

## **The Holy Rosary: Third Joyful Mystery**

### **The Third Joyful Mystery--The Nativity: Jesus is born**

This mystery begins to reveal that Jesus will have a more difficult life than Mary and Joseph might have expected God would want for His Son. First, Mary and Joseph had to make a hard journey to Bethlehem to obey the law of Caesar. They still probably thought that God would provide a nice place for His Son to be born, but the only place anyone would give them was a stable. It was probably quite another surprise when the shepherds arrived at the manger, talking about the angels. Mary and Joseph had been told about Jesus by angels, too, so all the people who saw Jesus, the Messiah of the Jews, at His birth were invited there by angels. But the message of the angels to the shepherds was that Jesus was sent to more than just the Jewish people. Just like you and me today, Our Lady thought about these things, trying to understand. And the mystery ends with St. Joseph obeying what the angels had told him and Mary to do: naming the Messiah... Jesus.

#### **[Our Father]**

1. In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. 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, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

#### **[Hail Mary after each verse]**

2. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

3. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

4. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy that shall be to all the people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

5. And this shall be a sign for you: you shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

6. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest: and on earth peace to men of good will."

7. When the angels departed from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

8. And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying, which had been told them concerning this child;

9. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.

10. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

#### **[Hail Mary, Glory Be, Fatima prayer]**