



***The Armor of Faith***  
**Topic Summary: The Rosary**  
***Part III: The Joyful Mysteries***



*The Nativity of Our Lord*  
*Public Domain*

**Introduction**

[Greeting:] → Welcome to “The Armor of Faith,” a show where we hope to bring our listeners closer to the Word of God and the blessings we receive through living in the fullness of the Catholic faith. My name is Doug and I will be your host as we discuss the blessings of the Church Christ built upon Peter.

I am joined today by my panel: [names]

Helen is a lay-Dominican and has a love for music ministry. The Dominicans, I always mention, are also known as the Order of Preachers. Sharon is still our token cradle Catholic, and, as everyone knows by now, I am simply here to ask questions, because if I asked answers, they might confuse us with Jeopardy - Ok, probably not. Anyway, to answer my questions and correct my pronunciation is why we have our panelists, so welcome to our panelists as well as to our listeners.

Let us open with a prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in thanks and praise for this opportunity to open and share your Holy Word this day. We pray that You are with us and all our listeners as we share with one another the blessings of faith. We pray You will grant us wisdom and understanding as we seek to learn Your Holy Truth.

Dear Lord, we also lift up the prayers in our prayer basket. You know what is written on each one and you know the hearts of those who offer their thanks and praise, as well as their petitions for the blessings of Your great mercy.

Today, dear Lord, we pray especially for the unborn. We pray You will guide every heart to understand and respect the sanctity of life.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

If you would like to add your prayers to our prayer basket, send us an email at [armoroffaithradio@gmail.com](mailto:armoroffaithradio@gmail.com). Please include the word “prayer” in the subject line so that we will give it priority and capture it for our prayer basket. Just so you know, Sharon and I lift up our prayers with those in the Armor of Faith Radio prayer basket during our daily prayers.

If you haven't discovered, yet, you can also listen to Armor of Faith Radio on demand and on the go using your smartphone. In addition to [wcatradio.com/armoroffaith](http://wcatradio.com/armoroffaith), we are available through a number of streaming services, such as iHeart Radio, Spreaker, iTunes, and CastBox, among others. Simply search for “Armor of Faith Radio” and select the episode you desire. We will be happy to keep you company wherever you are and wherever you are waiting.

We would also like to ask for your assistance to help share our discussions. If you find an episode or series, which caused you to take a moment and think and you would like to share with family or friends, you only need to copy the URL of the show to which you are listening and drop it into an email or share it through social media. You can also send them the URL of <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaith> and tell them the episode number(s) you are recommending to them. Several of the streaming services through which we are available on demand also have share options, so please help us to spread the good news of our faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Faith Event Announcements:**

If you attended Mass on 22 Jan 2020, or reflected on the prayers and readings for that day, you hopefully heard that in all the diocese within the United States it was also a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. (White) If you are listening on demand, this day may have already past, but it is never too late to lift up our unborn in prayer. We invite you to review the readings for that day via the USCCB Web Site and reflect upon them. We also hope you will join us in prayer as we lift up our thanks and praise to God for the gift of life as well as our petition that He will lead every heart to understand and respect the sanctity of life.

If you would like to learn more about opportunities to engage the efforts to defend life, we invite you to listen to our Culture of Life series, which can be found at episodes 89 – 97.

Every day is a good day to lift up the sanctity of life in prayer. Every day is a good day to live in defense of life.

### **Why Catholics Do What We Do:**

#### ***Sacraments of Initiation – Part XI***

Today we continue with our discussion on the Eucharist. While looking into the Catechism of the Catholic Church about the Eucharist, I found wonderful explanations of names we use when talking about the Eucharist. Amazing how there are soo many ways of expressing one miracle. The word Eucharist means thanksgiving to God. The Jewish people prayed often and especially before meals. During their prayers, they gave thanks for creation, redemption, and sanctification. The Greek word *eucharistein* expresses the actions of thanks that we learn from our ancestors. From this expression of thanks and the Greek language, we arrive at Eucharist.

Here is what the Catechism has to say about how we express the Eucharist:

(CCC: 1329)

***The Lord's Supper***, because of its connection with the supper which the Lord took with his disciples on the eve of his Passion and because it anticipates the wedding feast of the Lamb in the heavenly Jerusalem.

