

Mystery by Mystery

A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE ROSARY



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When I was a kid in Catholic school, I learned all the Mysteries of the Rosary and what days to pray them, but I didn't pray the Rosary everyday. It wasn't until college that I began to renew my faith, starting with prayer.

I still remember one of the first times I went to Adoration. I had no clue what to do while I was in there, so I decided to pray a Rosary for my Holy Hour. Keep in mind that at the time, the last time I prayed the Rosary was when I was a kid, so I didn't exactly remember all the Mysteries of the Rosary off the top of my head. And since it was Wednesday, I struggled to remember the Glorious mysteries.

It's not as easy to find scriptural reflections on the Glorious Mysteries because Mary's Assumption and Coronation aren't recorded in Scripture. However, just because it's not in Scripture doesn't mean that these things didn't happen. After all, John said at the end of his Gospel that "There are also many other

things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written." (John 21:25) I think the same can be applied to Mary, and the other apostles as well.

What makes the Glorious Mysteries so special to me is that these mysteries are tales of triumph and victory. After all the sadness of the Sorrowful Mysteries, the stone in front of the tomb is rolled away. A bright light shines out in the predawn darkness.

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15: 55)

As the ending of Les Miserables said, "For the wretched of the earth, there is a flame that never dies. Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise."

The Glorious Mysteries remind us that no matter how bad things get, we can never give up on the hope that Christ will win over everything. As a millennial who's lived through about a dozen false "end of the world" prophecies, I can be assured that while we have to be somewhat vigilant about the End Times, we cannot live in fear that the end of the world could happen any second. Instead, the Glorious Mysteries remind us to live a life of victory, reassuring us that Christ will be with us, even unto death, even at the end of the world.

-Monique

Reflections

- 1.What are your perspectives on the Glorious Mysteries as a whole?
- 2.When did God lead you to a personal victory or help you overcome something very difficult.



[John 16:20-22](#) [Luke 24:1-6](#) [Matthew 28:2-8](#) [Mark 16:6](#) [John 11:25-26](#)

Back when I was in college, I wrote a short play that centered on a handful of the Apostles in the Upper Room with Mary, Mary Magdalene, and Mark the Evangelist. The play takes place after Jesus died on Good Friday, but before he rose from the grave on Sunday. Everyone copes with the fact that they lost Jesus in such a cruel, brutal manner. And as far as most of them knew, he's not coming back anytime soon. However, we already know that Jesus will rise from the grave.

There's a wonderful Church tradition that I learned about from Diana Von Glahn's *The Faithful Traveler*. In this show, Ms. Von Glahn made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and filmed the various places she saw while she was there. One of places she showed is a small chapel that honors an ancient Church tradition: the idea that the resurrected Jesus appeared to his mother before anyone else. There is no evidence of this in Scriptures, but when you think about it, it makes sense. If Mary was with the other disciples, why didn't she go with Mary

Magdalene and the other women? The answer could be that she already knew. The theory is backed by Saint John Paul II, so you don't have to just take my word for it.

I decided to include this little tradition in my play by having Jesus appear silently in the Upper Room to greet his mother. The two of them don't exchange any words. Instead, it's all gestures and pantomime. Mama Mary greets her Son with joy and tears. There are many questions, but not much time for answers. Then Jesus walks over to Mary Magdalene, places a dream in her mind, and vanishes.

Suddenly, everyone feels the ground shaking slightly and Mary Magdalene wakes up in a fright. She grabs some things in a rush, causing Peter to wake up. At this point, Mary (mother of Jesus) is pretending to be asleep. Mary Magdalene tells Peter to take care of everyone while she goes with her friends to the tomb. It's not long until Mary Magdalene returns with news of the tomb being empty. Things get chaotic, since the empty tomb shocks everyone, but by the end of the play, even though Jesus doesn't appear again, everyone realizes the truth: He is Risen.

The victory shown in the Resurrection is that no matter how bleak and hopeless things may seem, there is always a point where things turn around for the better. It may not happen right away, but trust me when I say that Christ will lead you out of the dark. If you are in some kind of dark place or going through a storm, He will be there to walk you through it.

