

First Saturday Meditation Manual



with a Preface by Father Nicholas Gruner

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For use as an aid in keeping Our Lady company on the First Saturdays while meditating on the Fifteen Mysteries of the Holy Rosary (as requested by Our Lady of Fatima), or as a guide to meditating while praying one's daily Rosary.

Contact The Fatima Center for a selection of other booklets with more extensive biblical meditations arranged for the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

Textual Note:

Biblical passages are taken from the Douay-Rheims translation, with occasional modifications and integrations.

IMPRIMATUR:

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Back cover; Fra Angelico, *Saint Dominic Adoring the Crucifixion* (1441-42).

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PREFACE

How to Make the First Saturday Reparatory Devotions

*By Father Nicholas Gruner, S.T.L., S.T.D. (Cand.)**

Most important in our First Saturday devotions is the fervor with which we perform them, specifically as **acts of reparation** for sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Our Lady of Fatima summed up the motive of all of Her apparitions and requests with these poignant words: *“So numerous are the souls which the justice of God condemns for sins committed against Me, that I come to ask for reparation.”* This is the very heart of the First Saturday devotions – Our Lady’s urgent and heart-rending plea that we make reparation on behalf of sinners who will otherwise be lost.

Nowhere is this plea more movingly expressed than in Our Lady’s formal request for the promulgation of the Five First Saturdays devotion.

It was December 10, 1925. Lucy was then an 18-year-old postulant in a Dorothean convent. Having returned to her cell that evening after supper, she suddenly saw Our Lady standing close by her, in the presence also of the Child Jesus, Who was standing on a little cloud.

At first Our Lady did not say anything. It was as if She could not speak, being overwhelmed with sorrow. She held Her Immaculate Heart in Her hand for Lucy to see, pierced all around by terrible thorns, and She placed Her other hand on Lucy’s shoulder, as if to communicate a most familiar and loving appeal. It seems almost as if, in anguish, She sought to lean for support on Lucy’s shoulder.

We might each try to picture ourselves kneeling there before Our Lady as She places Her hand on our shoulder, reaching out to us with a

** Father Gruner’s plans for the present booklet were interrupted by his untimely death in April 2015. The above Preface is taken from his correspondence of 2014.*



Pontevedra Apparition

silent plea. What follows is spoken to each of us.

The Child Jesus spoke first, imploring:

“Have compassion on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother, covered with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce It at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation to remove them.”

Then Our Lady added:

“Look, My daughter, at My Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce Me at every moment by their blasphemies

*and ingratitude. Do you, at least, try to console Me, and announce in My name that I promise to assist at the moment of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months shall confess, receive Holy Communion recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep Me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, **with the intention of making reparation to Me.***”

At that time, there already existed indulgenced devotions to Our Lady of the Rosary consisting of 15 consecutive Saturdays, or 12 consecutive first Saturdays, or even eight consecutive first Saturdays. Lucy’s confessor wanted to know why Our Lady sought a new devotion of five first Saturdays.

So in an apparition on February 15, 1926, Our Lord explained to Lucy that while many souls begin those longer devotions, few actually complete them, and many of those who do complete them do so for their own advantage, motivated chiefly by the plenary indulgence attached to those devotions. Our Lord seeks instead that we bring to the Five First Saturdays devotion a fervent spirit of love and reparation toward the Immaculate Heart:

“It is true, My daughter, that many souls begin but few persevere to the very end, and those who persevere do it to receive the graces promised. The souls who make the five First Saturdays ***with fervor and to make reparation to the Heart of your Heavenly Mother,*** please Me more than those who make fifteen but are lukewarm and indifferent.”

Several years later, in a revelation of May 29, 1930, Our Lord also explained His reason for specifying five days of reparation:

“My daughter, the reason is simple. There are five types of offenses and blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

- 1. Blasphemies against Her Immaculate Conception.*
- 2. Blasphemies against Her Virginity.*
- 3. Blasphemies against Her Divine Maternity, refusing at the same time to recognize Her as the Mother of men.*
- 4. The blasphemies of those who publicly seek to sow in the hearts of children indifference or scorn, or even hatred of this Immaculate*



Madonna of Humility

Mother.

