

First Saturday Meditation and Devotions of Reparation
December 2022
Third Joyful Mystery - the Nativity



Go to the Sacrament of Confession

Read the Gospel of St.Luke 2:1-20 - Revised Standard version, Catholic Edition

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. 2 This was the first enrolment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. 7 And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Meditation thoughts

One of the biggest criticisms of the Holy Season of Advent is that it's too short. Let's look at it another way. It's the time we have been given to convert and make room to accept the Baby Christ Jesus into our lives. Let's focus on the 90-mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, which St. Joseph embarked upon with his heavily pregnant wife, Our Blessed Lady. For a healthy adult, this would take about 10 days, give or take, to complete. Now add a young pregnant woman. Even today, you see a pregnant lady, wearing a badge with "Baby on Board." With pregnancy comes much anxiety, discomfort, and uncertainty. With the Holy Spouses the road to Bethlehem is physical, hard, with bandits and the evils of the night. Our Lady and St Joseph had to rely on the holy comfort of faith, something we should do in our spiritual life. The route that Abraham took when God promised to give the land to him and his descendants forever (Genesis 17:8) is the same that they took.

The journey took them pass the place where Jacob dreamed of angels ascending and descending a ladder to Heaven (Genesis 28:12). And they drank from the well that Jacob dug over one thousand years before (cf. John 4:12). This route passed the place where the Old Testament Joseph was buried (Joshua 24:32) and the place where Joshua fought the battle of Jericho (Joshua 6:1–27). It is this same route that Daniel travelled when he was led away into Babylonian captivity (Daniel 1). It is the route that God's chosen people travelled on the return to their homeland to rebuild the Temple (Ezra 1:1 – 6:22). The road taken follows the Way of the Patriarchs. It's a well-travelled road which our Christian life is deeply connected with. **But do we realise it? How seriously do we take Advent?** Faith needs nourishment and teaching, and the Holy Spouses were full of the knowledge of Faith. Will we do as much for Christ who is ready to come to us? Let's advance in the knowledge of Catholic truth? Faith helps us to accept the pain and the weight of our journey.

Take every opportunity that Our Lady and Saint Joseph give you to occupy this sacred season with a new piety, with a deepening of heart and with thoughts centred on making our life an acceptable offering to Him and with renewed aspirations and tokens of love for God. A time for the good of your own soul and your neighbour, making us worthy to receive the graces which He is ready to give when He comes.

Think how Our Lady, who was near her time, and St Joseph her spouse, were obedient to being at God's service, perfectly submitted to the will of God. Think how they journeyed, with the greatest inconvenience to Bethlehem, and when, because of the multitude of people, they found no place to receive them, they took refuge, as God willed it, in a shabby stable. What time does Jesus not deserve, who for love of us humbled Himself!

Questions to ponder

All the world should be enrolled.

Mary and Joseph obeyed the decree from Caesar Augustus and made all their efforts to abide by the law. However, that did not distract them from the presence of the One they were eagerly awaiting.

As we begin our Advent journey, awaiting the Birth of our Saviour and even more willing to be always ready for His second coming, what are the "decrees", the daily duties and worries that we must face? Do they distract us? Or do they remind us that there is more in this life and in the life to come?

...to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed...

Joseph took wonderful care of Our Lady not only while she was expecting Our Lord but all the time.

What can we do this Advent season for Our Lady to be entrusted to us (we know well that She is the one to take care of us) but what can we do for Her? To express Her our love, our gratitude, our readiness to spread Her love and the Good News she bore in Her womb...?

There was no place for them in the inn.

We hear this Gospel passage each year, and we are saddened by it. What concrete acts of mercy and charity can we do this year to make room for Our Lord, for the Holy Family in our hearts, in our lives, in our family, in the hearts of our neighbours, in the hearts of those who have never heard the Gospel?

Monthly First Saturdays of Reparation

Sr. Lucia said the following to her spiritual director March 19th 1939:

“War and peace in the world depend on the celebration of this devotion (The First Saturdays) and the consecration to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary connected to it. Therefore I wished so much these were spread, and much more because it is the will of our good God and our beloved Heavenly Mother.”

Four Practices with one Intention:

Go to Confession, Pray the Rosary, Attend Holy Mass and make a Communion of Reparation, spend 15 minutes Meditating upon some Scriptures associated with the Rosary.

All with the intention with making Reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

“War and peace in the world depend on the celebration of this devotion (The First Saturdays) ...” Sr. Lucy of Fatima



Holy Virgin By Gods Decree

Holy Virgin, by God's decree,
You were called eternally;
That he could give his Son to our race.
Mary, we praise you, hail, full of grace.

Ave, ave, ave, Maria.

By your faith and loving accord,
As the handmaid of the Lord,
You undertook God's plan to embrace.
Mary we thank you, hail, full of grace.

Ave, ave, ave, Maria.

Joy to God you gave and expressed,
Of all women none more blessed,
When in mankind your Son took his place.
Mary, we love you, hail, full of grace.

Refuge for your children so weak,
Sure protection all can seek.
Problems of life you help us to face.
Mary, we trust you, hail, full of grace.

Ave, ave, ave, Maria.

To our needy world of today
Love and beauty you portray,
Showing the path to Christ we must trace.
Mary, our mother, hail, full of grace.

Ave, ave, ave, Maria.

Pray the Holy Rosary

Prayers of Reparation

Fatima Prayers

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love you; I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love You.

Most Holy Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifference by which He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart, and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners.

O Jesus, this is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, for the Holy Father, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. (Jacinta added “the Holy Father”).

Act of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Most Holy Virgin, and Our Mother, we listen with grief to the complaints of your Immaculate Heart surrounded with the thorns placed therein at every moment by the blasphemies and ingratitude of ungrateful humanity. We are moved by the ardent desire of loving you as Our Mother and of promising a true devotion to Your Immaculate Heart. We therefore kneel before You to manifest the sorrow we feel for the grievances that people cause You, and to atone by our prayers and sacrifices for the offences with which they return your love. Obtain for them and for us the pardon of so many sins. Hasten the conversion of sinners that they may love Jesus Christ and cease to offend the Lord, already so much offended. Turn your eyes of mercy toward us, that we may love God with all our heart on earth and enjoy Him forever in Heaven. Amen.

Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, and tender Mother of men, in accordance with thy ardent wish made known at Fatima, I consecrate to thy Immaculate Heart myself, my brethren, my country and the whole human race. Reign over us, Most Holy Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Thy Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ reign and triumph in us even as It has reigned and triumphed in thee.

Reign over us, dearest Mother, that we may be thine in prosperity and in adversity; in joy and in sorrow; in health and in sickness; in life and in death. O most compassionate Heart of Mary, Queen of Virgins, watch over our minds and our hearts and preserve them from the deluge of impurity which thou didst lament so sorrowfully at Fatima. We want to be pure like thee. We want to atone for the many sins committed against Jesus and thee. We want to call down upon our country and the whole world the peace of God in justice and charity. Therefore, we now promise to imitate thy virtues by the practice of a Christian life without regard to human respect. We resolve to receive Holy Communion on the First Saturday of every month and to offer thee five decades of the rosary each day together with our sacrifices in a spirit of reparation and penance. Amen.

Fatima Prayers

O Most Holy Trinity, I adore You. My God, my God, I love You in the most Blessed Sacrament.

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