***The Breaking of Bread***, because Jesus used this rite, part of a Jewish meal, when as master of the table he blessed and distributed the bread, above all at the Last Supper. It is by this action that his disciples will recognize him after his Resurrection, and it is this expression that the first Christians will use to designate their Eucharistic assemblies; by doing so they signified that all who eat the one broken bread, Christ, enter into communion with him and form but one body in him.

***The Eucharistic assembly (synaxis)***, because the Eucharist is celebrated amid the assembly of the faithful, the visible expression of the Church.

(CCC: 1330)

The *memorial* of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection.

***The Holy Sacrifice***, because it makes present the one sacrifice of Christ the Savior and includes the Church's offering. The terms *holy sacrifice of the Mass*, "*sacrifice of praise*," *spiritual sacrifice*, *pure and holy sacrifice* are also used, since it completes and surpasses all the sacrifices of the Old Covenant.

***The Holy and Divine Liturgy***, because the Church's whole liturgy finds its center and most intense expression in the celebration of this sacrament; in the same sense we also call its celebration the *Sacred Mysteries*. We speak of the *Most Blessed Sacrament* because it is the Sacrament of sacraments. The Eucharistic species reserved in the tabernacle are designated by this same name.

(CCC: 1331)

***Holy Communion***, because by this sacrament we unite ourselves to Christ, who makes us sharers in his Body and Blood to form a single body. We also call it: *the holy things (ta hagia; sancta)* - the first meaning of the phrase "communion of saints" in the Apostles' Creed - *the bread of angels, bread from heaven, medicine of immortality, viaticum*.

(CCC: 1332)

***Holy Mass (Missa)***, because the liturgy in which the mystery of salvation is accomplished concludes with the sending forth (*missio*) of the faithful, so that they may fulfill God's will in their daily lives.

We will continue our discovery of the Eucharist next week.

***Have a blessed week All. Remember, you are loved dearly by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and yes, by us as well.***

## Discussion:

Last time, I mentioned that for those who discover the blessings of the Rosary, it comes to each of us at different times within our lives and in different ways. Some learn about it from parents or other family members. Others learn about it through religious formation. Some are exposed simply by hearing others praying it. Some, sadly, never truly experience it for no one has shared it with them or they are lured away from it such that they resist it.

Even for those who pray the Rosary regularly, there is a journey of learning. We do not unlock everything in one sitting of the prayer. Those who explore the blessings contained within the Rosary comprehend that it is not about memorization and recitation, but about true prayer and opening our hearts so God may fill us with His love.

To gain insight, we should examine what history tells us about the Rosary, for those who have spread its devotion and those who have preached its mysteries may enable us to see further into its depths. There are many books and encyclicals to assist us in this journey of exploration.

I must admit, when I was first exposed to the Rosary, it was intimidating because I did not understand it other than it was something Catholics did. As my children grew, it was something their mother taught them, but I missed the blessing of praying it with them. The first time I remember saying the Rosary, I was in a group and simply followed along; mumbling the best I could the parts I did not know.

As I look back, I realize I focused on the wrong thing, which was, “Did I say the prayers correctly?” I failed to absorb their meaning. At that point in my life, I was never really taught what it was all about, but that does not mean the Rosary did not touch me, for there is a learning as we hear the prayers and say the mysteries. Once I learned how to let it flow through my heart, suddenly, the Rosary captured me. I pray it will capture every heart, especially the reluctant heart, which mine once was.

Today, we will begin to examine the mysteries and their meaning. As we consider the threads of scripture associated with each mystery, I would hope that even the most ardent critic of the Rosary will see that it is far from the accusations of idolatry of Mary, rather, it is a meditation and contemplation upon a love story; a love story greater than humankind has ever known.

I am sure there are those who will point out that we are jumping ahead a little, and they are right. Before we get to the mysteries of the Rosary, we open with a reflection on or statement of our prayer intentions (for what shall we pray?). We then begin with the Sign of the Cross, the Apostle's Creed, The Our Father, three Hail Mary's (while meditating on the three virtues of faith, hope, and charity), and the Glory Be. We subsequently announce the first mystery, then, pray an Our Father, followed by ten Hail Mary's.