5. The offenses of those who outrage Her directly in Her holy images.

“See, My daughter, the motive for which the Immaculate Heart of Mary inspired Me to ask for this little reparation, and in consideration of it, to move My mercy to pardon souls who have had the misfortune of offending Her. As for you, always seek by your prayers and sacrifices to move My mercy to pity for these poor souls.”

In the same vein, in a 1929 letter to her confessor, Lucy summed

up precisely why we must attach such great importance to this devotion:

“Our Good Lord in His infinite Mercy asked me...to make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and to implore pardon and mercy in favor of souls who blaspheme against Her, because the Divine Mercy does not pardon these souls without reparation.”

So we see that above all, the First Saturday devotions are to be performed as fervent acts of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. But how exactly are we to do this? The three children of Fatima, who were instructed by Our Lady Herself, are our best guides. Sister Lucy has left us a number of priceless examples of their manner of making such offerings.

Lucy recalls the days following Our Lady’s first apparition:

“Ever since the day Our Lady taught us to offer our sacrifices to Jesus, any time we had something to suffer, or agreed to make a sacrifice, Jacinta asked: ‘Did you already tell Jesus that it’s for love of Him?’ If I said I hadn’t, she answered: ‘Then I’ll tell Him.’ And joining her hands, she raised her eyes to Heaven and said: ‘O Jesus, it is for love of Thee, and for the conversion of sinners!’”

A simple prayer such as this, even if said silently, will transform any act or sacrifice into a special offering of reparation.

We notice in the above example that at that early time in the history of the apparitions, the children were not yet aware of Our Lord’s desire that such sacrifices be made as acts of reparation *to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*. When they later understood this, they added the necessary words to their prayer to make their sacrifices into formal acts of reparation to the Immaculate Heart, as we see in this example from the time of their imprisonment:

“After being separated for a while, we were reunited in one of the other rooms of the prison. When they told us they were coming soon to take us away to be fried alive, Jacinta went aside and stood by a window overlooking the cattle market. I thought at first that she was trying to distract her thoughts with the view, but I soon realized that she was crying. I went over and drew her close to me, asking her why she was crying. ‘Because we are going to die,’ she replied, ‘without ever seeing our parents again - not even our mothers!’ With tears

running down her cheeks, she added: ‘I would like at least to see my mother.’ ‘Don’t you want, then, to offer this sacrifice for the conversion of sinners?’ ‘I do want to, I do!’ With her face bathed in tears, she joined her hands, raised her eyes to Heaven and made her offering ‘O my Jesus! This is for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, for the Holy Father, *and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary!*’”

Is it necessary to explicitly formulate our intention of reparation to the Immaculate Heart in performing the First Saturday devotions? Yes! But I'm afraid many Catholics mistakenly think that the general intention of “making the First Saturdays” suffices. On the contrary, as Our Lady said, each of the four requested acts (Confession, Holy Communion, praying five decades of the Rosary, and meditating for 15 minutes on the 15 mysteries of the Rosary) is to be performed “with the intention of making reparation to Me.”

It is also clear from Our Lord’s own words that the thought of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary must be present in each of the acts. In the course of the February 15, 1926 apparition mentioned above, Lucy asked Our Lord about making the Confession on a day other than the First Saturday, and then she went on to ask specifically about whether it was necessary that this express intention be formed in conjunction with the acts:

“My Jesus! Many souls find it difficult to confess on Saturday. Will You allow a confession within eight days to be valid?”

“Yes. It can even be made later on, provided that the souls are in the state of grace when they receive Me on the first Saturday, *and that [when making their Confession] they had the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*”

“My Jesus! *and those who forget to form this intention?*”

“*They can form it at the next Confession*, taking advantage of their first opportunity to go to confession.”

In other words, they needed to go to Confession again – not in order to have their sins forgiven, but in order to fulfill the conditions of the Five First Saturdays promise.

Lucy is obviously asking about people who have purposely

gone to Confession precisely in order to “make their First Saturday devotion.” At the time of making their Confession, however, they forgot to formulate an intention of offering it as an act of reparation to the Immaculate Heart. Will the Confession count, she asks, toward performing the Five First Saturdays, in spite of not being specifically offered as an act of reparation? Our Lord answered in the negative.

