



Rosary

The five Joyful Mysteries

First Mystery: **The Annunciation** — Knights of Columbus

When Adam and Eve sinned in Paradise, they lost their right to happiness. But God promised to send His only Son to regain this happiness for them. Out of all the world, God chose Mary to be the Mother of His Son. One day the Angel Gabriel from heaven appeared to her. "Hail, full of grace!" he cried. And he told her that she was to be the Mother of the Most High. Mary answered, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord!" At that moment the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, God's Son, entered the world.

Second Mystery: **The Visitation** — CCD

The Angel Gabriel told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth, though an old lady, was to have a little son. This son was St. John the Baptist. So immediately Mary hurried over the hills to take care of her cousin. When Elizabeth saw her, she cried, "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy

womb." Mary answered by praying the Magnificat. Mary stayed with her cousin until John the Baptist was born. . When John was born and Elizabeth was strong again, Mary returned to her own home to wait for the birth of her own dear Son, Jesus.

Third Mystery: **The Nativity of the Lord** — RCIA

The proud Roman Emperor ordered all his citizens to pay their taxes in their home cities. So Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. Bethlehem was so full of visitors they could not find a place to sleep. So they went out to a little stable in a hill. And there Jesus, the Savior of the world, was born. A glorious star shone in the heavens. Angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will!" Shepherds came to adore the newborn King. This was the first Christmas.

Fourth Mystery: **The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple** — CYO

The Jews carried each first born son to the Temple and offered him to God. Then in his place, they gave God a lamb or, if they were poor, a pair of pure white doves. So Mary and Joseph carried her Jesus to the Temple. They offered Him to God. But a great prophet called Simeon saw the baby and knew this was the Savior of the world. He cried aloud in his joy. And a wise old lady named Anna blessed Him and His dear Mother. Then Mary and Joseph returned home with their Son.

Fifth Mystery: **The finding in the Temple** — OLOL Prayer Group

When Jesus was twelve years old, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem where the Temple stood. Jesus loved His Father's house. So when Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth, their home town, He stayed behind. He knew that God wished Him to stay longer in His Father's house. Soon Mary and Joseph found that Jesus was lost. They hurried back to the Temple. For three days and nights they looked everywhere for Him. Finally, they found Him seated among the teachers and priests. He was asking them wise questions. He did this because this was "His Father's business." Then quietly He returned to Nazareth with Joseph and Mary and for the rest of His youth, remained obedient to them.

The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

150th Anniversary of the Apparitions at Lourdes, France



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
Benson, Arizona
Anniversary Celebration
Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas
February 10, 2008

Mary's Apparitions at Lourdes — 1858

Bernadette Soubirous, aged 14, was the child of a very poor family of Lourdes, a town in the Pyrenees Mountains of southern France. On February 11, 1858, while picking up sticks for firewood she saw a lovely lady in the nearby riverside grotto of Massabielle. Bernadette had two younger girls as companions, but only she had the vision. The Lady was clothed in a white veil and dress and a blue sash, and she carried a rosary on her forearm. She persuaded Bernadette to recite the rosary while she herself fingered its beads, but that day she said nothing.

When Bernadette told her story at home, she met mixed reactions. But she returned to the grotto three days later and saw the vision once more. On February 18, the Lady, still not identifying herself, asked Bernadette to come back there every day for the next two weeks. She also told her on that occasion that she could promise her happiness only in heaven, not in this life. Future events would bear out her assurance.

The apparitions continued until July 16; 18 in all. Larger and larger crowds accompanied Bernadette to the riverbank as time went on. The Lady was now talking with Bernadette while the young girl was in a trance, but nobody else saw what Bernadette saw or heard what she heard.

On February 21 the Lady revealed to Bernadette a spring at the bottom of the cave. This spring, at first a mere trickle, soon began to gush forth thousands of gallons of water each day. On March 1, a cure took place at the grotto: the first of hundreds to come. On March 2, the Lady said she wanted a chapel built on that spot. Then, on March 25, the feast of the Annunciation, she finally declared her identity: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Just four years earlier, in 1854, Pope Pius IX, after consulting all Catholic bishops, had defined as a dogma of faith the immaculate conception of Mary; that is, she remained sinless from the first moment of her existence. Bernadette had neither heard of the term nor of the dogma. But the local priests now understood that the Lady who spoke was Mary.

After careful study, the local bishop declared in 1862 that the appearances reported by Bernadette were credible and that the spot might be visited by pilgrims. Now the young girl's task was over. She had already suffered much at the hands of the incredulous. Eventually she entered a religious order and lived out the rest of her life in seclusion and pain, and died far away from her home village.

One way we can be sure that it is Mary who appeared is if her basic advice is the same one that she gave to the waiters at Cana: "Do whatever He tells you" (John, 2:5).

The Story of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Grotto

After the original church of Our Lady of Lourdes was torn down, Msgr. Frederick D. Rosettie, wanted to construct a monument on the site of the old church building, so he and his friend Abe Samuels designed the present grotto. Even with limited funds and a shortage of volunteers, he rounded up a crew to start bringing stones from both the Whetstone Mountains and the closed marble quarry in Dragoon. Once the stones were stockpiled, work first started on the perimeter wall. The stairs in the north face of the wall were designed to match the size of original door of the old church building. As the wall neared completion, the grotto foundation (a large concrete cube) was poured. The stonework for the grotto began slowly as more funds were needed to be raised, but finally the work was completed with the installation of the flagstones along the perimeter of the fountain.



Msgr. planned to dedicate the grotto on March 16, 1976, which would also mark the date the community of Our Lady of Lourdes went from mission to parish status. The only problem was the lack of the statue of Our Lady for the inside of the grotto. The solution was to borrow a statue from Lourdes Academy in Nogales. The day of the dedication arrived in time for a beautiful celebration. Bishop Francis Green dedicated the grotto with the help of Msgrs. Burns and Rosettie. The Mariachi Fierro provided the music and large number of people were present.

Many people contributed to the construction of the grotto, some of whom were: Abe Samuels, design; Adolfo Martinez, stonework; Frank Reyes, finishing touches; Ed Ellsworth and Tom Stevenson, youth volunteers, and Ignacio Reyes, Angel Romero, Manuel Gomez and Tony Lopez.

Over the years the grotto started showing signs of wear and tear. Some of the water was leaking and mold and slime were building up. It looked like the grotto was in need of a rebuild. In the summer of 2005, our parish was blessed with the assignment of Emilio Chapa to be a seminarian intern. He took on the project of refurbishing the grotto. He recruited volunteers, among them some of the original crew who built the grotto as well as Juan Martinez, son of Adolfo Martinez who had done the original stonework. Juan reworked the stones and the rest of the crew cleaned, patched and polished the grotto until it looked like new.



The parish community gathered together to pray the rosary and to ask God to continue to bless the grotto which has become a special place of prayer for so many in this parish family dedicated to the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes.