



The Armor of Faith
Topic Summary: The Rosary
Part XI: The Closing Prayers



Blessed Virgin Mary - Immaculate Conception
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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, our lay-Dominican, is out today tending to family. Sharon is with us, though, and is still our token cradle Catholic on the team, and, as everyone knows by now, I am simply here to ask questions because as everyone also knows, I am well qualified to do the simple things. Anyway, to answer my questions, correct my pronunciation, and make sure I know which century I am talking about is why I have my wife, so welcome to Sharon 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 and their petitions for the blessings of Your great mercy.

We pray especially today for Adolpho, as well as the children Anna, Amber, and Ben, as they battle cancer. We pray, dear Lord, that Your healing hand shall rest upon them, that You will guide the hearts and hands of their care givers, and that Your hand of comfort shall rest on all who love and care for them.

We also pray for those who are suffering from the Coronavirus as well as those working diligently to contain, mitigate, and end the pandemic. We pray You will enable hearts to work together so that Your will may be done.

We pray too, dear Lord, for those who are working to defend life. Whether they are at the sidewalk, working to support the needs of mothers and children, or prayer warriors, we pray You will strengthen them and enable them to save lives.

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. Please include the word “prayer” in the subject line so that we will give your request 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 find yourself shut-in at home, now might be an opportunity to binge listen to those episodes you may have missed. If you are with loved ones, listen together. As we present a question, pause the cast and discuss among yourselves, then, listen to our discussion. Discussing our faith is an opportunity to learn our faith.

If you haven't discovered, yet. In addition to 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 tell family and friends about Armor of Faith Radio. It is easy to copy the URL of the show from your web browser and paste the link into an email and social media. You can also share the URL <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaith> and reference the episode number or series you would like to share. Several of the streaming services through which we are available on demand also have share options. It is a simple means by which to evangelize, so please help us to spread the good news of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Faith Event Announcements:

40 Days for Life: The 40 Days for Life 2020 Spring Campaign remains in progress through 5 Apr 2020. It is still not too late to sign up to help. The national 40 Days for Life web site currently reports 209 babies saved since the beginning of the campaign on 26 Feb 2020. Of course, those are only the confirmed reports. We will never know how many decide not to enter the abortion clinic as they observe those praying outside in the defense of life.

From the team in Colorado Springs, Colorado, we were told of a car with a man and woman inside which pulled over next to those praying and the woman said to them. "What in sweet Jesus' name were we thinking? Jesus forgive us and bless this baby." The sidewalk counselor gave them information and they chose life!!

This demonstrates the importance of the pro-life presence at the sidewalk. What if no one had been there for the couple to see? They probably would have gone in for the abortion. From the emotional response this woman had from seeing a woman praying and from seeing the signs, had she gone through with the abortion it would have been emotionally devastating to her, because, once a life is taken, it cannot be restored by human hand!

Even if you are not able to come to the sidewalk, prayer is powerful and always necessary, and there are so many other ways to help as well. If you would like to learn more about training for sidewalk advocates, prayer partners, or other means by which You can assist with the effort to defend life, check your local 40 Days for Life web site. The national web site, <https://www.40daysforlife.com/>, can help you find an organization near you.

WCAT Radio Fund Raiser: WCAT Radio, the organization through which this and a variety of kindred Catholic radio shows are presented, is conducting a funding drive to help address the costs of operation and production. WCAT Radio presents two dozen hours of new, quality, Catholic programming each week and offers over 5,000 hours of archived programming in history, theology, spirituality, and poetry for the purpose of promoting the Catholic spiritual journey — a virtual audio library of our Catholic faith. Please consider giving a tax deductible donation to WCAT Radio to enable them to continue to broadcast the Catholic message. You can donate online at <https://wcatradio.com/support>. Any amount you can contribute, will help the mission to evangelize the Gospel.

Why Catholics Do What We Do:

Lent – Part VI:

During Lent we focus on our blessings and pray to know how to do better for those who are living in poverty. This season is a time for prayer, penance, giving, and self reflection. We have already talked about how to do the praying, the penance, the giving and the self reflection.

Now let us talk about a special way of giving. The special way of giving is called a Poverty Meal. In researching this practice, I learned that many Christian churches around the world participate in doing this. Wonderful! Something all Christians can join together in working to ease poverty situations.

What is a Poverty Meal? A Poverty Meal is a simple and sacrificial meal. This can be done as an individual, as a family, or as a community. The concept of the poverty meal is to let us know what it is like to be hungry, so the meal is not meant to fill our stomachs. At this time we focus our attention on those who suffer the pains of hunger on a regular basis.