The case is obviously the same for the Rosary, the fifteen-minute meditation, and the Communion of Reparation. Clearly it is not enough to have a mere general purpose in mind of “making the Five First Saturdays.” Formulating an intention of reparation with each act is essential to this devotion.

Zealous confessors help their First Saturday penitents to remember to form their intention by asking, “Do you wish to offer this Confession as an act of reparation to the Immaculate Heart?” In the same way, if you are making the First Saturdays as a family, it is a very good practice for the one leading the Rosary or meditation to begin with a reminder to everyone in the group to form their intention, such as by saying, “We offer this Rosary (or meditation) in reparation for the blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

We should not be discouraged if we have difficulty remembering to form our intention, even if this causes us to have to repeat some of the devotions. We should simply accept Our Lord’s invitation through these circumstances to make another Confession sooner than we otherwise would have, or to repeat the other devotions, as the case may be.

An important distinction arises in this regard, however. The Communion, the Rosary, and the meditation (unlike the Confession) must be made on the First Saturday itself. Thus if we realize our oversight before the First Saturday has passed, we can make another meditation or pray another Rosary, this time making the necessary intention, without compromising our progress through a set of consecutive First Saturdays. But if the First Saturday has passed when we realize that we forgot to form our intention for the Rosary or meditation, we will need to start our five First Saturdays again. Likewise, since we receive Holy Communion only once per day, we would have to start the devotion again if we forget to formulate our intention at the time of the Communion.

Thus it is not unusual that a person might require more than five Saturdays to complete the devotion, but the acts of reparation which Our Lady asks of us are not burdensome, so having to start over – possibly even more than once – is nothing to fret about.

(To be completely precise about this point, we should mention that in remote parishes where there is no Mass on Saturdays, a priest may allow the faithful to make their First Saturday devotions on the Sunday following the First Saturday. Our Lord told Sister Lucy in the above-mentioned revelation of May 29, 1930, “The practice of this devotion will be equally acceptable on the Sunday following the first Saturday when My priests, for a just cause, allow it to souls.” But this concession – which requires the permission of a priest! – is only for when circumstances prevent us from being able to perform the devotion on the First Saturday, and not because we forgot to form the intention of reparation.)

Finally, we must not make the mistake of thinking that we are finished with Our Lady’s request after we have made the Five First Saturdays. It was Sister Lucy’s practice to make consecutive Five First Saturday devotions, one after another, throughout her life. “As for myself,” she said, “I avow that I am never so happy as when the first Saturday arrives.” And regarding our own part in embracing this devotion, she added: “The greatest joy that I experience is to see the Immaculate Heart of our most tender Mother known, loved, and consoled by means of this devotion.”

At the very least, we should always continue to make a fervent Communion of Reparation each month on the First Saturday! And we must seriously encourage our fellow Catholics to do so, too.

We simply cannot do enough to promote this beautiful devotion, which is so consoling to Our Heavenly Mother and so necessary for our preservation. Frere Michel, the foremost living expert on the Fatima apparitions, writes:

“To save souls, all souls, ‘especially those who are most in need,’ to snatch them all from the fire of hell which threatens them, is then, in the final analysis, the principal intention of the practice of the first Saturdays of the month, just as it was already the same intention Our Lady indicated on August 19, 1917, urgently inviting the three shepherds to pray and make sacrifices: ‘Pray, pray much and make

sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell because they have nobody to pray and make sacrifices for them.’

“The Blessed Virgin Mary has been constituted universal Mediatrix and Mother of Divine Grace. Nevertheless, by a design of Providence which wills us to be joined to Her, She cannot act alone. She needs us, our consoling love and our ‘little devotions’ of Reparation, to save souls from hell. Exalted and terrible [remarkable] mystery of the communion of saints, which makes the salvation of many souls really dependent on our own generosity! And what a motive for generosity on our part! For how could we refuse this missionary action which Our Lady awaits of us, which She has made so easy to fulfill. ...