Of course we will talk about the prayers surrounding the mysteries during a later episode of this series, but the reason I want to jump ahead to this point is because the mysteries are the center of our our meditation and contemplation during the course of the prayer. This is also a critical point in response to those who criticize the Rosary as only a prayer to Mary, or an idolatry of

Mary, or too much about Mary, as if Mary has no role in our salvation history. As we begin to reflect on the first set of mysteries, it is impossible to exclude Mary from the Life, Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

A common theme I observe from the critics of the Rosary is all those Hail Mary's. Of course, we addressed those criticisms during Part I of this series. But I would like to come back to this criticism for a moment.

**(Question 1:** As we examine the history of the Rosary, we find what we call the “Hail Mary” today, to be initially referred to as the “Angelic Salutation.” **What is the Angelic Salutation?)**

- The greeting of the Angel Gabriel as he came to Mary
- Luke 1:28 (NABRE): “*And coming to her, he said, ‘Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.’*”
- Luke 1:28 (DRA): “*And the angel being come in, said unto her: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.*”

**(Question 2:** The first set of mysteries of the Rosary are the Joyful Mysteries. The first mystery of this set is commonly referred to as the “Annunciation.” **To what does this refer and what might we reflect upon about that moment?)**

(Luke 1:26-38)

*26 In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And coming to her, he said, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.” 29 But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father; 33 and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34 But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” 35 And the angel said to her in reply, “The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. 36 And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; 37 for nothing will be impossible for God.” 38 Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.*

- An angel, Gabriel, sent by God to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph
- Angelic Salutation → “*Hail favored one! The Lord is with you.*”
- Gabriel assures: “*Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*”
- Annunciation to Mary she will conceive a son she shall name Jesus
- Annunciation to Mary her (God's) child will rule over a kingdom with no end
- Annunciation the Holy Spirit will come upon Mary
- Annunciation the child will be called holy, the Son of God

- Mary told that her cousin, Elizabeth, called barren, has also conceived a son
- Mary told that nothing will be impossible for God
- Mary responds, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”

**(Question 3:** The second mystery of the Joyful Mysteries is commonly referred to as the “Visitation.” To what does this refer and what might we reflect upon about that moment?)

(Luke 1:39-56)

39 During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, 42 cried out in a loud voice and said, “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

**The Canticle of Mary.** 46 And Mary said: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

47 my spirit rejoices in God my savior;

48 For he has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.

49 The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

50 His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.

51 He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

52 He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly.

53 The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty.

54 He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy,

55 according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

56 Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

- Mary visits Elizabeth who God also blessed with a child (John the Baptist)
- John the Baptist feels the presence of his Lord and leaps for joy within the womb
- Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit greets Mary: “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

- Elizabeth expresses to Mary: *Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.*”
- Mary proclaims the greatness of the Lord
- Mary rejoices that God is her Savior
- Mary reflects on her lowliness
- Mary prophesies that all nations will call her blessed
- Mary professes God has done great things for her and holy is His name
- Mary professes His mercy is from age to age
- Mary reflects on the might of God against the arrogant of mind and heart
- Mary reflects how God has thrown down rulers and lifted up the lowly
- Mary reflects how God fills the hungry and sends the rich away empty
- Mary reflects on the mercy of God on Israel

**(Question 4:** The third mystery of the Joyful Mysteries is commonly referred to as the “Nativity.” To what does this refer and what might we reflect upon about that moment?)

*1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. 2 This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, 5 to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, 7 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.*

*8 Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. 9 The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. 10 The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: 14 “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

*15 When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. 18 All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. 19 And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.*



- Joseph takes Mary, who is with child, to Bethlehem, the city of David
- Mary gives birth and places her Son in a manger for there was no room at the inn
- Angels appear to shepherds in the field and inform them, “[I]n the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.”
- Angels tell the shepherds, as a sign, they shall “find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”
- Angels sing praises: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”
- Shepherds find the child as the angels informed them
- Shepherds share the message of the angels
- Mary keeps all these things and reflects on them in her heart

**(Question 5:** The fourth mystery of the Joyful Mysteries is commonly referred to as the “The Presentation.” To what does this refer and what might we reflect upon about that moment?)

