

Rosary

OF PEACE



FRANCISCAN
MISSION ASSOCIATES

The beautiful prayer attributed to Saint Francis begins, “Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.” Catholics have traditionally defined peace as “the tranquility of order.” When our lives are in order, we experience peace. This means that we place God and His Will first in our lives, and place our own desires last.

One of the titles that we give to Jesus is Prince of Peace. And one title we give to Our Blessed Mother Mary is Queen of Peace. These titles are perfectly appropriate for them precisely because they placed the Will of the Father first in their lives. Despite the suffering that each of them endured, despite the uncertainty of how things would work out, they surrendered themselves to the plan that the Father had, and therefore experienced peace.

The Rosary is a treasured prayer through which we can seek peace in our own lives. By meditating on the mysteries of the lives of Jesus and Mary, we can see how following the plan of God brought peace to the lives of the Lord and the Blessed Mother, and how following their example can bring peace to our lives as well.

Mary offered the Rosary to us as a gift. Throughout the years, it has proved a weapon against evil and a way for Christians to grow closer to Our Lord. With this booklet, we pray that it will also be a way for you to find peace, and to become an instrument of peace to others.

1ST JOYFUL MYSTERY
THE ANNUNCIATION

Fruit of the Mystery: Humility

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and asks her to accept the call of God to become the Mother of the Savior. Though certainly unsure of what this would mean, Mary agreed to God's request. Though for many this would cause great turmoil, Mary's decision to do God's Will brought her peace—the tranquility of order.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, give me
the humility to accept God's Will
in my life and to say yes so that
I might have peace.*

2ND JOYFUL MYSTERY

THE VISITATION

Fruit of the Mystery: Love of Neighbor

Instead of worrying about what her situation would cost her, Mary went “with haste” to be with her relative Elizabeth, who, despite her age, was graced by God with a pregnancy. Together, these two women praise God’s goodness, confident that the plan that they were part of would bring salvation to the world. Mary utters her great “Magnificat” with peace in her heart.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
to look beyond my own concerns
and help others so I may have
and share His peace.*

3RD JOYFUL MYSTERY

THE NATIVITY

Fruit of the Mystery: Poverty of Spirit

Mary and Joseph are preparing for Jesus' birth. We might imagine things had gotten back to normal. Then Caesar Augustus calls for the census, and the couple is forced to travel to Bethlehem. No room at the inn, the birth of the Savior in a stable and all the rest, might seem like total chaos. But the Holy Family exercises poverty of spirit—complete dependence on God, despite the harsh circumstances. This brings them peace amid much confusion.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
find peace by relying totally on God,
especially when circumstances
are difficult.*

4TH JOYFUL MYSTERY

THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE

Fruit of the Mystery: Obedience

Jesus is God. Therefore, He didn't need to be presented in the Temple and undergo the rites of Judaism. But He did, in order to show that the Holy Family was indeed a human family. Mary and Joseph knew that following the Jewish laws and customs was important. And though Simeon predicted hardship for Jesus and that a sword would pierce Mary's heart, obedience to God's laws brought peace to the Holy Family.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
to be obedient to God's Will,
so that I might have peace.*

5TH JOYFUL MYSTERY

THE FINDING OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Fruit of the Mystery: Joy in Finding Jesus

When Mary and Joseph lost Jesus, there must have been some distress. They searched for three days before finding Him in the Temple, talking to the elders and priests. When Mary questions Jesus, He reminds her that He had to be in His Father's house, doing His Father's work. Despite being unsettled, as any mother would be, Mary "treasures these things in her heart," finding peace in knowing that her Son is fulfilling His mission.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
to find peace by finding Jesus
in all life's moments,
especially in distress.*

1ST LUMINOUS MYSTERY

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Fruit of the Mystery: Openness to the Holy Spirit

Without a doubt, there was no need for Jesus to be baptized by John the Baptist. He was without sin, so undergoing a baptism of repentance was totally unnecessary. Yet Jesus insists on it “to fulfill all righteousness.” Coming up out of the water, the Spirit descends on Him, and the Father speaks, claiming that Jesus is “My beloved Son.” This marks the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, and Jesus begins it in peace, confident that He is loved by the Father and guided by the Spirit.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
find peace as a beloved child of the
Father, guided by the Holy Spirit
to fulfill my mission in life.*