Many Catholic churches plan on having these meals during Lent and especially on Fridays. The plan is for members of the community to gather for The Stations of the Cross and reflect on the love and mercy Jesus has for us. This is then followed by a poverty meal and fellowship. Because Catholics do not eat meat on Fridays, this meal would be meatless. In searching for more information on this, I learned that other communities have regular meals which include meat, but serve smaller portions.

Why do Catholics not eat meat on Friday? When people lived primarily in areas around seas, the main source of protein was fish. Meat was a delicacy and eaten rarely by the wealthy and never by the poor.

Then, as the human population moved inland and away from sea ports, it became harder for them to get fish and protein was more easily found in the animals of the plains, cattle, buffalo, deer, fowl, etc. Now that red meat had become the norm for dietary needs, it was determined that this would be a good way to offer fasting from meat. Why on Friday? Friday is the day on which Christ was crucified. It is always a day of sorrow and therefore the best day of the week for fasting and offering sacrifice.

Since we do this as a church community, the various ministries are called upon to organize and set up the meals each week. Each ministry takes a turn providing meatless soups and some salads, breads, and vegetables. Because this is Lent, dessert is normally not included --- remember, this is the season for fasting and penance, so the fun stuff is not encouraged. Some ministries might also take the opportunity to advertise their particular charism and what they do to aid in the elimination of poverty.

The Knights of Columbus are an example of a ministry found in most Catholic churches. They are famously known for their fish fries. These are also poverty meals. The Knights get together and prepare a meal of fish, fries, coleslaw and perhaps other side dishes as well. Again, this is a meatless meal. These meals are very popular and fun for the community.

The meal settings are a great opportunity to gather in fellowship with friends. It is time for us to catch up on how others are doing and on what is going on in their lives. Lent is a time for penance and reflection, but it is not a time for being sad. This is a time to come together with fellow Catholics and do as Scripture tells us, to care for those who are less fortunate than us.

The poverty meal can also be a fund raiser. Those who come together for this meal donate money for the meal. What is the donation and what is it for? We are asked to think about what we would normally spend for a meal. So whether we are an individual, a family or a community, we take this into consideration as we figure out what to give. We donate the amount we would have spent on the meal and enjoy the food and fellowship. The money is then collected throughout Lent. At the end of the season, it is donated to a designated ministry that helps with poverty issues such as food pantries, thrift stores, homeless shelters and soup kitchens.

While caring for the poor has always been a mission of the Catholic Church, creativity of the mind is responsible for this community activity. It brings us together for an opportunity outside of Sunday to be together for prayer, fellowship, and giving.

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.

If you would like to learn more about Poverty Meals, we invite you to follow the link in the reference section of the topic summary for this show. You can obtain the topic summary by visiting <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaithstudyguides/> and look for episode 138.

Discussion:

Last time, we continued to gallop through what we may meditate on through the prayers of the Rosary. Once again, there was so much we left out of our discussion. Again, what this reveals is all we may bring into our hearts and explore as we pray the Rosary. As I mentioned, when we discussed the Apostles' Creed, we could do an entire series concerning that profession of faith and we could do another on Faith, Hope, and Charity.

As we concluded our tenth episode of discussion concerning what we may discover through the Rosary, those new to the prayer may feel overwhelmed, but our listeners who pray the Rosary regularly will tell us to simply relax and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us through all to which the Rosary exposes our heart. As we continue our discussion, we will also talk about how we may bring the prayer into our personal life, our family life, and into our faith fellowship.

I mentioned last time that just as the boy could not pour the ocean into a hole with a seashell, neither can we absorb in one sitting of the Rosary what is contained in this Angelic Garden. As we bring the Rosary into our daily lives and allow the Holy Spirit to be our guide during our meditation, we are brought closer and closer to the Sacred Heart of our Lord and Savior.

In our prayer, we meditate on our faith. We may also lift up our hearts to Him and listen for His “*light, silent sound.*” (cf. 1 Kings 19:12) The more we pray the Rosary, the more we open our hearts to Him. The more we open ourselves to Him, the more He will lead and guide us.

Today, we will focus on the closing prayers. Before we do so, there is one prayer which Our Blessed Mother instructed the children of Fatima to incorporate into the Rosary. During the second apparition, on 13 Jun 1917, Our Lady said to the children:

“I want you to come here on the thirteenth of the next month. Say the Rosary, inserting between the mysteries the following ejaculation — ‘O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need.’” (Marchi, 22)

(Question 1: Of course, I am sensitive to the critics. Some will ask, “Where is that in the Bible?” Of course, given this apparition of Our Blessed Mother occurred on 13 Jun 1917, it is not documented in the Bible, but what did Our Blessed Mother ask the children to pray? Is this prayer inconsistent with scripture? To what scripture might we draw the eyes of the critic to help them understand to what this prayer draws our heart?)

(Luke 3:3)

He [referring to John the Baptist] went throughout [the] whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

(Luke 24:46-49)

46 [After His resurrection, Jesus said to His disciples], “*Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day 47 and that repentance, for*

the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And [behold] I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

(Acts 2:38)

Peter [said] to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit.

(Question 2: So, what we observe is that while the apparition of our Blessed Mother at Fatima is not found in scripture, what she asks the children to pray as part of the Rosary is quite consistent with scripture. By the way, who else taught us to pray for the forgiveness of sins?)

(Luke 11:1-4)

1 He [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.” 2 He said to them, “When you pray, say:

*Father, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.
3 Give us each day our daily bread
4 and forgive us our sins
for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us,
and do not subject us to the final test.”*

After the last “Glory Be” and “Fatima Prayer,” we begin to close our prayer with the “*Salve Regina*,” which is also known as “Hail Holy Queen.” Let us consider this prayer:

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

During the course of the Rosary, we prayed the Angelic Salutation, – Hail Mary, but it is not until the final mystery of the Glorious Mysteries that we refer to Mary as queen. I know that when we addressed this title during our discussion of the Glorious Mysteries, we rushed through it because of all the time we spent just scratching the surface of the meaning of the “descent of the Holy Spirit.” So, let's take another look at the scripture which leads us to this title for Mary.

(Jeremiah 29:2)

2 *This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the court officials, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans and smiths had left Jerusalem.*

(1 Kings 2:19-22)

19 *Then Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah, and the king stood up to meet her and paid her homage. Then he sat down upon his throne, and a throne was provided for the king's mother, who sat at his right.* 20 *She said, "There is one small favor I would ask of you. Do not refuse me." The king said to her, "Ask it, my mother, for I will not refuse you."*

(Exodus 20:12)

12 *Honor your father and your mother; that you may have a long life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

(Revelation 12:1-17)

1 *A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.* 2 *She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth.* 3 *Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems.* 4 *Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth.* 5 *She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne.* 6 *The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God, that there she might be taken care of for twelve hundred and sixty days.*

7 *Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, 8 but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.* 9 *The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it.*

10 *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:*

*"Now have salvation and power come,
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Anointed.*

*For the accuser of our brothers is cast out,
who accuses them before our God day and night.*

11 *They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
love for life did not deter them from death.*

12 *Therefore, rejoice, you heavens,
and you who dwell in them.*

*But woe to you, earth and sea,
for the Devil has come down to you in great fury,
for he knows he has but a short time."*

13 When the dragon saw that it had been thrown down to the earth, it pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. 14 But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle [symbolology of divine assistance], so that she could fly to her place in the desert, where, far from the serpent, she was taken care of for a year, two years, and a half-year. 15 The serpent, however, spewed a torrent of water out of his mouth after the woman to sweep her away with the current. 16 But the earth helped the woman and opened its mouth and swallowed the flood that the dragon spewed out of its mouth. 17 Then the dragon became angry with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring, those who keep God's commandments and bear witness to Jesus.

(Note: When we addressed this during our discussion of the Glorious mysteries, I pointed out that as we reflect on this account of the spiritual warfare traversing heaven and earth and the wrath of the dragon [aka, Satan] against the woman [aka, Mary], we might expect, as a tactic of “divide and conquer,” that the evil one would attempt to present Mary as a roadblock to our meditation of the mysteries of the Rosary, for she is the one, in concert with her child, who calls priests to preach the Angelic Psalter (cf. Monfort, 15, 20) so we may meditate on its mysteries, and she is the one who calls us to the Sacred Heart of her Holy Son, the only begotten Son of God.)

We should consider also:

(Luke 1:35)

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.

Here, we must see the relationship of the Trinity with Mary; the Holy Spirit upon her, the Most High (Heavenly Father) who overshadows her, and the only begotten Son of God who is born through her.

(Revelation 17:14)

They will fight with the Lamb, but the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and king of kings, and those with him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

Don't we think the King of kings and Lord of lords would not want His mother, the Queen Mother, to be with Him and among those He protects? Why would the critics think it would please the King of kings that anyone should dismiss or disparage His mother?

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

(**Question 4:** As we continue to reflect on the *Salve Regina*, we should observe Mary described in other ways. To what roles of Mary does this prayer draw our attention?)

- Mother of mercy [Christ is mercy...]
- Our life [the example of obedience to God]
- Our sweetness [the love of a mother]
- Our hope [who calls us to the Sacred Heart of her Son, the only begotten Son of God, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ]
- Gracious Advocate [role of the Queen Mother]
- Clement [compassionate]
- Loving [as a mother for her children]
- Virgin [mother with child conceived of the Holy Spirit]
- Mother of God [fruit of thy womb, Jesus]

(**Question 5:** As the Mother of the King of kings, we also look to her role as advocate. As we conclude this prayer, what do we ask of Our Blessed Mother, Our Holy Queen?)

