



God of everlasting love, you called Mary to be the mother of your son, Jesus. We come to you this evening with open hearts filled with gratitude for Mary's "yes."

Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith. (Sign of the Cross) Hail Mary

Introduction: We turn to Mary seeking her many graces:



...grace to say 'no' to my fears and 'yes' to the great things God has in store for me  
...grace to live in the present moment  
...grace to put all my trust in God  
...grace to be open to hearing God's voice  
...grace to be willing to daily respond in obedience to God's Will

Kindly reflect on the following statements of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.

#### Reflections:

#### 1st Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary

I beg for the grace "no" to my fears and "yes" to the great things God has in store for me. In this mystery, Mary was "greatly troubled at the saying [of the angel,] and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be." Holy Spirit, help me to ponder what is going on in Mary's heart as she wrestles with her fears and seeks the courage to say "yes," ("fiat"), to God: "let it be done to me according to Your Word."

#### 2nd Joyful Mystery: The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

I beg for the grace to live in the present moment and to experience God here with me no matter where I'm at physically, mentally, or spiritually. In this mystery, Elizabeth's child leapt in her womb and she is "filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry" blessings upon her cousin, Mary, and the fruit of her womb, Jesus. Holy Spirit, help me to ponder what the encounter and conversation between Mary and Elizabeth would have been like as they share their joys and struggles with each other in the midst of miracle pregnancies and the chaos of life.

#### 3rd Joyful Mystery: The Nativity, the Birth of Jesus Christ, Savior of the World

I beg for the grace to put all of my trust in God who is always faithful to His promises. In this mystery, the angel proclaims to the Shepherds "good news of a great joy" that "to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." The child Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises. Holy Spirit, help me to hold the child Jesus in my arms and gaze upon Him with joy and gratitude as my heart is moved with love for Him who has loved me so much.

#### 4th Joyful Mystery: The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple

I beg for the grace to be open to hearing God's voice by continually offering my treasures to the Lord to do with them what He wills. In this mystery, Joseph and Mary "brought [Jesus] to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord." Holy Spirit, help me to ponder what is going on in the minds and hearts of Joseph and Mary as they offer Jesus, their greatest treasure, to God without knowing what is going to come in the future.

## **5th Joyful Mystery: The Finding of Jesus in the Temple**

I beg for the grace to be willing to daily respond in obedience to God's will which I know leads to true freedom. At the end of this mystery, Jesus "went down with [Joseph and Mary] and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them." Holy Spirit, help me to imagine what life in Nazareth would have been like for Jesus as a [middle schooler / teenager / young adult] and consider how he would have demonstrated obedience to Joseph, Mary, and God in His daily life.

### **Sharing:**

Which of the five joyful mysteries speak to you at this time of your life: as a baptized child of God, as an adult, as a Christian living through the pandemic of 2020? Explain how this mystery and its graces are presently affecting you and your life.

### **Song: Blessed One by Aaron Thompson**

Peace O bright Mother of Mercy So pure and so brave We honor your virtue And dignity praise  
Every angel salutes you, The Earth calls you blessed. We look to you Mother, For mercy and rest

**Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Blessed one**

God exalted you, daughter, And called you in time To offer your womb, To bring forth the Divine  
You were willing to serve Though you knew not a man You trusted in God And said "Yes" to His plan

**Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Blessed one**

Your consent to God's Spirit Was fruitful and free Accepting God's Son In a great mystery  
For the Lord, you remained ever Virgin in faith Delivered by doubt And assisted by grace

**Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Blessed one**

Now we hail you, O daughter Of mercy and light O pray we embrace peace And good, love and right  
You are splendid, enthroned Above moon, star and Earth O Queen of the Heavens Your Son saved the world!

**Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Blessed one**

**Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Ave! Blessed one**