“Now the most perfect sacrifice, the most efficacious prayer, is of course the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and Holy Communion offered to God in the spirit of Reparation. All this helps us understand the pressing insistence of Our Lady, Her ardent desire that this devotion of Reparation be practiced everywhere as frequently as possible. This devotion is the dearest to Her, because it is the most perfect and therefore the most efficacious for the salvation of souls.” (*The Whole Truth About Fatima*, Vol. II, pp. 271-273).

Our Lady is pleading for our cooperation in these Reparatory Devotions. Through the most magnificent promises, She has assured us that our fervent First Saturday devotions can secure not only the conversion of sinners, but our own eternal salvation as well. And no less importantly, by another wonderful promise, Our Lady has linked the gift of peace to these acts of reparation on the First Saturdays. Thus, as Sister Lucy insisted, our very lives may well depend on practicing and promoting this devotion:

“Whether the world has war or peace depends on the practice of this devotion, along with the Consecration [of Russia] to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

Lucy wrote those words in a letter of March 19, 1939 - when by all human estimations, World War II was inevitable. She was saying that even then, at that late hour, God could and would have averted that horrible war if enough of the faithful had embraced the First Saturday reparatory devotions. Our situation today is a precise and obvious parallel.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS

Formulating an Intention of Reparation

O Jesus, we offer Thee this meditation as an act of reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

May this, our little but fervent act of devotion and reparation, bring consolation to that same Most Pure Heart, which ungrateful men pierce and afflict at every moment, as if with cruel thorns, by their blasphemies and ingratitude. And may our offerings move Thy mercy to forgive those poor sinners who have had the misfortune of offending the Heart of so great and loving a Mother.

Invoking Heaven's Assistance

Come, Holy Ghost! Come by means of the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Thy well-beloved Spouse!

Hail Mary, Full of Grace! The Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou amongst 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.*



Lamentation over Christ

First Joyful Mystery

The Annunciation

While all things were in deep silence, and the night was in the midst of her course, Thy Almighty Word came down from Heaven, from Thy royal throne. ...

(Wisdom 18:14-15)

And the Angel being come in, said unto Her: “Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee: blessed art Thou among women.” Who having heard, was troubled at his saying, and thought with Herself what manner of salutation this should be.

And the Angel said to Her: “Fear not, Mary, for Thou hast found grace with God. Behold Thou shalt conceive in Thy womb, and shalt bring forth a Son, and Thou shalt call His Name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of David His father. And He shall reign in the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end.”

And Mary said: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done to Me according to thy word.”

(Luke 1:28-33, 38)

• • • •

O God, Who didst will that Thy Word should take Flesh, at the message of an Angel, in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary; grant that we who believe Her to be truly the Mother of God, may be helped by Her intercession with Thee. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Feast of the Annunciation)



The Annunciation

Second Joyful Mystery

The Visitation

Before I formed thee in the bowels of thy mother, I knew thee; and before thou earnest forth out of the womb, I sanctified thee, and made thee a prophet unto the nations. ...

(Jeremias 1:5)

And it came to pass that when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the infant leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost, and she cried out with a loud voice, and said:

"Blessed art Thou among women, and blessed is the Fruit of Thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, as soon as the voice of Thy salutation sounded in my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed art Thou that hast believed, because those things shall be accomplished that were spoken to Thee by the Lord."

(Luke 1:41-45)

• • • •

Grant us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the gift of Thy heavenly grace, that our commemoration of the Blessed Virgin's Visitation may bring us an increase of peace, just as the Birth of Her Child heralded the beginning of our salvation. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Feast of the Visitation)



The Visitation

Third Joyful Mystery

The Nativity

Behold a Virgin shall, conceive, and bear a Son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel. ...

(Isaias 7:14)

And it came to pass, that when they were there, Her days were accomplished, that She should be delivered. And She brought forth Her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him up in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger.

And behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to adore Him.”

And behold, the star which they had seen in the east, went before them, until it came and stood over where the Child was. And seeing the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And entering into the house, they found the Child with Mary His Mother. And falling down, they adored Him.

