The Holy Rosary for Vocations

The Holy Rosary is an ancient form of prayer in the Church that dates back to the early Middle Ages. Through this meditative prayer, we join our prayers with those of the Blessed Virgin Mary in asking God for what we need. It is a powerful prayer, indeed.

This guide is meant to assist those who pray to focus their prayer of the Rosary for the intentions of Vocations in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. As you pray and meditate on the mysteries, please remember to pray for those who hear God's call to service in the Church as priests, deacons, bishops, consecrated men and women and holy husbands and wives. Pray that you know your vocation and follow it with generosity and joy.

And finally, know that in making this prayer your own you are united not only with Mary and the angels and the saints, but with fellow believers everywhere.

Pray the Master of the Harvest to send laborers into His vineyard!

How to Pray the Rosary

On the crucifix, pray the 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; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty;
from thence He shall 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.

On the next single bead, an *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.

On the next three, pray a Hail Mary each, for an increase in the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love.

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

On the next single, a 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

Each decade begins with a meditation on the mystery, then an Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's and one Glory Be, completed with the Fatima Prayer:

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

After all five decades, pray the Hail, Holy Queen, then *"Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,"* then the Rosary prayer, *"O God, Whose only-begotten Son…":*

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 vale 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 your 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.

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 while meditating on these holy mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise,
through this same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" 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. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-38)

God,
your Word comes to us as a gentle invitation
to know you better and to follow your will.
Help us to be open to your call in our lives,
and, like Mary, to respond to that call generously.
Guide those whom you have called to priesthood and consecrated life
to dedicate themselves to you as your servants.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Visitation

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:39-45)

God,
your life stirs our hearts to love and to service.
Help us to seek you ever more in service to our brothers and sisters,
and lead those who hear your call to priesthood and consecrated life
to give you glory through lives of faithful service.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Birth of the Lord

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in

a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7)

God,
your Son became flesh for the salvation of the world.
Hear us as we ask you
to raise up in your Church new servants of your incarnate Word,
to make Jesus present through the sacraments
and through loving service to others.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Presentation of the Lord

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Luke 2:22-35)

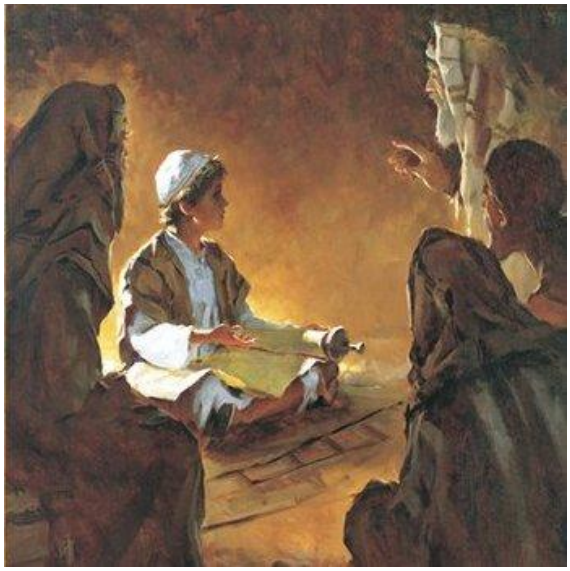
God,
as your Son was presented in the Temple

as your gift to Mary and Joseph,
help us to offer to you our lives in response to your call.
May those who hear a call to priesthood and consecrated life
generously offer their gifts of themselves
and find the courage to be signs of contradiction in our world.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Finding of Christ in the Temple

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they



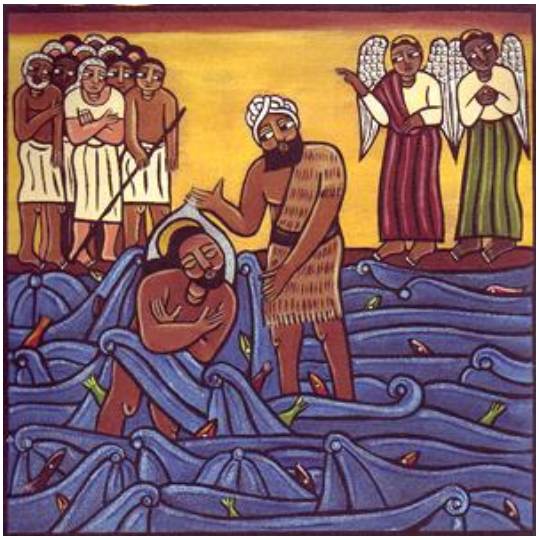
were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man. (Luke 2:41-52)

