)

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with Him.(Lk 2: 40)

Every year Jesus went with Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, Mary and Joseph were separated from Jesus for three days .He was not with their relations or friends, so they returned to Jerusalem where they found him sitting among the doctors of the law, listening to them, and asking them questions.

'My child, why have you done this to us?'

'Did you not know I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' he replied.

Eighteen years later the gospels give an account of Jesus' first public miracle. It happened at the wedding he attended at Cana. His mother, Mary, initiated this miracle by pointing out to Jesus that the host family were running out of wine! All of his disciples were there too, as yet their public ministry had not begun. Only the Father knew the time to begin Jesus' mission, yet Jesus was obedient to his Father by doing what was asked of him by his Mother. He turned water into wine much to the amazement of all, including his newly called disciples.

Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.

Life on the road was difficult for Jesus and His disciples, but difficulties did not slow them down. Sometimes, thousands of people followed them.

After three years of public ministry, Jesus is arrested and tried for the sin of blasphemy. He is not found guilty of any crime, yet He is condemned to death by the Roman, Pontius Pilate.

Jesus was scourged, crowned with thorns, and made to carry a heavy cross to Calvary, the hill where he was crucified. We know from the gospels that Mary was present for all of this and she stood with Him beneath the cross on which he was crucified.

St. John in his gospel writes that when Jesus saw John and Mary together beside his cross. He said to his grieving mother, **'Woman this is your son.'** **Then to the disciple He said,' This is your mother.'**

The last significant mention we have of Mary is on Pentecost Sunday when the Holy Spirit

came down on the Apostles to fill them with the most remarkable gifts of the spirit.

The Church was born on this day. We call the Church the Mystical Body of Christ. Mary,

the Mother of Jesus becomes Mother of the Church, the guardian of the truth about Jesus and the Way of Salvation for the World. (**The Acts of the Apostles; Prologue 1-11: The Jerusalem Church; 12-26: Pentecost 2: 1-36**)

The Five First Saturdays.

The central theme of the first Saturday devotions is reparation for the sins of blasphemy and ingratitude committed against the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The devotion of the five first Saturdays is offered to Christ, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, His Blessed Mother.

The Five First Saturdays Devotion and the wonderful promises connected with it were revealed by Our Lady to Lucy, one of the three children to whom the Blessed Virgin appeared at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917.

I promise to help at the hour of death, with the graces needed for salvation, whoever on the first Saturday of five consecutive months shall:

1. Confess and receive Holy Communion.

2. Recite five decades of the Rosary.

3. And keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.

Act of Reparation.

O Most holy Virgin and our Mother, we are sorry for the pain we have caused your Immaculate Heart by our many sins and our ingratitude. We seldom thank you or our Blessed Lord for the great love which brought Him to the Sacrifice of Cross. He died on the cross in order to save us from the sins we so carelessly commit, and that we justify in our own minds.

We wish to atone not only for our own sins but also for the sins of the people of the world. We offer in reparation our Holy Communion received today. We want to stop offending Our Lord by our sinful thoughts and actions. We offer our prayers through Your Immaculate Heart, and ask for God's Graces to strengthen us in our resolve .Amen.

Appearances of Our Blessed Mother at Fatima and Lourdes.

On the 11, Feb. 1858, in the town of Lourdes, France, Our Lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, who was fourteen years old at the time. Bernadette came from an extremely poor family, whose father had been jailed the previous year for a crime he did not commit.

Bernadette's health was a matter for concern, since her illness with cholera had weakened her and had delayed her education. She was late starting her catechism, only knew a few prayers, and did not understand all the truths of the faith.

Our Lady appeared to Bernadette eighteen times between the 11 Feb. 1858 and the 16

July 1858. On the 18 of February, the day of the third Apparition, the Blessed Virgin spoke for the first time. Bernadette asked for the Lady's name, "Would you be kind enough to write down for me your name?" were Bernadette's words. This is how the Virgin replied to Bernadette, "N'ey pas necessari" (It is not necessary) and then the lady said, "Would you be kind enough to come here for fifteen days?"

On the ninth apparition the Lady asked Bernadette to drink of the water and wash herself there where she was shown. Bernadette crawled on her knees, ate the weeds, scratched the ground at the back of the Grotto and drank the muddy water with which she tried to wash her face!