(Luke 2:6-7; Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11)

• • • •

O God, Who didst manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles by the guidance of a star, graciously grant that we who know Thee now by faith, may be led on even to contemplate the beauty of Thy Majesty. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Feast of the Epiphany)



Adoration by the Magi

Fourth Joyful Mystery

The Presentation

Sacrifice and oblation Thou didst not desire; burnt offering and sin offering Thou didst not require. Then said I, “Behold, I come.” ...

(Psalm 39:7-8)

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, [who] had received an answer from the Holy Ghost that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. And he came by the Spirit into the Temple.

And when His parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the Law, he also took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said: “Now Thou dost dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word in peace, because my eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: A Light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.”

And His father and Mother were wondering at those things which were spoken concerning Him. And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His Mother: “Behold this Child is set for the fall, and for the resurrection of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be contradicted; And Thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that, out of many hearts, thoughts may be revealed.”

(Luke 2:25-35)

• • • •

O Almighty and Eternal God, we humbly beseech Thee that we may be presented unto Thee with purified minds, just as Thy Only Begotten Son, when He had taken on the substance, of our flesh, was presented to Thee, in the Temple. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Feast of the Purification)



The Presentation in the Temple

Fifth Joyful Mystery

The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

He will guide the mild in judgment; He will teach the meek His ways. ...

(Psalm 24:9)

And having fulfilled the days, when they returned, the Child Jesus remained in Jerusalem, and His parents knew it not. And thinking that He was in the company, they came a day's journey, and sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances. And not finding Him, they returned into Jerusalem, seeking Him.

And it came to pass that after three days they found Him in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard Him were astonished at His wisdom and His answers.

And seeing Him, they wondered. And His Mother said to Him: "Son, why hast Thou done so to us? Behold Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing." And He said to them: "How is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them. And His Mother kept all these words in Her Heart.

(Luke 2:43-49, 51)

• • • •

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who, by becoming subject to Mary and Joseph, hast sanctified home life with Thine own incomparable virtues; grant that by the aid of both, we may be taught by the example of Thy Holy Family, in order that we may have fellowship with it for evermore. *Amen.*

(Feast of the Holy Family)



The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

First Sorrowful Mystery

The Agony in the Garden

He was offered because it was His own will, and He opened not His mouth: He shall be led as a sheep to the slaughter, and shall be dumb as a lamb before His shearer, and He shall not open His mouth.

(Isaias 53:7)

Then He saith to them: “My soul is sorrowful even unto death: stay you here, and watch with Me.” And going a little further, He fell upon His face, praying, and saying: “My Father, if it be possible, let this chalice pass from Me. Nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.”

And there appeared to Him an angel from Heaven, strengthening Him. And being in an agony, He prayed the longer. And His sweat became as drops of blood, trickling down upon the ground.

(Matthew 26:38-39; Luke 22:43-44)

• • • •

Almighty God, grant that the merits of the Passion of Thine only-begotten Son may bring us new strength, for our own weakness brings nothing but failure in the face of so many difficulties. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Monday in Holy Week)



The Agony in the Garden

Second Sorrowful Mystery

The Scourging at the Pillar

But He was wounded for our iniquities, He was bruised for our sins: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His bruises we are healed.

(Isaias 53:5)

Pilate saith to them: "What shall I do then with Jesus that is called Christ?" They say all: "Let Him be crucified." The governor said to them: "Why, what evil hath He done?" But they cried out the more, saying: "Let Him be crucified."

And Pilate seeing that he prevailed nothing, but that rather a tumult was made; taking water washed his hands before the people, saying: "I am innocent of the blood of this just man; look you to it." And the whole people answering said: "His blood be upon us and upon our children." And having scourged Jesus, delivered Him unto them to be crucified.

(Matthew 27:22-26)

• • • •

O Almighty and Eternal God, Who didst appoint Thine Only-begotten Son to be the Redeemer of the world, and didst accept the shedding of His Blood in atonement for the sins of man; grant that we may pay fitting honor to the Precious Blood that was the price of our salvation, and by Its power be so defended from the evils of this present life, that we may rejoice in Its everlasting fruit in Heaven. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Feast of the Most Precious Blood)



The Scourging at the Pillar

Third Sorrowful Mystery

The Crowning with Thorns

I have given My body to the strikers, and My cheeks to them that plucked them: I have not turned away My face from them that rebuked Me, and spit upon Me.