God,
help us to seek you where you may be found.
May we who hear your call to be your light to the world
find the courage to offer to you lives of service and joy
in response to the generous gifts of life and love you have given to us.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

Luminous Mysteries

The Baptism of the Lord



It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:9-11)

Lord God,
in our Baptism you have given each of us a unique vocation.
Help us to live lives of holiness and dedication to you.
May we always seek to do your will
and be found worthy to hear that you are well pleased with us.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Wedding at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." [And] Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom

and said to him, “Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. (John 2:1-11)

Lord God,
at Cana Jesus blessed marriage as a reflection of His love for the Church.
May those who are called to this vocation of love
be found chaste and faithful in their vows,
and may those who are called to be your brides and bridegrooms
in vocations of service remain single-hearted
in their dedication to you and your Church.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Preaching of the Kingdom

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1:14-15)

Lord God,
your Word reaches to the ends of the earth.
Send more ministers of that Word into the world
to share the richness of your life with a world that so desperately needs it.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Transfiguration of the Lord

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one

for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. (Mark 9:2-8)

Lord God,
in Jesus we see the fullness of your revelation to the world.
Help us to remain fixed on His light,
and help those whom you call to the priesthood and consecrated life
to reflect that light to the world.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Institution of the Eucharist

While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." (Mark 14:22-25)

Lord God,
in the Eucharist we receive the fullness of your life and love;
we taste heaven and are promised eternal life.
Send more faithful servants of this mystery into your Church
and raise up new priests to renew this Sacrament of love.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Sorrowful Mysteries

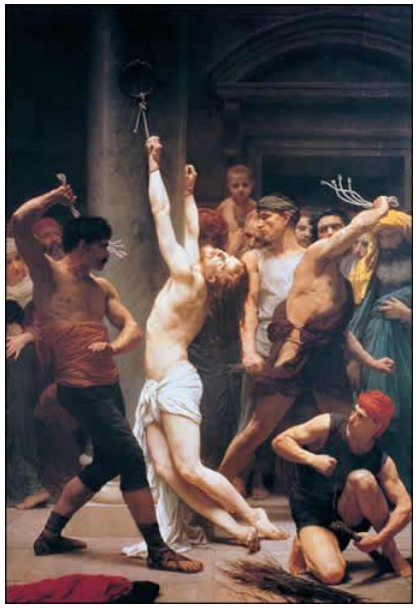
The Agony in the Garden

Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took with him Peter, James, and John, and began to be troubled and distressed. Then he said to them, “My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch.” He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass by him; he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will.” (Mark 14:32-36)

Lord,
often we feel burdened beyond our ability to endure.
Help us to see in your holy will the freedom of the children of God.
Give to those who hear a call to priesthood and consecrated life
the strength and courage to respond to your will generously and with love.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Scourging at the Pillar

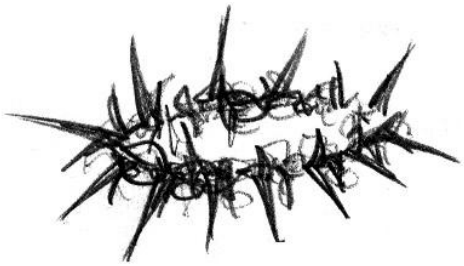


Pilate then summoned the chief priests, the rulers, and the people and said to them, “You brought this man to me and accused him of inciting the people to revolt. I have conducted my investigation in your presence and have not found this man guilty of the charges you have brought against him, nor did Herod, for he sent him back to us. So no capital crime has been committed by him. Therefore I shall have him flogged and then release him.” (Luke 23:13-16)

Lord,
this world does not always understand
the choice to sacrifice all for the sake of heaven.
Assist those who are following a call to priesthood and consecrated life
to endure the hardships that their generous gift of self
can bring upon them.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Crowning with Thorns



The soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck him repeatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them, “Behold, the man!” (John 19:2-5)