Final Prayer or Prayer After the Rosary:

Let us pray. O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that meditating upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

(**Question 6:** So, after all our heart has traveled during the course of our meditation and prayers, we come to what some call the “Final Prayer,” or “Prayer After the Rosary.” To what does this prayer draw our attention?)

- To whom do we pray? [O, God]
- Recognition of His only begotten Son
- Life
- Death
- Resurrection
- What was purchased [rewards of eternal life]
- Petition for our meditation
 - ➔ Imitate what they contain
 - ➔ Obtain what they promise
- The promise of Christ our Lord [our Lord and Savior]

(**Note:** As we close our prayer and meditation, this prayer provides one more summary of the faith which the Rosary summarizes. While some might refer to this as the “final prayer,” there are a variety of other prayers which may be joined with the Rosary, for example, the Saint Michael prayer, but we might consider that as prayer in conjunction with the Rosary.)

Quotes:

– *Pope Pius V (Consueverunt Romani Pontifices – Custom of the Roman Pontiffs – 17 Sep 1569)*

And so Dominic looked to that simple way of praying and beseeching God, accessible to all and wholly pious, which is called the Rosary, or Psalter of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in which the same most Blessed Virgin is venerated by the angelic greeting repeated one hundred and fifty times, that is, according to the number of the Davidic Psalter, and by the Lord's Prayer with each decade. Interposed with these prayers are certain meditations showing forth the entire life of Our Lord Jesus Christ, thus completing the method of prayer devised by the Fathers of the Holy Roman Church. This same method St. Dominic propagated, and it was, spread by the Friars of Blessed Dominic, namely, of the aforementioned Order, and accepted by not a few of the people. Christ's faithful, inflamed by these prayers, began immediately to be changed into new men. The darkness of heresy began to be dispelled, and the light of the Catholic Faith to be revealed....Following the example of our predecessors, seeing that the Church militant, which God has placed in our hands, in these our times is tossed this way and that by so many heresies, and is grievously troubled and afflicted by so many wars, and by the deprave morals of men, we also raise our eyes, weeping but full of hope, unto that same mountain, whence every aid comes forth, and we encourage and admonish each member of Christ's faithful to do likewise in the Lord.

– *Pope Leo XIII (Apostolatus Officio - Devotion Of The Rosary – 1 Sep 1883)*

Our merciful God, as you know, raised up against these most direful enemies a most holy man, the illustrious parent and founder of the Dominican Order. Great in the integrity of his doctrine, in his example of virtue, and by his apostolic labours, he proceeded undauntedly to attack the enemies of the Catholic Church, not by force of arms; but trusting wholly to that devotion which he was the first to institute under the name of the Holy Rosary, which was disseminated through the length and breadth of the earth by him and his pupils. Guided, in fact, by divine inspiration and grace, he foresaw that this devotion, like a most powerful warlike weapon, would be the means of putting the enemy to flight, and of confounding their audacity and mad impiety. Such was indeed its result. Thanks to this new method of prayer-when adopted and properly carried out as instituted by the Holy Father St. Dominic-piety, faith, and union began to return, and the projects and devices of the heretics to fall to pieces. Many wanderers also returned to the way of salvation, and the wrath of the impious was restrained by the arms of those Catholics who had determined to repel their violence.

Final Thoughts:

As we come to the conclusion of our eleventh episode of our discussion of the Rosary, those new to the Rosary might be tempted to ask, “Do I need to be a theologian to properly pray and meditate on the prayers and mysteries of the Rosary?” The answer is, no. We simply need to relax, enjoy the spiritual ride, and allow the Holy Spirit to be our guide.

Even those who pray the Rosary regularly might be tempted to say, “I didn't realize the Rosary traversed so many threads of scripture and our faith.” When we put on our favorite sweater or jacket, we do not always examine the threads, but the weave of the fabric still keeps us warm. Of course, as we mentioned a number of times during our discussion, we provided several examples of to where the Rosary may take our heart, but there is even more we can discover as we pray.

Next time, as we conclude our discussion concerning the Rosary, we will talk about means by which we can increase the presence of the Rosary in our lives. I understand that learning the Rosary can appear a bit intimidating as something to memorize, but we should not allow memorization to be an obstacle. I also pray we did not intimidate anyone by all the scripture we mentioned as to through which our heart may wander during the course of the Rosary, but we should not view the threads of scripture as something to intimidate us, rather, as a treasure to discover.

Wrap Up: Well, our time once more has come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next week as we turn our discussion to how we may incorporate the Rosary into our daily prayer, prayer with family, and prayer in fellowship.

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 XII: The Rosary in Private, Family, and Fellowship Prayer

Why Catholics Do What We Do References:

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