

The First Sorrowful Mystery- The Agony in the Garden

Parents: **God is Good All the Time.....** Students: **And All the Time God is Good!** (2 times)

In the past few months we have been talking about prayer forms here and there. Along with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Prayer forms are 1. Adoration and Blessing, 2. Intercession, 3. Petitions, 4. Thanksgiving, and 5. Praise. Today/Tonight we will be talking about Adoration and Blessing, because we are going to be using this in our rosary decade.

So what is Adoration prayer? (let children give answers) Adoration is when we acknowledge that God is Creator of all things including us. We are God's Creation! What do you see outside or inside that is God's Creation? (let children answer)

Now what is Blessing prayer? (let children answer) Blessing is when we respond to the gifts God has given us. Because God blesses us, we, in our hearts, bless God back! What are some blessing we have received as a family? (let children answer) What are some blessings you, yourself have received? (let children answer)

Okay, let's start our rosary! What do we always start with? (let children answer)

That is right the Sign of the Cross. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In this decade of the rosary we pray.

God we know that you are the creator of all things and that you created us. You are almighty and all knowing. You know our hearts, and what is troubling us, our country, and our world at this time.

Bless those who are alone, quarantined, and dying. Bless us, our country, and our world now and always.

(Apostle's Creed) I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

(Our Father) Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

(Hail Mary 3 times) 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 now and at the hour of our death.

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(Glory Be) Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and shall be world without end. Amen.

(Fatima Decade Prayer) Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to heaven especially those who are in most need of thy Mercy. Amen.

The first Sorrowful Mystery is the Agony in the Garden. Think about Jesus knowing what is about to happen, and he goes to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. His friends, the disciples, have come with him but are sleeping. Jesus is upset because they can't stay awake to pray with him for even an hour. An angel comes to him to show him what his suffering and death will help us to overcome. Jesus sees all of our sins that will be forgiven. This is when Jesus surrenders himself to God by praying, "Not my will, but your will be done."

(Our Father) Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

(Hail Mary 10 times) 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 now and at the hour of our death.

(Glory Be) Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and shall be world without end. Amen.

(Fatima Decade Prayer) Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to heaven especially those who are in most need of thy Mercy. Amen.

(Memorare) Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly to you o virgin of virgins, my mother. To you I come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me.

(St. Michael the Archangel) St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou oh prince of heavenly hosts, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Meditation: Exodus 15:26

He said: If you listen closely to the voice of the Lord, your God, and do what is right in his eyes; if you heed his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will not afflict you with any of the diseases with which I afflicted the Egyptians; for I, the Lord, am your healer.

1. Re-Read the Passage a couple of times.
2. What words or phrases jump out at you?

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3. What is God trying to tell you?
4. Talk about this as a family! How can you put this in to action in your everyday lives.
5. Pray to God about it.

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem March 18th Feast Day

Cyril was born around 315 when a new phase was beginning for Christians. Before that date, the church was persecuted by the emperors. Thousands of Christians had been martyrs. In 313, Emperor Constantine recognized Christianity as a legal religion. That was a wonderful thing, but it didn't end all the problems. In fact, during the years that followed Constantine's Edict of 313, a whole new difficulty arose. There was confusion about some Christian beliefs. Some priests and bishops became brave defenders of Church teaching. One such bishop was Cyril of Jerusalem.

When Saint Maximus, Bishop of Jerusalem, died, Cyril was chosen to take his place. Cyril was the Bishop of Jerusalem for 35 years. At the time, certain priests and bishops who were trying to explain the Holy Trinity became confused. A group of them, called Arians, began to teach that Jesus Christ is not God. As bishop, Cyril explained the church's teachings very clearly. He reminded everyone that each of the three persons of the Holy Trinity is God. Because bishop Cyril disagreed with the Arians, they had him banished from Jerusalem 3 times. But Cyril continued to teach the truth. In 379, the council of Antioch investigated the case and found Cyril was teaching the correct faith.

The reign of emperor Julian the apostate began in 361. (An apostate to someone who gives up the Christian faith.) Julian decided to rebuild the famous Temple of Jerusalem. He had a definite purpose in mind: he wanted to prove that Jesus has been wrong when he declared that the Temple of Jerusalem would not be rebuilt. So Julian spent a lot of money and sent all the materials for a new Temple. Many people helped by giving jewels and precious metals. St. Cyril calmly responded to emperor Julian's act of pride. He was sure the temple could not be built, because Jesus, who is God, had said so. The bishop simply looked at all the building materials and said, "I know this will fail." Sure enough, first a storm, then an earthquake, then a fire stopped the emperor! He finally abandoned the project.

Saint Cyril died in 386 when he was around 70. This gentle, kindly man had lived in times of upheaval and sadness. But he never lost his courage because it came from Jesus. He was faithful to the Lord all his life. Because he was so successful in explaining the truth about Christ and about his church in difficult times, Pope Leo XIII (13) declared St. Cyril of Jerusalem a Doctor of the Church in 1882.

St. Cyril teaches us how important it is to have a correct understanding of our Catholic faith. Learning the teachings of Jesus and his Church is not simply for children. As we grow older and are able to understand more, we should continue to study our faith more deeply.

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