(Isaias 50:6)

Then the soldiers of the governor taking Jesus into the hall, gathered together unto Him the whole band. And stripping Him, they put a scarlet cloak about Him, and plating a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand.

And bowing the knee before Him, they mocked Him, saying: “Hail, King of the Jews.” And spitting upon Him, they took the reed, and struck His head.

(Matthew 27:27-30)

• • • •

Almighty and Eternal God, Who hast restored all things in Thy beloved Son, the King of the whole world, mercifully grant that all the peoples of the earth, who are now torn asunder from one another by the wound of sin, may come once again under His gentle rule. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Feast of Jesus Christ the King)



The Crown of Thorns

Fourth Sorrowful Mystery

The Carrying of the Cross

They are multiplied above the hairs of My head, who hate Me without cause. My enemies are grown strong who have wrongfully persecuted Me: then did I pay that which I took not away.

(Psalm 68:5)

And after they had mocked Him, they took off the purple from Him, and put His own garments on Him, and they led Him out to crucify Him.

And they came to the place that is called Golgotha, which is the place of Calvary.

For unto this are you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving you an example that you should follow His steps.

(Mark 15:20; Matthew 27:33; 1 Peter 2:21)

• • • •

Mercifully pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that through our voluntary mortifications we may avoid sin, and may rather suffer in this life than be condemned to punishment in eternity. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Friday in Passion Week)



The Way to Calvary

Fifth Sorrowful Mystery

The Crucifixion

In Thy sight are all they that afflict Me; My heart hath expected reproach and misery. And I looked for one that would grieve together with Me, but there was none: and for one that would comfort Me, and I found none.

(Psalm 68:21)

And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, they crucified Him there; and the robbers, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. And Jesus said: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

And he (one of the robbers) said to Jesus: “Lord, remember me when Thou shalt come into Thy kingdom.” And Jesus said to him: “Amen I say to thee, this day thou shalt be with Me in paradise”.

Now there stood by the Cross of Jesus, His Mother, and His Mother’s sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalen. When Jesus therefore had seen His Mother and the disciple standing whom He loved, He saith to His Mother: “Woman, behold Thy son.” After that, He saith to the disciple: “Behold thy Mother.”