The crowds who had accompanied Bernadette thought she had gone mad! However, after everyone had left a spring of water began to flow from the place where Bernadette had scratched the earth with her fingers.

Ever since that flow of water began at the Grotto of Massabielle, crowds have been attracted there. Today, thousands of people, many seriously ill travel to Lourdes to say the Rosary, bathe in the water in the Baths, and join in the procession of the Blessed Sacrament which winds its way through the grounds of the Grotto followed by thousands of invalids in wheelchairs. Here in this beautiful place of Pilgrimage, Our Lady and Our Lord continue to bring relief of every kind of suffering to a broken world.

During the sixteenth Apparition Our Lady finally told Bernadette her name, "*Que soy era Immaculata Conception.*"

Bernadette did not understand the name of the Lady, so she memorized it and ran to the Presbytery to repeat the words to her Parish Priest who was not at all happy with the requests made by Bernadette up to this time. When he heard the name given to Bernadette by the lady, he wept and believed, knowing that the young poor girl could not know this name nor make it up.

The Lady who appeared to Bernadette had named herself, The Immaculate Conception. The Lady said, 'I am the Immaculate Conception.'

On the seventh of July 1866, Bernadette began her Novitiate at the Convent of St. Gildard in Nevers. Bernadette lived there until her death on the sixteenth of April 1879. Her body remains incorrupt and can be seen at Nevers. On the eighth of December 1933, Bernadette was canonized by Pope Pious XI.

Our Lady Appears to Three Children at Fatima, Portugal.

Heaven intervenes in our history to save us from, and turn us away from the direction that the world has chosen. A direction which, at the time of the appearances at Fatima, was taking the world into the 1st World War, and the death of millions of people.

The events at Fatima take place between 1916 and 1920. Three children, the oldest of whom was ten and the youngest seven, first of all saw an Angel in 1916, and then Our Lady appeared to them six times in 1917.

The three shepherd children, are now known around the world. Their cause for canonization is underway with the two younger children who died shortly after the apparitions now called Blessed. The oldest of the three, Lucia, died recently after living into her 90's. The younger children, cousins of Lucia, are called Francisco and his sister Jacinto Marto.

In 1916, when the Angel appeared to them, he was described in Lucia's memoirs many years later as 'a transparent young man, about fifteen years of age, more brilliant than crystal penetrated by the rays of the sun.'

**"Don't be afraid," he said, "I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me."
*'My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You. I beg pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love You.'***

The children began to pray this prayer for hours that day and for the rest of their lives. The Angel appeared to the children twice more. On the third visitation this is what happened.

After saying the Rosary together the three children began to recite the Angel's Prayer. They had said it a few times when they saw the same crystalline light come swiftly over the valley. It was the Angel of Peace once more. The Angel held a Chalice in one hand, and in the other, over it, a host. These he left suspended in the air while he prostrated himself on the ground and said:

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly and offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the earth, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifferences with which He Himself is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners.

The Angel repeated the prayer three times. Then rising up he took the Chalice and the Host, and kneeling on the flat rock, held the Host before him, saying:

"Take and eat the Body and the Blood of Jesus Christ, horribly insulted by ungrateful men. Make reparation for their crimes and console your God."

He placed the Host on Lucia's tongue, and to Francisco and Jacinto he gave the Chalice, from which they drank. At the end he again prostrated himself on the ground and said the same prayer three times.

The shepherd children did not ever see the Angel of Peace again. His task of preparing

them through prayer for the great event which would happen in the following year was finished. Through their prayers and penances they were being prepared for the astounding appearances of Our Lady to these three little shepherds.

One day about a year later the children were tending the sheep when a brilliant light frightened them. They ran for shelter thinking that a storm was on the way. A second flash made them run again, but they stopped in amazement when they saw a ball of light just above a small evergreen bush.

In the centre of the light stood a Lady, reported Lucia in her memoirs, 'a Lady all of white, more brilliant than the sun. Her face was indescribably beautiful, not sad, not happy, but serious. Her hands were together as in prayer at her breast, pointing up, with the Rosary beads hanging down between the fingers of the right hand.'

"Don't be afraid," she said, "I won't hurt you!"

Lucia asked, "Where does Your Excellency come from?"

The Lady replied, "I am from Heaven."

