



# *Rosary Reflections on Stewardship*

## **Introduction**

We read from the October 16, 2002, Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*:

*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 clearly 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."*

*It is worth pausing to consider this profound insight of Paul VI, in order to bring out certain aspects of the Rosary which show that it is really a form of Christocentric contemplation.*

In light of this Apostolic Letter and recognizing the need to pray that all may embrace the Christian concept of stewardship, the Archdiocesan Prayer Committee for the *Faith In Our Future* capital stewardship campaign offers these **Rosary Reflections on Stewardship** for public and private use within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. To this end the following suggestions are given:

- 1. Please pray the Rosary as provided.**
- 2. Allow for the moments of silence as directed.**
- 3. Pray the Rosary clearly with a steady rhythm that is neither rushed nor dragged.**
- 4. Begin with the introductory prayers on the following page and follow with the appropriate mystery as indicated.**

Blessings from the Archdiocesan Prayer Committee for *Faith In Our Future*!



# *Rosary Reflections on Stewardship*

## **Sign of the Cross**

### **Archdiocesan Stewardship Prayer**

O loving and generous God,  
source of all life, holiness and goodness,  
we thank you for the many gifts you give us  
throughout our lifelong journey of faith.

With ***faith*** in our future,  
we commit ourselves to the support of Catholic education  
and our own lifelong faith formation.

With ***hope*** in the here and now,  
we ask you to nourish us in your Spirit  
so that we may be faithful stewards of your gifts.

With ***love***, may the sacrifice of our joyful giving  
be an outward sign of the true treasure we hold in Jesus.

O faithful God, keep us always mindful  
of the good that can happen  
when we allow you to work through us  
as one family united in faith.

We entrust our prayer through the intercession of Mary,  
the Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God,  
and St. John, the Evangelist, patron of our archdiocese,  
as we pray through Jesus Christ  
who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Amen.

## **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He  
will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father...

## **Hail Mary**

For an increase in faith, hope and love.  
Hail Mary... (3 times)

## **Glory Be**

## **The Mysteries of the Rosary**

*Continue with the appropriate mysteries beginning on the following pages:*

The Joyful Mysteries (Monday) .....	p. 4
The Luminous Mysteries (Thursday).....	p. 7
The Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday & Friday).....	p. 11
The Glorious Mysteries (Wed., Sat. & Sun.).....	p. 14

**The First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation**

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*The Angel Gabriel said to Mary, “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.” Mary answered, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:31,38)*

As Our Blessed Lady is asked to be the mother of God’s own Son, she responds with great humility: Humility is the proper perspective for knowing ourselves and for discerning God’s will in our lives. The charity and service to others, which God calls us to do, must be offered humbly. Our gifts are given in deep gratitude to God, aware that we stand alongside all others, as people in great need of God’s mercy and kindness. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

**The Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation**

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*Elizabeth said to Mary, “For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.” (Luke 1:44)*

At the Visitation, our Blessed Lady and her cousin Elizabeth joyfully praise God for the wonders of His faithful love. “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord”, is Mary’s song of praise. We proclaim God’s greatness and show our gratitude for His unending love when we, as true disciples of Mary’s Son, respond with our own acts of love to others in need. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

## **The Third Joyful Mystery: The Birth of Jesus**

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*While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:6-7)*

Every Christmas, many Christians re-enact the *posada*, the search of Joseph and Mary for a place to stay in Bethlehem. In this contemporary expression of that search, the Holy Family is welcomed into the participants' homes and hearts. Jesus asks us to welcome Him today by generously opening our hearts and hands to the poor, the lonely, and the stranger. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

## **The Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation**

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*When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord... (Luke 2:22-23)*

The elderly Simeon holds the infant Jesus in his hands and prays: "Now Lord, my own eyes have seen the salvation you have prepared in the sight of every people." Jesus desires that the whole world come to know Him through those who belong to Him – those who bear His name as Christians. The poor, and all those in need, must be able to see in us, as individuals, as families, and as a faith community, the saving power of God's love. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

## **The Fifth Joyful Mystery: The Finding of Jesus in the Temple**

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*After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers,...When his parents saw him, they were astonished,... (Luke 2:46,48)*

When Jesus is found in the Temple, He asks his parents: “Did you not know that I must be about my Father’s business?” Already, at a young age, Jesus knows who He is, but He teaches us that it is not enough for His disciples just to know who they are. We must be intent on learning God’s will for us, and then generously do the work of building up the Kingdom. (*Silent pause.*)

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

### **The Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by 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 petition, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

### **Sign of the Cross**

**The First Luminous Mystery: The Baptism of Christ**

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*...Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:21-22)*

Just as Jesus the Christ publicly announced his entering fully into our stories of salvation, our plights and struggles, for he is Emmanuel, so are we called to do the same by announcing our solidarity with one another. We are challenged to get involved and be willing to risk sharing our time, talent and treasures. When we take to heart the Father's proclamation and imitate the Son's active involvement, we become good stewards with whom our Heavenly Father is well pleased. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

**The Second Luminous Mystery: The Wedding Feast at Cana**

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*Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." ... Then he told them, "Draw some out and take it to the headwaiter." .... And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, ... the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him ... "you have kept the good wine until now." (John 2:7-10)*

Sometimes we can be blind to real needs within the community and because of this, pain and suffering may result or persist. Mary was aware of the needs of the bride and groom and turned to her Son for help. Her persistence moved Jesus to reveal his Glory, the Glory of the Father. We turn to Mary and ask her to open our eyes to see the real needs within our Archdiocese and Parish and to challenge us to imitate her example by turning to her Son to discover what He desires us to give. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