2ND LUMINOUS MYSTERY

THE WEDDING FEAST AT CANA

Fruit of the Mystery: To Jesus through Mary

Weddings are such a joyful occasion. But what happens when something goes wrong? The family hosting the feast was running out of wine, a huge embarrassment for them. Mary implores Jesus to do something. He claims it is not His hour, but Mary calmly tells the servants, “Do whatever He tells you.” She is at peace, confident that Jesus will act according to the Father’s Will. Jesus provides a superabundance of wine. Mary’s peace in trusting her Son would restore peace to the celebration.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
to find peace in trusting that Jesus
has all things under control.*

3RD LUMINOUS MYSTERY

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE KINGDOM

Fruit of the Mystery: Repentance and Trust in God

For three years, Jesus and His disciples would travel the roads of Israel, proclaiming the Kingdom of God, performing miracles, and teaching people what they should do to secure eternal life. The Gospels relate many instances in which people were upset by Jesus' teaching and actions. He challenged their thinking and sometimes disrupted their understanding of God. Yet Jesus never wavered. He knew what He was saying and doing was bringing God's Kingdom to earth, and so He remained peaceful in all situations. Following His words, repenting of our sins, and trusting in God's goodness, will bring us the same peace.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me to repent
of my wrongdoings and to trust
in God's plan so that I might experience
the peace of Christ.*

4TH LUMINOUS MYSTERY

THE TRANSFIGURATION

Fruit of the Mystery: Desire for Holiness

Jesus knew that His passion and crucifixion would bring unrest to His Apostles. He tried to prepare them by predicting His death during the time they were together. On Mount Tabor, He went further. He revealed to Peter, James and John what His glory would look like after the resurrection. In doing this, He wished to relieve them of some of the scandal they would feel when He died. Their remembrance of the event after Jesus rose would bring them peace, confident that God's plan had been fulfilled.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
to desire the holiness that Jesus offers me,
so that I might live in the glory
of eternal peace.*

5TH LUMINOUS MYSTERY

THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

Fruit of the Mystery: Adoration

The word Eucharist comes from a Greek word that means “to give thanks.” Jesus institutes the Eucharist during the Passover meal, a celebration meant to remember and make present the events of the Israelites being freed from slavery in Egypt. In giving the Church His Body and Blood and telling the Apostles to “do this in memory of Me,” Jesus fulfills the promise of that first Passover with the true Passover, from the death of sin to a life in grace. Each time the Eucharist is celebrated, Jesus becomes truly present for us to receive. We find peace in eating His Body and drinking His Blood.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help us
to truly give thanks for the gift
of your Son's Body and Blood,
which brings us peace.*

1ST SORROWFUL MYSTERY
**THE AGONY IN THE
GARDEN**

Fruit of the Mystery: True Contrition

If ever there was a moment when it looked as if Jesus was not at peace, this would be it. He falls down to the ground, sweating blood, and begs the Father to “take this cup away from me.” That cup of suffering contained all our sins, an enormous burden to carry. Yet, in the end, Jesus states, “Thy Will, not Mine, be done.” In His humanity, Jesus experiences fear, heartache, and even abandonment, but when He submits His Will to that of His Father, He attains peace.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
to experience true sorrow
for my sin, which disrupts peace.
May my contrition restore me
to peace, my right order with God.*

2ND SORROWFUL MYSTERY

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Fruit of the Mystery: Purity

Physical pain is not something that humans enjoy or long for. That was true about Jesus as well. As He endured lash upon lash at the hands of the Romans, the pain He felt must have been excruciating. Yet the Scriptures tell us that He remained silent. Human logic might tell us that pain and peace are not compatible. But with each crack of the whip, Jesus knew that He was bringing redemption to humanity and doing the Will of the Father, and so He could be at peace.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
to exercise self-control over my body
as Jesus did, so that my soul
may be at peace.*

3RD SORROWFUL MYSTERY
**THE CROWNING
WITH THORNS**

Fruit of the Mystery: Moral Courage

Already exhausted and beaten, Jesus now endures yet another humiliation, the soldiers placing a crown of thorns on His head and mocking Him as an impostor king. Yet He didn't give up. He did not deny the truth that He indeed is the King, a king who reigns from the cross so that His subjects might enjoy eternal happiness. Only the knowledge of what the purpose of His mission was could give Jesus peace in the midst of this terrible injustice.

