

BRINGING GOD AND HUMANITY TOGETHER

The Life of Jesus and the Sacrament of Baptism

Opening Questions:

For what purpose did Jesus come to earth?

What are some things He did to help us believe that He was God?

What did Jesus accomplish for us through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection?

Why did Jesus do all of this?

How should we respond to the truth that Jesus is God?

I. The Gospel Story – God living a human life

a. The Gospels

i. What was it like for the Eternal, All-powerful God to walk around on two human legs in a small patch of the Middle East two thousand years ago?

ii. Fortunately, we don't have to just guess. There are divinely inspired records of Jesus' life on Earth. These are called the four Gospels

iii. The Gospels are attributed to saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

- Anyone who wants to become familiar with the Person of Jesus should study these books deeply

- We don't have time to go over everything in these sacred writings, but we can at least highlight two crucial points: **Jesus' Miracles** and **Jesus' Mission to Suffer and Die for us**

b. Jesus' Miracles

i. In some important situations, we're asked to show ID (in the case of traveling to new places, for instance). We use our ID to prove to people that we're who we say we are.

ii. Well, the miracles are Jesus' ID card. They prove that He is God, with God's power over nature, over sickness, over evil, and over death.

- Since Jesus is all-powerful, we can trust Him with everything. We know He can and will take care of us.

- So what do you, personally, still need to entrust over to Our Lord?

c. Jesus' Mission to Suffer and Die for us

i. God has made a world in which our choices matter.

1. So when we freely sin, the consequences spread like ripples on a lake, causing evil and suffering throughout the world.

ii. But God's solution to the problem of evil is the ultimate act of creative genius.

1. Christ took the ugliness of human life, concentrated at Calvary, and

Monday, January 11th, 2021

turned it into something beautiful, the way a great sculptor might recycle a pile of trashy tin cans and turn them into a magnificent metal statue.

Now the world needs to know that the problem of evil and suffering finally has an answer in Jesus Christ. So who is going to spread the good news?

d. Spreading the Gospel Story

i. The last thing Jesus commanded us to do before Ascending into Heaven was **a) to spread the Gospel and b) baptized**. We'll talk more about Baptism in just a moment, but let's take a moment now and ask, "Why is it so important to spread the Gospel" (= evangelize)?

ii. Jesus is the only bridge between us and our eternal happiness, He's the only way to know what it means to fully be human, He's the only way to know how much we are loved by God, and how to live fully in love.

- If you know all this, how can you keep it to yourself? Wouldn't it be unspeakably selfish not to try and share it?

iii. Imagine someone coming up to you in the next life, and says,

- "You knew? You knew? You knew about God's love, and Christ's sacrifice, and that I could have been with the Creator of the Universe through Baptism and He could have been with me through the Eucharist? You knew the meaning of human existence, what happens to us after we die, and the divine instructions for love and happiness – you knew all that and didn't even offer to share it with me because it might have been awkward? Do you have any idea what I had to suffer, do you have any idea what I might have been spared, the horror that might have been averted in my life, if you had just had the courage to talk to me?"

- Yes it can be awkward to talk about our faith with others. But it's Christ's command.

- And if we have faith in Him, and love for our neighbor, we will commit ourselves – as the first Christians did – to proclaiming the Gospel, not obnoxiously, but with courage.

iv. But suppose someone is converted to Christ. Suppose they hear the proclamation, and accept it. What should they do first?

- In Acts chapter 2, at the Pentecost event, those who hear the first preaching of the Apostles say, "What shall we do?" And Peter replies, "Repent, and be baptized!"

So why is Baptism the first step of the Christian Life?

II. Baptism: Humans living a Divine Life

- Jesus came to open the way

- Old Testament foreshadowing: The flood, the parting of the Red Sea, the crossing of the River Jordan

- Because Original Sin had damaged our nature so much, human beings would have to be made new.

a. **Baptism as Birth**

i. Jesus refers to Baptism as being "Born water and the Spirit" (John 3:5)

ii. The water itself symbolizes birth (think of when the "water breaks" in childbirth)

iii. Really, Baptism is when we are adopted by God

- God only has one Son by nature, but when we unite ourselves to Jesus in Baptism, we are adopted into His family, and we receive the inheritance of eternal, perfect happiness

b. Baptism as Death

- i. Paul refers to Baptism as entering Christ's death (Romans 6:3)
- ii. The water itself signifies death (originally, those who were baptized were submerged under water – and humans can't live under water).
- iii. Getting baptized, or having our children baptized, is a great act of faith in God.
 - It means we believe that we do not fear death or hardship for ourselves or our children, as long as we are with Christ.

c. Baptism as Cleansing

- i. Baptism involves a washing, a cleansing.
- ii. The water itself signifies cleansing (you use water to get dirt off)
- iii. Baptism removes original sin, and forgives any personal sins we have committed before our baptism.

d. Baptism as a New Life

- i. The Holy Spirit – God's very life – enters our souls at Baptism
- ii. The water itself signifies life (no one can survive without water)
- iii. After Baptism, we live with a divine life.
 - Of course, that doesn't mean all the effects of original sin are gone. We still have to deal with temptation, sickness, sorrow, misunderstandings, and physical death.
 - But it means we have the beginnings of heavenly life inside us.

