

# Meditation on the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary



## The Third Joyful Mystery

**The Birth of Our Divine Lord  
in the Stable of Bethlehem**



### **Method of meditation**

To do a good meditation we ought to use the main three faculties of our soul: memory, intelligence, and will. This is a brief explanation of how to meditate:

- 1) **Memory:** firstly, I try to remember some principles, great realities of our faith or events of Our Lord's life and bring them into my mind so that they may be meditated upon.
- 2) **Intelligence (knowledge of God):** secondly, I consider these thoughts and try to understand their meaning and the consequences which are attached to them.
- 3) **Will (love of God):** finally, after a while of consideration, I produce some acts of will in order to apply concretely what I have drawn from my meditation into my own life and I ask God to help me to do so.

With this support, this method can be done like this:

- 1) **Memory:** read slowly the **extract from the Gospel and the Imitation of Christ** (page 2).
- 2) **Intelligence:** read and think longer about the **first series of considerations** (page 3).
- 3) **Will:** read the **second series of considerations** which apply in a more practical way the message of the Gospel (page 4).

**End by** reading the last consideration which should lead us to make **a real resolution** to apply the examples of this mystery of the rosary in our own life (page 4).

As part of the 1st Saturdays devotions, let us do this **meditation in spirit of reparation** in order to console Our Lady against the outrages committed towards her Immaculate Heart.

## 1. Gospel Text

And it came to pass, that in those days there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that the whole world should be enrolled. This enrolling was first made by Cyrinus, the governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, everyone into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child. 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, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds watching, and keeping the night watches over their flock. And behold an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the brightness of God shone round about them, and they feared with a great fear.

And the angel said to them: Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people: for, this day, is born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will" (Luke 2:1-14).

## 2. The Imitation of Christ

When Jesus is present, all is well and nothing seems difficult: but when Jesus is absent, everything is hard. How dry and hard art thou without Jesus! How foolish and vain, if thou desire anything besides Jesus! Is not this a greater loss to thee than if thou shouldst lose the whole world?

To be without Jesus is a grievous hell: to be with Jesus, a sweet paradise. If Jesus be with thee, no foe can harm thee. He that liveth without Jesus is in wretched poverty, and he who is with Jesus is most rich (from Book II, Chapter 8).

### 3. Considerations

#### 1st series

1. It is the silent, holy night. "And the Word was made flesh!" How tenderly does not God love us! Full of wonder and awe, I kneel in adoration at the crib.
2. A poor stable, a manger, and a little straw, such was the first earthly abode chosen by the Child Jesus. He renounces all else: He seeks only me. Heaven, therefore, must ever mean more to me than does the earth.
3. O blessed Christmas for the Mother of God! How great must have been the love and adoration that reigned in the heart of Mary on this night.
4. Mary makes me a present of her Christ Child. For me, she brought Him into the world. Like Jesus, our good Mother Mary has loved me with a special love ever since this holy night.
5. O the great good fortune of St. Joseph! To him, the poor labourer, has been entrusted the guardianship of the Divine Mother and Child. A sublimer stewardship is his than that of Joseph of Egypt. May the blessed privilege of St. Joseph, the possession of Jesus, abide with rich and poor to become the true wealth of hovel and palace!
6. How the angels exult at the birth of Christ! The whole countryside resounds with the jubilant echoes of the angelic message: The Saviour is born! Glory to God! Peace to men!

## 2nd series

7. The eternal Son of God has become man in order to win our love and make us blessed. O infant Jesus, I offer thee all my love and repose in Thee all my trust! Give myself without reserve to Thee. Deliver me from my sins and lead me to Heaven.
8. The pious shepherds are the first to hear the glad tidings of the Christ Child's birth. Filled with a holy joy, they hasten to the manger. They have nothing but their simple, heartfelt love: but this gift is the one that pleases the Infant Jesus most.
9. The star of Bethlehem heralds the birth in poverty of the Lord of the world. Kings hasten to the Divine Child. In reverence and love, they present their gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Therefore, I will bring to Jesus the gold of love, the frankincense of adoration, the myrrh of self-sacrifice.

## Resolution

10. My resolution: In still humbler form than that of an Infant in a manger, the Child Jesus in the tabernacle is confided to us children of men. There, I will often adore Him with Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds, and the kings. I must celebrate Christmas as often as I enter a church, else my faith is weak.