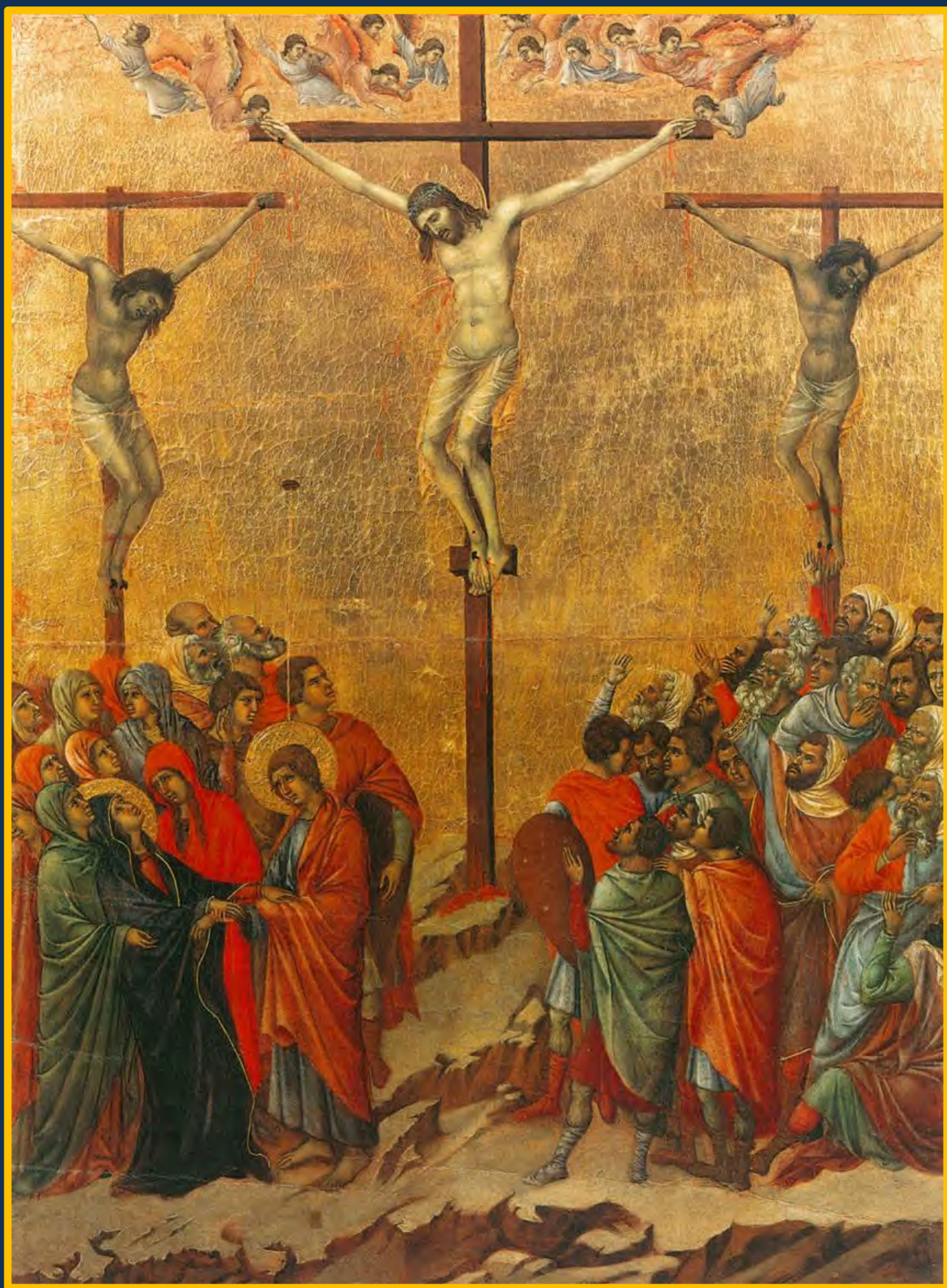
And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice saying: “My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me”? Afterwards, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, said: “I thirst”. And Jesus crying out with a loud voice, said: “Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit”.

(Luke 23:33-34, 42-43, 46; John 19:25-28; Matthew 27:46)

• • • •

Almighty and eternal God, Who didst will that our Savior should become Man, and suffer on a Cross as a model of humility for all mankind; mercifully grant that we may improve by the example of His patience, and deserve to share in His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Palm Sunday)



The Crucifixion



Taking Jesus down from the Cross



The Lamentation

First Glorious Mystery

The Resurrection

The stone which the builders rejected; the same is become the head of the corner.

(Psalm 117:22)

Thanks be to God, who hath given us the victory through Our Lord Jesus Christ. For now Christ is risen from the dead ...

And on the first day of the week they came to the sepulchre. And they found the stone rolled back. And going in, they found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were astonished in their mind at this, behold, two men stood by them, in shining apparel. They said unto them: “Why seek you the living with the dead?”

“He is not here, but is risen. Remember how He spoke unto you, when He was yet in Galilee, Saying: ‘The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again’ ”. And they remembered His words.

(1 Cor. 15:57, 20; Luke 24:1-8)

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O God, Who, through Thine only-begotten Son, hast conquered death and thrown open to us the gate of everlasting life; help us continually to carry out by our actions the desires that Thou hast inspired in our hearts. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Easter Sunday)



Nolo Me Tangere (*“Do not touch Me”*)

Second Glorious Mystery

The Ascension

God is ascended with jubilee, and the Lord with the sound of trumpet. Sing praises to our God, sing ye: sing praises to our king, sing ye. Thy throne is prepared from of old: Thou art from everlasting.

(Psalm 46:6, 7; 92:2)

And He led them out as far as Bethania, and He said to them: “Stay you in the city till I send the promise of My Father upon you, and you be endued with power from on high. For John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost, not many days hence. And you shall be witnesses unto Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the uttermost part of the earth.”