*Mary, Queen of Peace,
help me to stand firm in my faith
despite persecution.
This alone will bring me peace.*

4TH SORROWFUL MYSTERY

THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

Fruit of the Mystery: Patience

It seems impossible that Jesus would even still be alive at this point, after all the torture He had endured. Yet now He accepts the cross. He carries the very instrument of His execution. Despite the agony, He stops along the way and comforts the women of Jerusalem. He knows that all that He is going through is leading to ultimate joy. And so He is at peace, doing the Father's Will.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
find peace in bearing my crosses
willingly and uniting them
to the redeeming love of Jesus.*

5TH SORROWFUL MYSTERY

THE CRUCIFIXION

Fruit of the Mystery: Perseverance

Just think: All Jesus had to do was deny that He wasn't the Messiah and all this pain could have been avoided. The physical suffering He endured and the suffering His mother and disciples endured would never have happened. But He was, and is, the Messiah. And the mission the Father gave Him included death on the cross to atone for the sins of the world. He forgave those who crucified Him, accepted feeling abandoned, forgave the repentant thief, and gave us Mary to be our Mother, all while persevering through His suffering on the cross. Peacefully commending His spirit to the Father, He finishes His earthly mission.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
to persevere in the mission God has given
me, so that I may have peace in this life
and eternal peace in the next.*

1ST GLORIOUS MYSTERY

THE RESURRECTION

Fruit of the Mystery: Faith

If peace is the tranquility of order, we can imagine that there was little peace during the weekend of Jesus' death. The man that the Apostles believed to be the Messiah had been crucified. What were they to do next? Only when they experienced Jesus risen from the dead did they begin to understand what true faith was. But Mary believed and trusted the whole time. The peace that she had even at the Annunciation carried her through the emotions of Jesus' death, knowing that God's plan could conquer even the greatest obstacle.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
to have faith in the power of God
to overcome every challenge,
even death, in order to
establish peace.*

2ND GLORIOUS MYSTERY

THE ASCENSION

Fruit of the Mystery: Hope

The joy that Jesus' friends felt in the forty days after His resurrection must have been powerful. But then it was time to say goodbye again. He ascended to the right hand of the Father, to remain until He comes again at the end of time. His promise was that He would be with them, even until that time. Hope (a confident trust in God's promises) is what would bring peace to the Apostles, and to us. We all follow the example of Mary, whose hope never wavered and whose confidence guided the early Church.

*Mary, Queen of Peace,
help me to have peace in my heart,
trusting that Jesus is always
with me.*

3RD GLORIOUS MYSTERY

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Fruit of the Mystery: The Love of God

When the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles at Pentecost, they were empowered with a courage and a love for God that they had not yet experienced. They immediately went forth and preached the risen Jesus to anyone who would hear and made 3,000 converts in one day. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Peace. He brings order to our lives by instilling in us a love of God. We are called to spread that peace to others.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
to use the empowerment of
the Holy Spirit to experience peace
in my life and to share it
with others.*

4TH GLORIOUS MYSTERY

THE ASSUMPTION

Fruit of the Mystery: The Grace of a Happy Death

The Blessed Mother was fully human. Though she is the Mother of God, she is not God and did not have any divine powers. However, the singular grace of the Immaculate Conception allowed her to live a life without sin. Therefore, at the end of her life, she was peacefully assumed, body and soul, into heaven to be with Jesus. If we follow her example and strive, by God's grace, to avoid sin, the eternal peace she now enjoys will be ours as well.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
to avoid sin so that I may enjoy
eternal peace. Pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

5TH GLORIOUS MYSTERY

THE CORONATION

Fruit of the Mystery: Trust in Mary's Intercession

Who would think that a teenager from Nazareth who said “yes” to God would become the Queen of Heaven? This magnificent honor was bestowed on Mary because of the faithfulness she portrayed while on earth. As the Mother of God, she enjoys a special place in His plan, and she holds a unique role in interceding for us with her Son. To trust in Mary is to trust in Jesus. And trust in Jesus is always a source of great peace.

*Mary, Queen of Peace, help me
to trust in your love for me.
Pray for me to your Son,
so that I might know His peace.*



FRANCISCAN MISSION ASSOCIATES

274-280 West Lincoln Ave.

P.O. Box 598

Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598

franciscanmissionassoc.org