(Luke 2:22-38)

22 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, 23 just as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,” 24 and to offer the sacrifice of “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,” in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. 27 He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, 28 he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

29 “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

33 The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; 34 and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted 35 (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” 36 There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. 38 And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the



### *redemption of Jerusalem.*

- Joseph and Mary take Jesus to Jerusalem for presentation in accordance with the law of the Lord
- Simeon, with the Holy Spirit upon him, took Jesus in his arms
- Having been told Simeon would not see death before he saw the Messiah, gives thanks to the Lord and says, “*Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation.*”
- Simeon tells Mary, “*..this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel*”
- Simeon also tells Mary, “*... and you yourself a sword will pierce,*” prefiguring her life with her Son, the only begotten Son of God
- The prophetess, Anna, who worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer gives thanks to God and speaks “*about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.*”

**(Question 6:** The fifth mystery of the Joyful Mysteries is commonly referred to as the “The Finding in the Temple.” To what does this refer and what might we reflect upon about that moment?)

(Luke 2:41-52)

*41 Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, 42 and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. 43 After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44 Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45 but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, 47 and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” 49 And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” 50 But they did not understand what he said to them. 51 He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.*

- Jesus is taken to the feast of Passover at the age of twelve
- As the caravan began towards home, Jesus remained in the temple
- Mary and Joseph, thinking Jesus was in the caravan journeyed for a day
- Not finding Jesus; Mary and Joseph return to Jerusalem
- All who were with Jesus in the temple were astounded by His understanding and answers
- When His parents asked why He had allowed them to search for Him with great anxiety, He responded, “*Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?*”
- Joseph and Mary did not understand

- Mary kept all these things in her heart (which she continued until the foot of the cross and beyond)
- Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man

## Quotes:

– *Saint Louis de Monfort*

DEAR MINISTERS of the Most High, you my fellow priests who preach the truth of God and who teach the gospel to all nations, let me give you this little book as a white rose that I would like you to keep. The truths contained in it are set forth in a very simple and straightforward manner as you will see. Please keep them in your heart so that you yourselves may make a practice of the Holy Rosary and taste its fruit; and please have them always on your lips too so that you will always preach the Rosary and thus convert others by teaching them the excellence of this holy devotion.

– *Venerable Fulton J. Sheen*

The Rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men.

## Final Thoughts:

As we galloped through the Joyful Mysteries, I suspect everyone was quite disturbed and perhaps distracted with all the focus on Mary as we reflected and contemplated upon that which was revealed to us through scripture. I hope everyone noted my sarcasm in that statement, for hopefully the critics will begin to see that our meditation and contemplation upon this scripture is hardly idolatry of Mary, rather, it opens the door of our hearts to the joy the world should know through these Joyful Mysteries of faith.

I know the critics are laser focused on the “Angelic Salutation: as some form of blasphemy and the fact we ask Mary to pray for us just reinforces the justification for rending their garments, but I believe they view the relationship of the prayers of the Rosary incorrectly. Perhaps if they viewed the Hail Marys in relation to what they surround within our meditation and contemplation of the mysteries, they would understand them to be as a mantle of a Mother's love wrapped around the Passion of her Son.

When I referenced our discussion today as galloping through the Joyful Mysteries, it is because simply walking through the scripture, we are only skimming the surface. As we meditate and contemplate on the meaning of this scripture upon our lives and to what we are called, we must look beyond just the verses cited. Certainly we can read them, but to meditate and contemplate upon them calls us to consider their full context as well.

In addition to our prayer reflection as we recite the Rosary, we should also spend time in the scripture and allow the footnotes to help us travel the threads from the Old Testament to the New. We should also consider the positional, linguistic, historical, cultural, and spiritual context of what God reveals to us through the mysteries of the Rosary. As we spend these 15 minutes in

prayer, it is an opportunity for us to open our hearts to the blessings and grace of God. Oh, and if I haven't pointed it out before, I should mention that a blessing is an invocation of God's power and care and grace is God's undeserved help - just something to reflect on when we use those words.

**Wrap Up:** Well, our time has come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next week as we turn our discussion to the Luminous Mysteries.

Let us conclude with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity to share the blessings of our trust and faith in You. We pray that as we go our separate ways, You will continue to walk with us and help us to see how we may put on the armor of **truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation**, and the **Word** of the gospel not only for the benefit of our lives, but also the lives of all who cross our path. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Thank you all and God bless.

**Next Session:** The Rosary – Part IV: The Luminous Mysteries

### **Why Catholics Do What We Do References:**

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