

## January: A new beginning

***“In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, ‘Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.’ But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ But Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?’ And the angel said to her in reply, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.’ Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.”***

*Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36*



I open my letter with the first joyful mystery: the announcement that Mary will have a son and the world will have a savior. What a great way to begin the New Year. In real time, we just celebrated the birth of our Lord, but what I really wanted to discuss was the rosary, the Knights and public prayer. First the rosary.



Like Stations of the Cross, the rosary is a guided walk through twenty of the stories of the accomplishment of salvation. A guided meditation, if you will, on the events when God revealed that Jesus had overcome sin and defeated the evil one. These are moments we can glory in and lift our spirits from defeat. The war is won and the foolish one is defeated.

People often ask why Catholics pray repetitious prayer thinking that the rosary is a vain prayer. It probably can be, if you don't pray with the proper intent. Consider a knife in the hands of a criminal, and you will soon be robbed of your valuables. But a knife in the hands of a chef or a surgeon and the outcome could be delicious or life saving. It's really about the intent of the individual and the proper use of the tool.

Prayer is in itself good if it's directed toward God for the purpose of elevating someone or some event up to union with God's will.

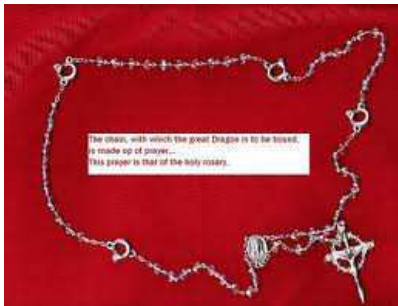
Let's consider the mechanics of the prayer. Each time we pray the rosary we pray five decades or five mysteries listed under the headings of:

1. Joyful Mysteries
2. Luminous Mysteries
3. Sorrowful Mysteries
4. Glorious Mysteries

A decade consists of:

1. Reciting a short meditation on a specific mystery
2. An Our Father (as we reflect on the mystery)
3. Ten Hail Mary's (as we reflect on the mystery)
4. A Glory Be
5. The Fatima Prayer





Once familiar with the specific mystery we can play it in our head and heart like the scene of a movie and come to understand its underlying message(s) more deeply. It's through the prayerful meditation on the revelation of God that we come to know Him better. There is no other way; that's how he made us. It takes time and patience, but it is truly worth it. This is why we must patiently pray the rosary and not rush.

I bring this up because we (the Knights of this Council) are now on the schedule and will be leading the Respect Life Rosary three times this year beginning at 6:30 PM on January 11<sup>th</sup>, once in July and closing 2013 on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a great privilege for the Knights and I invite you to attend. You don't have to lead a decade, unless you want to, but I really would like you to come and sit with the guys and just pray with us. The unborn children really appreciate it.

In summary; January 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 PM is mass for the deceased members of this Council followed by the Respect Life Rosary led by the Knight of this Council. Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> is the Blue Mass in honor of the first responders of this community. What a great grace-filled weekend and an awesome way to start the New Year out. Bring your children, your family and your friends. Can you come?



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January business meeting is on Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Second Friday Memorial Mass for the deceased Knights of this council is on Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 PM followed by the Respect Life Rosary which we will lead. Blue Mass is on Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to make a good confession and get cleaned up spiritually

Pray that God give us the grace to seek Him in prayer. Pray for the men and women who serve in Law Enforcement and the Military. Pray that politicians have conversion of heart. Pray for strong families. Above all; pray that Holy Mother Church around the world can withstand the buffets of her enemies. Pray for our priests.