"I come to ask you to come here for six months in succession, on the thirteenth day at this same hour. Then I will tell you who I am and what I want. And afterwards I will return here a seventh time."

She asked them if they were willing to offer themselves to God and endure much suffering for the conversion of sinners to which they replied. "Yes we are."

Our Lady appeared six times at Fatima to three shepherd children.

May 13, 1917: Our Lady tells the children that she is of Heaven. Rays of light which came from the palms of Our Lady's hands penetrated their hearts and souls, making them, as Lucia wrote in her memoirs, see themselves in God.

June 13, 1917. The children see the Immaculate Heart of Mary pierced with thorns. Our Lady shows the children a vision of Hell and she teaches the three children this prayer which we now say after each decade of the Rosary.

Oh, my Jesus, forgive us, save us from the fire of Hell, and lead all souls to Heaven.

She tells them that God wishes to establish in the World, devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. All people must avoid serious sin, go to confession regularly, and pray the Rosary for the whole World.

What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul.

(Mark 8:36)

July 13, 1917. Our Lady announces that there will be a great miracle that everyone will see. She also gives the children a secret message about a future event. The children were given a vision of Hell, which was full of lost souls. This was the work they were given by God, to save those souls who were committing serious sins and were refusing God's grace, which would redeem and save them from the eternal loss of God. The children were asked by God, through Mary our Heavenly Mother, to offer up their own lives, their

prayers, and sacrifices, for the souls of sinners.

The three children took this work seriously spending many hours in prayer for the remainder of their lives. The vision they saw of hell was extremely powerful, and Lucia spoke of it to those who asked about it in later years. However, for the time being the visions and the conversations with Our Lady were to be kept secret. **For the second time Our Lady said to them, "You have seen Hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart."**

Aug. 13, 1917. Belief grows in the appearances of Our Lady. The children are arrested by the administrator of the district and questioned. They are threatened with death if they do not tell their secret message from the Lady. The children, although very frightened kept silent.

This administrator believed that religion belonged back in the middle ages and he wanted to unveil a fraud and save himself the embarrassment of religious fervour breaking out in his jurisdiction.

Meanwhile pilgrims by the hundreds were heading for Aljustrel, the place of the visions. It was August 12 and the three children were in the local jail with local criminals. They were interrogated further and commanded to not return to the Cova da Iria, the place of the apparitions.

The people waiting at the Cova reported seeing the ball of light come as the children had said and that everyone was convinced that Our Lady had come but the children were not there.

Aug. 19, 1917. The Apparition at Valinhos. Our Lady appeared to them where they were watching the sheep. She asked them to continue going to the Cova on the thirteenth of each month as they had promised, and to continue to recite the Rosary every day. Lucia continued to talk with Our Lady about a variety of issues concerning money left by pilgrims and healing for those who were sick. Our Lady asked them to pray a great deal for souls who had no one to pray for them.

Sept. 13, 1917. The roads were full of pilgrims, thousands of people were heading for the Cova da Iria, reciting the Rosary and saying the Litany of Our Blessed Mother. Lucia describes the scene as pandemonium, with people trying to reach them with requests for Our Lady. Here, said Lucia, in Aljustrel, were scenes of suffering humanity. Many, but not all the people present were again given the singular gift of seeing the globe of light carrying Mary from Heaven to the Cova. The three children again conversed with the Mother of God. "Continue to say the Rosary," she said, "to bring about the end of the war. In October Our Lord will come also, and Our Lady of the Sorrows of Carmel, and St. Joseph with the child Jesus, to bless the World. In October I will perform the miracle so that all will believe."

Oct. 13, 1917. On the night before the apparitions, the rain fell steadily. There was mud

everywhere, and thousands of people had been travelling in the storm all night to arrive in time for Our Lady's appearance.

When Our Lady came she said to Lucia, "I want to tell you to have them build a chapel here in my honour. I am the Lady of the Rosary. Let them continue to say the Rosary every day. The war is going to end and the soldiers will soon return to their homes."

Lucia asked for healing for some people and Our Lady asked that people amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. She told Lucia that some would be cured when they amended their lives.

At this point Our Lady opened her hands and light emerged from them ascending to where the sun was clouded over. As Our Lady disappeared in the very radiance that came from her outstretched hands, three tableaus which symbolized, one after another, the Joyful, the Sorrowful, and the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosaries were seen by the three children.