No matter how many times we fail or struggle, the Glorious Mystery of the Resurrection compels us to believe in Christ and follow Him to victory. It won't



[Luke 24:50-51](#) [Matthew 28:18-20](#) [Mark 16:16-19](#)

One of my new favorite movies is a romantic comedy called (500) Days of Summer, starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Zooey Deschanel. One of the themes of this movie is the idea of expectations versus reality in relationships. Joseph Gordon-Levitt's character, Tom, has all these expectations of what relationships should be like, but his relationship with Summer makes him realize that he needed to be more realistic about what he wanted.

In a similar way, the Apostles had their own expectations of what would happen after Jesus rose from the dead. He came to establish His kingdom and He already conquered death, so what was left to do? The reality of the situation, however, was that Jesus had to return to Heaven. After all, before Jesus died, he said:

“My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” (John 18:36)

The kingdom of Jesus is not from Earth, but from Heaven and it was time for Him to go home. Thankfully, He did not leave His Apostles without some instructions: “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.” (Matthew 28:19) So as wonderful and awe-inspiring as the Ascension was, the angels gave the apostles a reality check: “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.”

We’ve all experienced spiritual highs at some point, but they never last as long as we want them to. Some people expect life as a Christian to be one of perpetual happiness. In reality, we are more likely to go through periods of spiritual dryness, storms in our lives, and times when we wander around darkness in search for God. No matter what we’re feeling, the reality is that God is always with us.

The Mystery of the Ascension reminds us to return to reality. We need to continue doing God’s work, no matter how we may feel. It’s easy to do God’s work when we’re happy, after all, but it means a lot more when we love God in spite of whatever else is happening. Instead of depending on the fluctuations of our feelings, we need to root our hearts in God, whose love never changes.

-Monique

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A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE ROSARY

Day Twenty-Two: The Descent of the Holy Spirit



[Acts 2:1-14, 38, 41; Isaiah 11:1-3 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Galatians 5:16-23](#)

I always feel like the Holy Spirit helps me whenever I write. After all, if it gave the Apostles the power to speak many different languages, it ought to help those who use the gift of writing for the Glory of God. I also often think of the Holy Spirit whenever I feel a gentle breeze. We may not be able to see the Holy Spirit, but it's always present through the various gifts that it gives us and the fruits that we bear from using those gifts.

According to the Catechism: "The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David. They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations."

In other words, the gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to cultivate the fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are: "charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity." The

Catechism says that these gifts are “perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory.”

The fruits of the Holy Spirit, as shown in the passage from Galatians, can help us counter our more selfish desires. Have you ever prayed for patience and found yourself in a situation that called you to practice patience, like being stuck in traffic or having to deal with a temperamental child? It’s so annoying because we just want to have patience and we want it now! However, since patience is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, it’s something that we need to practice and not just something we can have right away.

Thankfully, we can ask the Holy Spirit to give us the gift of understanding so that we can see the bigger picture and be able to practice patience with a more willing heart. If you are afraid that you don’t really have any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and think that the fruits that you cultivate are lacking, fear not. We are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our Baptism.

Whether we realize it or not, the Holy Spirit is guiding us. Whenever we give good advice, it’s because the Holy Spirit is giving us the gift of counsel. Whenever we are faced with the unknown but move forward anyway, the Holy Spirit is gifting us with fortitude.

We may not always be aware that the Holy Spirit is at work, but trust me when I say that it is always there, just like a gentle breeze. All we have to do is just go wherever the wind takes us, with the Holy Spirit being our compass.

-Monique



[Judith 13:23, 25,31 Judith 15:10 Psalm 44:1-2,14 Psalm 97:1](#)

As I've mentioned before, it's harder to reflect on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary if you're just using Scripture because it's not spelled out in the Bible. However, Scripture can provide circumstantial evidence that shows that Mary being assumed into Heaven, body and soul, is a definite possibility.

Before we proceed, however, let me clarify something. Jesus ascended into Heaven through His own power because he's, you know, God. Mary, however, was assumed into Heaven, which means that she was taken there through God's power.