### **The Third Luminous Mystery: The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God**

*From that time on Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:17)*

We are created in the image and likeness of God and called to live our lives with a profound awareness of this truth. "Be holy," says God, "for I am holy." The Kingdom proclamation reminds us of these spiritual truths and challenges us to have a change of heart because God our Father desires that we become more conformed to the image of his Son. Blessed are they who live the biblical virtue of stewardship, for they will become like God. (*Silent pause.*)

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

### **The Fourth Luminous Mystery: The Transfiguration**

*And he was transformed before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. ... Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." (Mark – 9:2-3,7)*

Everyone needs some support at some point in life. Jesus was no exception. His transfiguration strengthened him to move toward Calvary and crucifixion with renewed hope. We too need to take time for prayer and reflection along the path of stewardship. Prayer will enable us to listen to God and to persevere with Christ with renewed hope. For with God, all things are possible. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

### **The Fifth Luminous Mystery: The Institution of the Eucharist**

*Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them saying, "This is my body which will be given up for you; do this in memory of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you." (Luke 22:19)*

Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, reminds us that what really matters is not the offering, but the love behind the offering. This Jesus teaches us in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, for Jesus is LOVE. In offering himself, he offered the supreme gift of love. For sure, our offerings of time, talent, and treasure will differ from person to person. Yet, when we unite them to Jesus' offering of himself to the Father, with faith and love, the church and world are enriched with a spiritual value only God can comprehend. From this perspective we can affirm the saying, "not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice."  
*(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

## **The Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by 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 petition, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

## **Sign of the Cross**

**The First Sorrowful Mystery: The Agony in the Garden**

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*...kneeling he prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done." (Luke 22:41-42)*

There are two important ways our hearts can become more united to all of those who suffer in the world. First, we can reflect on the suffering our Lord, endured as a result of humbly taking on the vulnerability of our human nature. Second, we can join our own suffering, and that of the whole world, to the suffering of Christ and offer it to God, as Jesus did. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

**The Second Sorrowful Mystery: The Scourging at the Pillar**

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*Then he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified. (Matthew 27:26)*

It is not enough to be sympathetic to the suffering our Lord endured in His bitter passion. Our love for Jesus should lead us to ease the pain Christ still suffers in His Mystical Body, by identifying the manifestations of evil in the world today and working against these offenses. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

### **The Third Sorrowful Mystery: The Crowning with Thorns**

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*Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (Matthew 27:29)*

Two thousand years after Jesus' passion, many are still mocked and their human dignity ignored. The first step toward a Christian life of good stewardship is to have the vision to see and become more sensitive to any attitudes we may have that "crown" others with expressions of disrespect and trample on the Christ in others. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

### **The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery: The Carrying of the Cross**

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*So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. (John 19:17)*

The choice for Christian stewardship is the choice to look into the face of the suffering Christ and to see His face in everyone who bears the cross. Gazing into the face of the wounded Christ will give us this true and profound vision of life, to consider the needs of our brothers and sisters, with a commitment to never leave anyone to carry the crossbeams of life alone. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

## **The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus**

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*When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (Luke 23:33-34)*

Standing with Mary at the foot of the cross, we listen and marvel at the last words our Lord spoke before His death. As His beloved disciples, we need to decide how we are called to keep this legacy of forgiveness alive and active today, and everyday, in memory of Him. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

### **The Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by 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 petition, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

### **Sign of the Cross**

### **The First Glorious Mystery: The Resurrection of Jesus from the Dead**

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*On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him." (Mark 16:4-6)*

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have been saved from our sins and given the hope of everlasting life. The Christian response to being redeemed is a life of gratitude. This means striving to do God's will in all things and to be Jesus' light to all peoples through good works and charity.

*(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

### **The Second Glorious Mystery: The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven**

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*"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)*

Remembering Jesus' promise to always be with us, we rely on the power of His presence to help us live as His disciples. Only in this way are we able to offer our lives in praise of God and in loving service to all whom we encounter. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

### **The Third Glorious Mystery: The Gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost**

*Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. (Acts 2:3-4)*

The presence of the Holy Spirit, sent upon the Church at Pentecost, empowers us to recognize all the gifts and blessings bestowed upon us as individuals, families, communities and Churches. Relying on the strength of the Spirit, we are able to give generously of our time, talent, and treasure in building up the Body of Christ here on earth. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

### **The Fourth Glorious Mystery: The Assumption of Mary into Heaven**

*“You are the glory of Jerusalem, the surpassing joy of Israel; You are the splendid boast of our people.” (Judith 15:9)*

By her continual “Yes” to God, our Blessed Lady became an instrument of God’s will for the salvation of the world. We honor her and devote our lives to her divine Son with our “Yes” to extend the Kingdom of God to the ends of the earth. As her children, we want to emulate her “Yes” with the same love and zeal toward all who are in need. *(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

## **The Fifth Glorious Mystery: The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth**

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*A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with a moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. (Revelation 12:1)*

In many of the popular prayers to our Blessed Mother, we ask her to intercede for us that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. To this purpose, we seek her heavenly maternal assistance to become true and faithful stewards, willing to share our blessings with all the people of God.

*(Silent pause.)*

Our Father...; 10 Hail Mary...; Glory be...;

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead us souls to heaven especially those in most need of your mercy.

### **The Memorare**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by 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 petition, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

### **Sign of the Cross**