

# RCIA – Mary & The Saints

## Relationship with the Saints

-“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ...If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (1 Cor 12:12, 26-27).

### -3 States of the Church:

- 1) *Church Triumphant*: those already in Heaven.
  - Will reach its fulness at the Second Coming (hopefully we’ll be there).
- 2) *Church Militant*: those on earth.
  - “Militant” because the Church on earth works to overcome the imperfect and sinful dimensions of human existence.
- 3) *Church Suffering*: those in Purgatory.
  - Those who have reached the gates of death without reaching the full perfection of Christ are cleansed in a kind of ongoing baptism and are purified by the enlightening fire of the Holy Spirit (will be talked about next week).

### -Praying through the intercession of the Saints:

- Praying for each other is something we commonly do – why not use the saints?
- How to pray through the saints? Simply think of them (their name, an image/holy card) and have a normal conversation with them – ask them to beg Jesus for what you need.
- Confirmation saints: choosing a saint to be with you in a special way – travel partner.
  - <https://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>

### -Different levels of respect to God and the saints:

- 1) *Latria*: the *worship* due only to God.
- 2) *Dulia*: the *honor* and respect shown to the saints.
- 3) *Hyper-dulia*: the *supreme honor* and respect shown to Mary.

## Mary

- “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel” (Is. 7:14)
- “When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home” (Jn. 19:26-27)

Fun fact: Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, and John Calvin all had devotions to Mary.

Dogma 1: Mother of God -Mary is truly the Mother of Jesus & is thus venerated for this.

- To deny Mary is the Mother of God is to deny the fundamental reality of Jesus being truly a man.

Dogma 2: Immaculate Conception – Mary was conceived free of original sin.

- Mary was still saved – just preserved from Original Sin in order for there to be a proper place for the Son of God to enter the world.
- “The Almighty has done great things for me...” (Magnificat)

Dogma 3: Virginitiy of Mary – Mary was a virgin before Christ and remained a virgin after.

- Prior to birth of Jesus: proof that Christ has no earthly Father.
- Post Christ’s birth: Testimony to the fidelity of Mary & a foreshadowing of our destiny.
- “Brothers of Jesus”?
  - Adelphoi is used – means “Brethren” or “Relative” -context important.
  - a) Abraham and Lot are called Adelphoi.
  - b) Jesus wouldn’t have given Mary to John had He had blood siblings.

Dogma 4: Assumption of Mary into Heaven – Mary was assumed body & soul into Heaven.

- Remember: the consequence of sin is death – Mary had no sin.
- Different than Ascending – Jesus ascended by His own power; Mary was taken up.
- Represents our destiny and the Resurrection of the Body.
- Believe from a very early time & declared dogma in 1850.

The Rosary -The Rosary is really a meditation on the life of Christ through Mary.

-Structure:

- a) Apostles Creed – what we believe.
- b) Our Father – given to us by Jesus.
- c) Hail Mary – composed of words from Scripture, asking for Mary’s intercession
- d) Glory Be – worshipping the Trinity
- e) Hail, Holy Queen – a prayer for the last 1000 years.

-Scriptural Basis for the Hail Mary:

- a) First Half: Comes from the Annunciation & Visitation.
- b) Second Half: Venerating Mary as Mother of God and asking for her prayers.

-Mysteries of the Rosary:

a) *Joyful*:

1. Annunciation (Lk. 1:26-38)
2. Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth (Lk 1:39-56)
3. Birth of Jesus (Matt. 1:18-25; Lk. 2:1-7)

4. Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Lk. 2:22-40)

5. Finding of Jesus in the Temple (Lk. 2:41-52)

b) *Sorrowful*

1. Agony in the Garden (Mk. 14:32-42; Lk. 22:39-46; Mt. 26:36-46)

2. Scourging at the Pillar (Jn 19:1; Mk. 15:15; Mt. 27:26)

3. Crowning with Thorns (Mt. 27:29; Mk. 15:17; Lk. 23:11; Jn. 19:2)

4. Carrying of the Cross (Mt. 27:31-33; Mk 15:20-22; Lk. 23:26-32; Jn 19:16-18)

5. Crucifixion of Jesus (Mt. 27:32-56; Mk. 15:21-41; Lk. 23:26-43; Jn. 19:17-37)

c) *Glorious*

1. Resurrection (Mt. 28:1-10; Mk 16:1-8; Lk 24:1-44; Jn 20:1-29)

2. Ascension of Jesus (Luke 24:31; Acts 1:1-11)

3. Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-13)

4. Assumption of Mary into Heaven (cf. Rev. 12)

5. Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth (cf. Rev. 12 & history of Queen Mother)

d) *Luminous*

1. Baptism of Jesus (Mt. 3:13-17; Mk 1:9-11; Lk 3:21-22)

2. Wedding at Cana (Jn. 2:1-11)

3. Proclamation of Kingdom (Mt. 3-7; Mk. 1:1-15)

4. Transfiguration (Mt. 17:1-8; Mk 9:2-8; Lk 9:28-36; 2 Peter 1:16-18)

5. Institution of the Eucharist (Mt. 26:17-30; Mk 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

-Marian Apparitions:

-Marian Apparitions are appearances of the Blessed Virgin Mary, coming down from heaven to earth. These appearances are often paired with some type of message Our Lady wants to communicate, and depending on the nature of her visit, can be anywhere from one short appearance to several over the course of years.

-There are 26 approved Marian Apparitions in the History of the Church.

-The “Big Three”

1) *Our Lady of Guadalupe*: 5 apparitions to St. Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531.

2) *Our Lady of Lourdes*: 18 apparitions to St. Bernadette Soubirous in France in 1858.

-Mary revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception and encouraged St. Bernadette to dedicate prayer and penance to the conversion of sinners.

3) *Our Lady of Fatima*: 6 apparitions to 3 Portuguese children in 1917.

-Message: Urging the children to pray the Rosary frequently, for the conversion of sinners, and for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart.

*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.*