Lord,
Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords.
May those who hear your call to serve the King
in lives of priesthood or consecrated life
joyfully show forth the Kingdom of Heaven
to all to whom they are sent.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

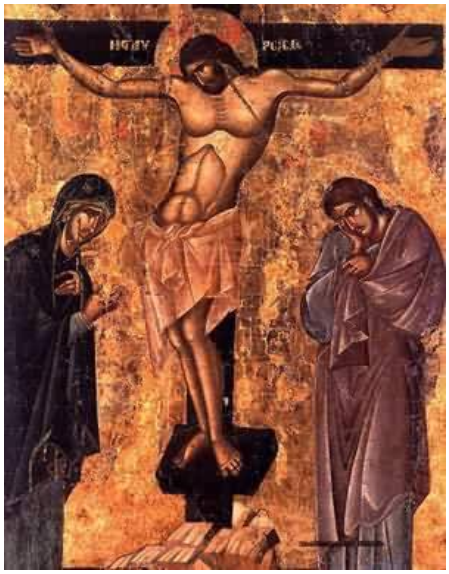
Jesus Carries His Cross

So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. (John 19:16-17)

Lord,
Jesus calls us to pick up our crosses and follow Him.
May those who follow Him in lives dedicated to the Church
find the strength to continue in their fidelity
and joyfully bear their crosses for His sake.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Crucifixion



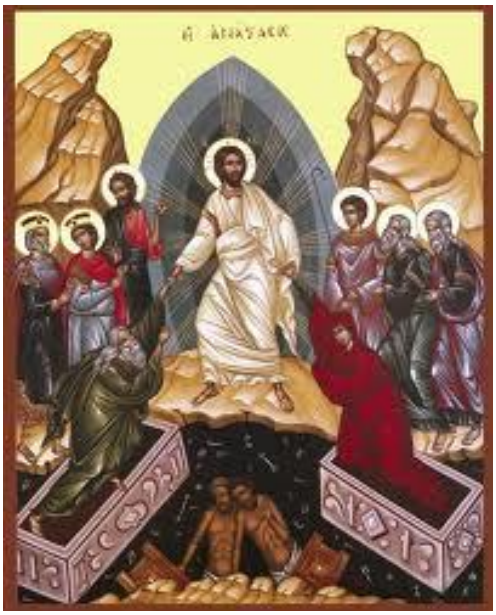
They brought him to the place of Golgotha (which is translated Place of the Skull). They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he did not take it. Then they crucified him and divided his garments by casting lots for them to see what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." With him they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left. (Mark 15:22-27)

Lord,
on the Cross Jesus offered you the perfect sacrifice:
all that he had and all that he is.
Inspire more young people to respond
to your call to service in the Church
with lives of total dedication to your People.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection of the Lord



After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you." (Matthew 28:1-7)

Heavenly Father,
the resurrection of Jesus brought the hope of new life to the world.
Help those who are called to make disciples of the nations
to draw their strength and hope
from the assurance that He lives and reigns forever.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Ascension of the Lord

When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as

he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. (Acts 1:6-12)

Heavenly Father,
Jesus has promised to remain with His Church until the end of time.
May those who are called to continue His work
through the sacraments and holy witness
be strengthened to carry out your will for the Church.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Descent of the Holy Spirit

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans?... yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God." (Acts 2:1-7,11)

Heavenly Father,
continue to send forth your Spirit
to renew in your Church
the call to serve you in the priesthood and consecrated life.
May that Holy Spirit always be active in our lives.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. 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. 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. 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. 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. (Revelation 12:1-6)

Heavenly Father,
Mary now enjoys the fullness of your life in heaven.
Help us to realize that you have a plan for each of our lives
and that our happiness lies in discovering and following that plan.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…

The Coronation of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth

And Mary said:
"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.
For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness;
behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.
The Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is from age to age
to those who fear him.
He has shown might with his arm,
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.
He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones

but lifted up the lowly.
The hungry he has filled with good things;
the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped Israel his servant,
remembering his mercy,
according to his promise to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever." (Luke 1:46-55)

Heavenly Father,
it is in humility that we discover how truly great our vocations are.
Help us to serve you in humble ways
so that others may see your light, rather than our own.
We ask this, with Mary, through Christ our Lord.

Our Father, Hail Mary (10x), Glory be, O My Jesus…