

## Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.*

## Hail, Holy Queen

**Hail, holy Queen**, *mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you we cry, the children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this land of exile. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us; lead us home at last and show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus: O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!*

## Glory Be

**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.*

## 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.*

## Our Father

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.*

## Sign of the Cross

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

### **The 1st Joyful Mystery - The Annunciation**

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to let her know she would be the mother of God! Even though this was very hard to believe, and Mary knew it would be difficult, she still said, "Yes!" While we pray this mystery, imagine what that must have been like. Was Mary afraid when the angel appeared? Did she have peace and joy upon learning she'd be the mother of Jesus? Would you have said "yes" like Mary did? What difficult thing might God be asking of you? Let us ask for the grace and strength to do God's will in our lives, like Mary did.

### **The 2nd Joyful Mystery - The Visitation**

Mary travels to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth, who was quite old, was also pregnant, but much closer to giving birth than Mary was. Because of this, Mary wanted to offer her help to someone in need. When Elizabeth saw Mary, her son - John the Baptist - leapt for joy inside her womb, because he knew Jesus was inside Mary's womb. How can we bring Jesus to others in the way that Mary brought Jesus to Elizabeth? Who are the neighbors, friends, classmates, co-workers, and family around us each day that might need our help? While we pray let us offer up their intentions and also for the grace to love those around us.

### **The 3rd Joyful Mystery - The Birth of Jesus**

We celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. Here is the miraculous story of God becoming man. That alone is amazing! But what is also important in the Nativity is that God allowed his Son to be born in a dirty cave, with a bed made in the place where animals went to eat. While we pray, let's ask God to help us be content with the spiritual gifts He gives us, and to be more wise in what we buy, especially when we're tempted just to gather more "things" we don't really need.

### **The 4th Joyful Mystery - The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple**

When Jesus was just a little baby, Mary and Joseph brought Him to the Temple to be presented to God. Making an offering was not just something they wanted to do, but according to Jewish law, they had to do. They did it because Mary and Joseph wanted to be obedient to God in all things. It is important that even when it is difficult, or when we don't want to, that we try to do what God wants us to do. There are two other people in this story - Simeon and Anna - who had waited years to see God fulfill his promise of sending the Messiah. From their example we can learn how to be patient in waiting for God, and to trust that God is a Father who fulfills his promises to us. Let's pray for the strength to be obedient, trusting, and patient.

**The 5th Joyful Mystery – The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple**

**When Jesus was a young boy, He traveled with Mary and Joseph to a special celebration far from his home. While there, He was separated from his parents. For three days Mary and Joseph could not find their son! When they finally found Jesus, He was in the Temple teaching and listening. People were amazed at how much Jesus knew about God. And though Jesus IS God, He went home with Mary and Joseph and was obedient to them. As we pray this mystery, let's ask God to help us find Jesus in our lives - especially in the Eucharist during Mass. Let's also pray that He help us learn to worship Him and be obedient to Him.**