So what can the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary have to teach us? For me, it shows that death is not the end of the story. We have all lost a loved one at some point in our lives. It always seems sudden to us, but some people

are blessed enough that they are prepared for it. One instance of this was my grandmother on my mother's side, Teresa.

My grandmother Teresa married my grandfather when she was only 17. He was about 10 years older than her. They were both born around the month of October. In spite of the age difference, they were married for over 50 years until my grandfather's death on February 12, 2002, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. 14 years later, on the exact same day, my grandmother joined him.

I couldn't help but think that maybe my grandmother was waiting for her husband. In the months before she died, she refused to eat, even with a feeding tube. The last time I saw my grandmother was when my mom was having a video chat with her. Although my grandmother couldn't talk, I had that feeling that she was at peace.

My mom wanted to share how she felt during my grandmother's last moments:

"Those last days, I could see that she was ready to go, but seem to be waiting for a sign that everyone is ok. I asked Inang (Grandmother) if Amang (Grandfather) was in the room with her. At this point, Inang has not opened her eyes for a week at that time.

"I could see her labored breathing. I asked her if Amang was with her. Before this, she also has not communicated at all. No words, nothing. I told her, 'If Amang is in the room with you, raise your hand' and she did. With that small gesture, I knew that Amang was there with her, seemingly to pick her up. So I said.. 'If you want to go with Amang, then you can go now. Do not worry

about us, we are all ok now. Everyone is settled in their lives, even your grandchildren are all ok now.’ A few hours later, she passed.”

The mystery of the Assumption represents “the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” I still miss the ones who’ve passed away in my life, but this mystery reminds me that I can still pray for their souls. I can never be 100% certain if their souls are in Heaven right now, but I know that they are still in God’s presence, still part of the Mystical Body of Christ, and therefore, they will always be a part of my life. -Monique

Reflections

- 1.How do you deal with the loss of a loved one or a famous person that you admire? Have you ever asked God to help you through it?
- 2.Do you assume that all who die go to Heaven immediately or to Purgatory by default? What do you think happen to people who die without any faith in God or lived a bad life?

Action:1.Offer prayers for the souls of the faithful departed, especially for the souls in Purgatory and the souls of aborted babies. Then pray for the souls of those who died without believing in God or whose souls could be in the grave danger of going to Hell.



[Sirach 24:24-27 50:8-9 Proverbs 8:32-35 Revelations 12](#)

I can't think of the mystery of the Coronation without thinking of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Blessed Virgin Mary has many titles and variations of herself worldwide. Our Lady of Guadalupe was one of the first Marian apparitions that I was ever introduced to. What makes this story strange was that I didn't learn about her from Catholic school. I learned about her through Wishbone.

For those who don't know, Wishbone was a series on PBS about a Jack Russell Terrier named Wishbone who loved stories. The stories he shared with the audience would often parallel whatever issues Wishbone's owner, Joe, was dealing with. One episode Viva Wishbone centered on Joe wanting to find the right present for his mother for Mother's Day, but he feels scared that his mom likes another kid more than him. Thankfully, one of Joe's friends, Señora Julia, recounts to him the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe as a way of encouraging him that his mother will love him no matter what.

I don't think it's a coincidence that Our Lady of Guadalupe looks so much like the woman described in Revelations. Our Lady of Guadalupe stands with the sun behind her and the moon at her feet. Her mantle is made of stars and she wore a cinture, an Aztec sign of pregnancy. She stands with her hands folded in prayer and her head bowed down, which indicated that she is acknowledging someone greater than herself.

The Mystery of Mary's Coronation reminds us that God is calling all of us to imitate her. She magnifies the Lord and is given the highest honor: Queenship over Heaven and Earth. Mary exemplifies this verse from Matthew 23:12: "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

It all comes off as majorly intimidating, that Mary could be so great. However, she did not aspire or grasp at greatness. Instead, greatness was thrust upon her and she accepted it with humility. If we want to imitate Mary, we must practice humility. As hard as it sounds, know that Mary will help you in your journey to holiness. Mary's love, much like God's love, is an unconditional love.

-Monique

Reflections

1. How do you think you can imitate Mary?
2. How do you think your relationship with Mary can help you with the relationship you have with your own mother?

The Glorious Mysteries