***So just as in Jesus, God took on human life, so in Baptism, we take on divine life
And just as Jesus gave His life for us, so we the Baptized are called to give our lives for Him***

"WHATEVER IT TAKES" TIPS

How to pray the Rosary with kids

- 01 Set up the space to be set apart:**
silenced phones, sacred images, quiet music
- 02 Use digital images:**
Choose an image for each mystery of the rosary
- 03 Use an audio rosary:**
Sometimes having another voice guide is just easier – there are many apps to choose from!
- 04 Let them lead a decade:**
This gives them ownership over the prayer time!
- 05 To use or not use beads:**
Some kids love having the beads to focus and others can get super distracted – fingers work just as well!
- 06 Coloring or Edible Rosary:**
Print out a coloring sheet before hand to have them color each bead as they go or grab those chocolate chips and blueberries to make an edible rosary!
- 07 Communication before, during, and after:**
Kids, just like us, need constant reminders –
Before: telling them what you are going to do
During: gently remind them during prayer
After: praise them because they are GOOD!

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven; hallowed by Thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Fatima Prayer

“O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell and lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of Your mercy.”

Hail, Holy Queen

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!

V/ Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

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

Rosary Prayer

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.



How to Pray the Rosary

1. Make the **Sign of the Cross**.
2. Recite the **Apostle's Creed**.
3. Pray the **Our Father**.
4. Pray three **Hail Mary's**.
5. Pray the **Glory Be to the Father**.
6. Announce the **First Mystery**; then pray the **Our Father**.
7. Pray ten **Hail Mary's** while meditating on the **Mystery**.
8. Pray the **Glory Be to the Father**.
9. After each decade, pray the **Fatima Prayer**.
10. Announce the **Second Mystery**, then pray the **Our Father**.
11. Repeat 7, 8, and 9 and continue with the **Third, Fourth, and Fifth Mysteries** in the same manner.
12. After completing the five mysteries, pray the **Hail, Holy Queen** prayer and the **Rosary Prayer**.

Prayers in bold print are included in brochure.



A SCRIPTURAL ROSARY

“In order to supply a Biblical foundation and greater depth to our meditation, it is helpful to follow the announcement of the mystery with the proclamation of a related Biblical passage...”

(Bl. John Paul II, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, 30)

Note: In addition to providing a Biblical passage for each mystery, we have included short passages to be read aloud immediately before each Hail Mary.

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

The First Joyful Mystery

The Annunciation

In the Beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. (Jn 1:1-2 JB)

1. In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth... (Lk 1:26)
2. ...to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph of the house of David and the virgin's name was Mary. (Lk 1:27)
3. Gabriel went in and said to Mary, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" (Lk 1:28)
4. Mary was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean. (Lk 1:29)
5. But the angel said to her, "Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour." (Lk 1:30)
6. "Behold! You are to conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus." (Lk 1:31)
7. Mary said to the angel, "But how can this come about since I have no knowledge of man?" (Lk 1:32)
8. The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and called Son of God." (Lk 1:35)
9. Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to your word." (Lk 1:37)
10. The Word became flesh, he lived among us and we saw his glory, the glory that he has from the Father as only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. (Jn 1:14)

The Second Joyful Mystery

The Visitation

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. (Lk 1:39)

1. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. (Lk 1:39)
2. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. (Lk 1:41)
3. She gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women you are the most blessed and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (Lk 1:42)
4. "Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?" (Lk 1:43)
5. "Yes blessed is she who believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Lk 1:45)
6. And Mary said, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord." (Lk 1:46)
7. "...my spirit rejoices in God my saviour..." (Lk 1:47)
8. "...he has looked on the lowliness of his handmaiden..." (Lk 1:48)
9. "Yes, from now onwards all generations will call me blessed." (Lk 1:48)
10. "The Almighty has done great things for me." (Lk 1:49)

The Third Joyful Mystery

The Birth of Jesus

So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and traveled up to Judaea, to the town of Bethlehem since he was of David's house and line, in order to be registered together with Mary his betrothed who was with child. (Lk 2:4-5)

1. Now it happened that, while they were there, the time came to have her child. (Lk 2:6)
2. Mary gave birth to a son, her first-born. (Lk 2:7)
3. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes... (Lk 2:7)
4. ...and laid him in a manger... (Lk 2:7)
5. ...for there was no room for them in the inn. (Lk 2:7)
6. In the countryside close by, there were shepherds out in the fields keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of the night. (Lk 2:8)
7. An angel of the Lord stood over them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified... (Lk 2:9)
8. ...but the angel said, "Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all the people." (Lk 2:10)
9. "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." (Lk 2:11)

10. As for Mary, she treasured all these things, and pondered them in her heart. (Lk 2:19)

The Fourth Joyful Mystery ***The Presentation in the Temple***

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (Lk 2:22)

1. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. (Lk 2:26)
2. ...when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God. (Lk 2:27-28)
3. ...he said, "Now, Master, you are letting your servant go in peace as you promised... (Lk 2:29)
4. ...my eyes have seen the salvation which you have made ready in the sight of the nations... (Lk 2:30-31)
5. ... a light of revelation for the gentiles and glory for your people Israel. (Lk 2:32)
6. ...the child's father and mother were wondering at the things been said about him. (Lk 2:33)
7. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Look, he is destined for the fall and for the rise of many in Israel... (Lk 2:34)
8. ...destined to be a sign that will be opposed... (Lk 2:34)
9. ...and a sword will pierce your soul too, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Lk 2:35)
10. As the child grew to maturity, he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him. (Lk 2:40)

The Fifth Joyful Mystery ***The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple***

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go up to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, he went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the child Jesus stayed behind without his parents knowing it. (Lk 2:41-43)

1. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him... (Lk 2:44)
2. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. (Lk 2:45)
3. It happened that three days later they found him in the Temple... (Lk 2:46)
4. ...he was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:47)
5. All who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. (Lk 2:47)
6. [His parents] were overcome when they saw him... (Lk 2:48)
7. ...his mother said to him, "My child, why have you done this to us?" (Lk 2:48)
8. "See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you." (Lk 2:48)
9. Jesus replied, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Lk 2:49)
10. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with man. (Lk 2:50)