And when He had said these things, lifting up His hands, He blessed them. And it came to pass, whilst He blessed them, He departed from them, and was carried up to Heaven, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

(Luke 24:49-51; Acts 1:5, 8-9)

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Only-begotten Son of God! Who, after conquering death, didst pass from earth to Heaven, where as Son of Man, Thou art seated in great glory on Thy throne, receiving the praise of countless angels! Grant that we who delight in the remembrance of Thine Ascension to the Father, may not be tied to the love of this world by the chains of sin; and that the one desire of our hearts may be the promised rewards of Heaven, where after Thy Passion Thou didst ascend in glory. *Amen.*

(Feast of the Ascension)



The Ascension

Third Glorious Mystery

The Descent of the Holy Ghost

For the spirit of the Lord hath filled the whole world: and that, which containeth all things, hath knowledge of the voice.

(Wisdom 1:7)

I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Paraclete, that He may abide with you forever: The Spirit of truth, Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, nor knoweth Him, but you shall know Him, because He shall abide with you, and shall be in you. ...

When the days of the Pentecost were accomplished, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven, as of a mighty wind coming, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

And there appeared to them parted tongues as it were of fire, and It sat upon every one of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.

(John 14:16-17; Acts 2:1-4)

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O God, Who didst instruct the hearts of Thy faithful by the light of the Holy Ghost; grant us, by the same Spirit, to have a right judgment in all things, and ever to rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Pentecost Sunday)



Pentecost

Fourth Glorious Mystery

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, Body and Soul, into Heaven

The Lord hath blessed thee by His power, because by thee He hath brought our enemies to nought. Blessed art thou, O daughter, by the most High God, above all women upon the earth. Blessed be the Lord Who made Heaven and earth, Who hath directed thee to the cutting off the head of the prince of our enemies. Because He hath so magnified thy name this day, that thy praise shall not depart out of the mouth of men who shall be mindful of the power of the Lord forever, for that thou hast not spared thy life, by reason of the distress and tribulation of thy people, but hast prevented our ruin in the presence of our God.

(Judith 13:22-25)

And a great sign appeared in Heaven: A Woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under Her feet, and on Her head a crown of twelve stars.

And the dragon was angry against the Woman: and went to make war with the rest of Her seed, who keep the commandments of God, and have testimony of Jesus Christ.

(Apocalypse 12:1, 17)

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Almighty and eternal God, Who hast taken up into heavenly glory the body and soul of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of Thy Son; grant that we may be always mindful of heavenly things, and come to be worthy of sharing Her glory. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Feast of the Assumption)



Dormition and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin

Fifth Glorious Mystery

The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin, Queen of Heaven and Earth

The Queen stands on Thy right hand, in gilded clothing, surrounded with variety. ...

(Psalm 44:10)

I am the Queen of Heaven and the Mother of Mercy; I am the joy of the just, and the door through which sinners are brought to God.

I am the Mother of fair love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope. In Me is all grace of the way and of the truth; in Me is all hope of life and of virtue.

(Revelations to St. Bridget; Ecclesiasticus 24:24-25)

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Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord, to us who take joy in honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary as our Queen, that safe in Her protection we may deserve to enjoy present peace and future glory. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

(Feast of the Our Lady, Virgin and Queen)



Coronation of the Blessed Virgin



**Madonna and Child with Saints Dominic
and Peter Martyr**

*(N.B.: Father Gruner passed away on April 29, 2015, the feast day of
Saint Peter Martyr)*

Concluding Prayers

Hail Holy Queen (Salve Regina)

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 toward 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.

Collect of Our Lady of the Rosary

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.*

The Memorare (St. Bernard of Clairvaux)

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. *Amen.*

Prayer to Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima

Most Holy Virgin, Queen of the Holy Rosary, Who hast deigned to come to Fatima to reveal the treasures of graces hidden in the recitation of the Rosary, inspire our hearts with a sincere love of this devotion, so that by meditating on the mysteries of our Redemption recalled therein, we may make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and obtain the conversion of sinners, the conversion of Russia, and peace in the world, which we so earnestly seek, for the greater glory of God, for Thine own honor, and for the good of souls. *Amen.*

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, Pray for us!

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, Pray for us!

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, Pray for us!