They saw St. Joseph dressed in white holding the child Jesus who was dressed in red. The child Jesus blessed the crowd of people. Only Lucia saw the next vision of Our Lady of Sorrows. Our Lord stood beside his Mother in great sorrow and grief as He was on the day He met her on His way to Calvary. He looked with pity on the crowd for whom He had died, and He raised His hand and made the sign of the cross over all the people there.

Our Lady then appeared as Our Lady of Mount Carmel, crowned as Queen of Heaven and of the World, her infant Son upon her knee. Our Lady held out the brown scapular, indicating that she wants us all to wear it.

The scapular reminds us daily that we have consecrated our lives to Jesus through Mary. Totus Tuus, which was the motto taken by Pope John Paul II means that everything in our life is placed in Mary's hands. 'I am all thine my Queen and my mother and all that I have is Thine,' is the prayer we must say often to Our Heavenly Mother.

The crowd saw nothing of the tableaus above them, but what they did see was something unheard of, something terrifying in its magnitude. They saw the sun spinning down to the earth. The crowd were terrified as they saw and later described the sun dancing.

Here was the promised sign to all the people present in the Cova. An amazing miracle was worked in the sky above Fatima. Seventy thousand people witnessed the sun 'dance' and tumble towards the ground. The event was widely publicised, and many sceptics were finally convinced that Our Lady was bringing a message from Heaven for the world.

Eye witness accounts tell us of the fear felt by the pilgrims that day. 'Meanwhile the people continued to scream and cry out, begging God to pardon their sins.....Afterwards we ran to the chapels of the town, which were filled in a few moments. During those long minutes of the solar phenomenon objects all about us

reflected all the colours of the rainbow. As we looked at one another, one seemed blue, another yellow, another vermilion.....All these strange phenomena increased the terror of the crowd. After about ten minutes the sun returned to its place in the same way it had descended.'

Lucia became a Sister of St. Dorothy. Her name in the convent was Sister Maria das Dores. Her identity was kept secret for many years until the Church was satisfied that the experiences, visions and messages were authentic.

Lucia has had other meetings with Our Lord and Our Lady since 1917. The devotion of the Five First Saturdays was given to her by Our Lady in 1925, to be spread throughout the World. The secrets given at the Cova da Iria are now known. We must remain attentive to all that Our Lady asked of us for the world remains in danger.

Our Lady asked us through the three small children at Fatima to pray the Rosary for peace

in the world, to do acts of penance for sinners, including fasting.

Two of the children died within the next few years just as they were told that they would by Our Lady. Lucy the oldest lived into her nineties and died in 2005. All are in the process of being made Saints of the Church.

Fatima Prayers taught by the Angel of Peace, and by Our Lady to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, the three shepherd children of Aljustrel, Portugal.

Prayers of the Angel.

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You!

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly, and I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference with which He Himself is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners.

Prayers taught by Our Lady.

Sister Lucia relates in her fourth memoir that on the 13 July, 1917, Our Lady recommended:

" Sacrifice yourselves for sinners, and say many times, especially when you make some sacrifice: O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

" When you pray the Rosary, say after each mystery: O my Jesus, forgive us, save us from the fire of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need."

Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, to your Immaculate Heart we consecrate ourselves, in an act of total entrustment to the Lord. By You we will be led to Christ. By Him and with Him we will be led to the Father. We will walk in the light of faith, and we will do everything so that the world may believe that Jesus Christ is the one sent by the Father. With Him we wish to carry His love and salvation to the ends of the earth. Under the protection of Your Immaculate Heart, we will be one People with Christ. We will be witnesses of His Resurrection. By Him we will be led to the Father, for the Glory of the Most Holy Trinity, Whom we adore, praise and bless forever. Amen.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love), reminded the People of God, i.e. the Church, that God's love must be expressed by the faithful, to solve hunger, poverty and disease. Our deeds must flow from our Christian faith.

'Are we ready to make sacrifices so that His Church can be recognized by the world for our deeds of charity, of love.....? There is a tremendous opportunity for Christianity in this time of great global suffering to reconcile God's creation through His Son who came in humble service to save us from our ills.'

The encyclical concludes with the following prayer, which places in Mary's hands the mission of the Church, which is to take care of and love our neighbour, in the manner that Jesus taught us to do.

