

# PROCLAMATION OF THE HOPEFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

December 8, 2024

Protocol #PTD2024-9

I am pleased and honored to introduce to the people of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, the Hopeful Mysteries of the Rosary. This is the result of a great deal of prayer and deliberation among some members of our local church, and now it is a gift for the universal church as well.

The Hopeful Mysteries help us to recall and embrace the salvation that has come to us from the first moments after the Fall of our first parents. Of course, our salvation did not begin with the Annunciation. In fact, Mary's Magnificat (her song of praise which she proclaimed at the Visitation) extols God's work through our ancestors: "God, who is Mighty,... has remembered the promise of mercy; the promise He made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever". This promise finds its origin in the first hint of salvation in Genesis, when God says to the serpent, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, between her offspring and yours. He will strike at your head while you strike at his heel" (Gen 3:15)

From there, the Hebrew Scriptures offer promise and prophecy as God's plan unfolds in history. The New Testament, especially the Gospels, announce fulfillment and the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ. One of the blessings of the Hopeful Mysteries is that they help us to familiarize ourselves with Salvation History as it is presented to us in the Sacred Scriptures/Bible. These mysteries present the various covenants that God has made with his people through the ages.

Mystery #1 follows the devastating effects of the fall on humanity – which introduced sin and death into creation – God does not give up on humanity and establishes a covenant with Adam that promises deliverance. Mystery #2 - presents the devastating world-wide flood during which he saves Noah, his family and the animals. God's hopeful promise of deliverance continues as He makes a covenant with Noah. Mystery #3 – God makes a covenant with Abraham who is ready to sacrifice his son Isaac. This sacrifice is mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I in the Roman Canon as a foreshadowing of the self-sacrifice of Christ as the Lamb of God; the Only Begotten Son of God who offers himself for the salvation of the world. Mystery #4 – God has heard the cry of his suffering people in Egypt and calls Moses to bring them out of their bondage into the promised land flowing with milk and honey. The Passover commemorates Israel's freedom in a meal with a paschal lamb whose blood marks the homes of those who are to be saved. This meal is the origin of the meal in which Jesus offers his body and blood for the salvation of the world. Then, wonderfully, the fifth and last Hopeful Mystery is the Immaculate Conception, through which God prepared Mary from the first moment of her existence for her vocation at the Annunciation to be the worthy Mother of God's Son, the Savior of the world.

We already have examples in the Gospel where Jesus connected the Law and the prophets to salvation history. In the fourth Luminous mystery we celebrate the Transfiguration when on Mt. Tabor Elijah and Moses appeared alongside Jesus, as a sign that the Law and the Prophets are fulfilled in the Paschal mystery of the Son. And in the encounter with the disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke's Gospel (*Lk 24: 13-35*), Jesus opened the Scriptures for them (i.e., what

we know as the Old Testament) to show how the Law and the Prophets point to the coming of the Lord.

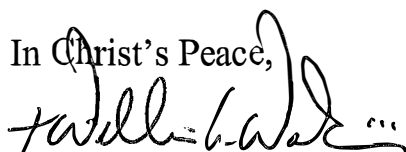
The more I pray these mysteries, the deeper I am drawn into the mystery of salvation. Indeed, praying these mysteries truly imparts hope for all who pray them with an open heart. This hope is very real, and it is ongoing as well. Amid personal sin and trials of all kinds, I live in hope of forgiveness and eternal life.

More information will be available in the future, as well as brochures in English and Spanish. If you would like to know more about the Hopeful Mysteries, check out the following links:

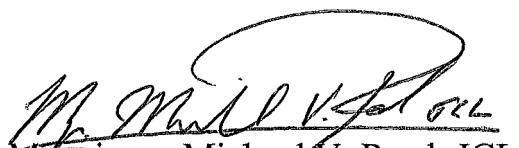
- Dr. Tom Neal podcast episode with Fr. Chris Winkeljohn available at [ptdiocese.org/the-hopeful-mysteries-of-the-rosary](http://ptdiocese.org/the-hopeful-mysteries-of-the-rosary)
- The bilingual pamphlet available at [www.hopefulmysteries.com](http://www.hopefulmysteries.com)

I am not assigning these mysteries to a particular day, like the other mysteries of the rosary, but I recommend praying them in place of the others occasionally. Certainly, if you pray more than one rosary a day, you might wish to pray the Hopeful Mysteries after praying the ones assigned for the day.

May God bless you with the gift of hope, knowing that each of us is caught up in God's plan of salvation.

In Christ's Peace,  


Bishop William A. Wack, CSC  
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

  
Monsignor Michael V. Reed, JCL  
Chancellor