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
you have given the world its true light,
Jesus, your Son - the Son of God.
You abandoned yourself completely to God's call
And thus became a wellspring
of the goodness which flows forth from Him.
Show us Jesus. Lead us to Him.
Teach us to know and love Him,
so that we too can become capable of true love
and be fountains of living water
in the midst of a thirsting world.*

Prayer of John Paul II for the World in Danger

*O Mother of the human race and all peoples, help us to overcome the menace of evil that is so easily rooted in the hearts of people today and that, with its effects, weighs heavily on the lives of all and makes it difficult for them to look to the future with hope. Hear, O Mother of Christ, this cry charged with the suffering of all human beings! Charged with the suffering of whole societies!
Help us by the power of the Holy Spirit, to conquer all sin: the sin of human beings and the sin of the world, sin under all its forms.
May there be revealed once more in the history of the world the infinite saving power of the Redemption, the power of merciful Love! May it put a stop to evil! May it transform consciences! May there be manifested in your Immaculate Heart the light of*

Hope for all!

Feast days of Mary, Our Mother.

Jan.1, Mary , Mother of God

Feb.2, Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple

Feb.11, Our Lady of Lourdes

March 25, The Annunciation of Our Lord

May 13, Our Lady of Fatima

The month of May is dedicated to Mary, Our Queen and Our Mother.

June 11, Pentecost Sunday: the Holy Spirit descends on the Apostles and on Our Lady for the baptism and confirmation of the Church.

July 1, Immaculate Heart of Mary

July 26, St. Joachim and St. Anne (Mary's parents)

Aug.15, The Assumption of Mary into Heaven

Aug.22, Queenship of Mary

Sept.8, Nativity of Mary

Sept.15, Our Lady of Sorrows

October is the month devoted to the Holy Rosary

Oct.7, Our Lady of the Rosary

Dec.8, The Immaculate Conception (this means that Mary was conceived without the stain of Original Sin on her soul.)

Dec.12, Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dec.25, Birth of Our Lord

Dec.31, The Holy Family

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that any one who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help or sought thy intercession,
was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence,
I fly unto thee,
O Virgin of virgins my Mother;
to thee do I come,
before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful;
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in thy clemency hear and answer me.
Amen.

Prayer History

The Memorare, from the Latin 'remember' which is the first word in the Latin translation, was traditionally thought to have been composed by the Cisterian St. Bernard of Clairvaux. It was popularized in the 15th century by a French priest, Claude Bernard (who some also attribute its origin). It emphasizes Mary's role as intercessor and her unbroken history of answering the prayer of those who call to her.

The Angelus

History of the Angelus

The Angelus is a short devotion in honor of the Incarnation, repeated three times each day, morning, noon, and evening, at the sound of the bell. It consists essentially in the triple repetition of the "Hail Mary", to which in later times have been added three introductory versicles, and a concluding versicle and prayer.

The devotion derives its name from the first word of the three versicles, *Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariæ* (The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary).

The origins of the Angelus are somewhat obscure, but it seems clear they are rooted in monastic prayers of the hours, and even in its earliest form included the three "Hail Marys". Originally the Angelus prayers were said at Complin (night prayer), and over the years mid-day and morning hours were added. By the early seventeenth century the formula of prayers exactly as we know it today was complete.

The Angelus is traditionally recited morning (6:00 a.m.), noon and evening (6:00 p.m.) throughout the year except during Paschal time, when the Regina Coeli is recited instead.

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord.

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I'll Sing A Hymn To Mary

Verse 1

I'll sing a hymn to Mary,
The Mother of my God,
The Virgin of all virgins,
Of David's royal blood.
O teach me, Holy Mary,
A loving song to frame,
When wicked men blaspheme thee,
To love and bless thy name.

Verse 2

O Lily of the Valley,
O Mystic Rose, what tree,
Or flower, e'en the fairest,
Is half so fair as thee?
O let me, tho' so lowly
Recite my Mother's fame.
When wicked men blaspheme thee,
I'll love and bless thy name.

Verse 3

O noble Tower of David,
Of gold and ivory.
The ark of God's own promise,
The gate of Heav'n to me.
To live and not to love thee
Would fill my soul with shame.
When wicked men blaspheme thee,
I'll love and bless thy name.

