

Week 30



THE ROSARY IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MARK-MARY AMES, CFR

PHASE 3: MEDITATING ON THE MYSTERIES

The Glorious Mysteries in Scripture

CORONATION OF MARY

Mary is crowned Queen of heaven and earth by her son, Jesus Christ, as the exalted Mother of the King.

Fruit of this mystery: We pray for final perseverance of heart.

Scripture: Revelation 12:1–5

And a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; she was with child and she cried out in her pangs of birth, in anguish for delivery. And another sign appeared in heaven; behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems upon his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, that he might devour her child when she brought it forth; she brought forth a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne.



The Blessed Virgin Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth
stained glass in St. Joseph's Basilica (Ajamedá)

Reflection and Contemplation

Mary, who listened to God's will and stayed true to his plan for her life, is crowned Queen of heaven and earth in this mystery. Though we tend to think of a queen as the wife of the king, in the Davidic monarchy, the queen was always the king's mother. Because Jesus is the eternal King to whom God gave "the throne of his father David" (Luke 1:32), it follows that Mary, Jesus' mother, is the Queen Mother.

As our spiritual mother and the Queen of heaven and earth, Mary intercedes on behalf of us, her spiritual children, the Church. This mystery encourages us to entrust ourselves and our good works to the Mother of God, following the example of God the Father, who entrusted his only-begotten Son to Mary for our salvation. Contemplate Mary's journey and her love for our Lord, and then trust her with your needs. Ask her to intercede for you!

Make It Your Own

What stood out to you about your Rosary experience this week?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

Scan the QR code to view *The Rosary in a Year* videos on the Ascension app. Download the prayer plan at <https://tinyurl.com/2p8s69yd>.

The Rosary in a Year is a daily podcast, produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR. It takes Catholics on a journey to form a lasting habit of prayer and gain tools to enter more deeply into meditation on the lives of Jesus and Mary through the Rosary. This bulletin was adapted from the podcast and materials that complement the podcast.



Sunday Q&A

Your Faith in Focus

SERVICE OF TODAY'S SISTERS

What is life like for nuns today?

Women religious were once prevalent in shaping education, healthcare, and many other sectors of life. Today, unfortunately, many Catholics have little or no direct contact with professed sisters or nuns. Religious life is a bit of a mystery to most Catholics. Here are some of the most-asked questions about nuns and religious sisters—according to the internet—with answers from Sr. Mary Grace and Sr. Marie Veritas of the Sisters of Life.

Do nuns or sisters have cell phones?

Nope! Some communities and orders might have personal cell phones, but Sr. Mary Grace and Sr. Marie Veritas do not. “We have a landline,” Sr. Mary Grace says. “We also have mission-shared cell phones, but not personal ones,” says Sr. Marie Veritas.

Do sisters still exist?

Yes! Sr. Mary Grace says, “Growing up, I had no idea that sisters were still around. I thought they were an extinct species or something.” Clearly not!

Why are nuns called sisters?

To clarify, nuns are different from religious sisters. Nuns refer only to cloistered women who stay in a convent

and spend their lives praying for the world. Women who are religious and help people in the world are called sisters. “You probably see more sisters in public,” Sr. Mary Grace says. “We live both lives. We have a contemplative life and an apostolic life. That means lots of prayer and lots of gifts of service.”

Why are sisters only female?

This is an important question about nuns and sisters. “If you read all through Scripture,” Sr. Marie Veritas says, “God talks about how he is the Bridegroom to Israel. It is a love story between the Bridegroom and the Bride. The Church is the new Israel. As sisters, we are an image of the Church. We are brides of Christ! We are female.” Sr. Mary Grace adds, “Mary is the model for religious life. She is a woman in every single way. We imitate her role in letting God into the world as women, which is such a gift and privilege.”

How do sisters get their names?

This is one of the most interesting questions about nuns and sisters. It is a mystery, but God does it! “We take new names when we enter, which is such a gift!” Sr. Mary Grace says. “I didn’t think about what name God was going to call me. When I entered the convent, God

literally put a new name on my heart. Simply and clearly, he put 'Mary Grace' on my heart." Sr. Mary Grace knows this name comes from the gift of her natural mother and the Blessed Mother. In God naming her this, she recognizes that God is calling her to imitate the Blessed Mother in a certain way. "It really comes through prayer and discernment," Sr. Marie Veritas adds. "It is pretty awesome."

Can sisters drive?

Yup, sisters drive! "We drive a lot," Sr. Mary Grace says. "And depending on your mission, you might actually get around a lot." Sr. Marie Veritas adds, "I love to drive!"

Ponder and Pray

- How have religious sisters shaped the life of the Church in my area, even if they aren't around so much anymore? What is my experience, if any, with religious sisters?
- How can we support the growth of religious orders today? What can we do to promote vocations?

Make It Your Own

If you were sitting down with a religious sister and could ask her three questions, what would you ask? (Consider finding a sister and asking her these questions in real life!)

1.

2.

3.

Tip of the Week

Learn about a current religious order and reach out by praying, financially supporting, and/or sending them a simple message of encouragement. Religious sisters and nuns are out there. Let's let them know that we are here to honor their unique gift to the Church.

Dive Deeper

For more answers in the full article, scan the code or visit the URL: <https://media.ascensionpress.com/2024/08/21/the-internets-top-questions-about-nuns/>





WHAT COMES AFTER DEAR GOD?



Genesis 18:20–32 • Colossians 2:12–14 • Luke 11:1–13

Family Car Talk

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus saying, *"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."* Talk through the questions with your family on the way home from Mass today.



I Do you believe you can ask God for what you need?



B Have you ever been afraid to ask for something because you didn't think you'd receive it?



A Name someone in your life who trusts the Lord will provide.



MAKE THE OUR FATHER WHOLE

Instructions: In today's Gospel, we learn the prayer that Jesus taught us. Complete the prayer by filling in the blanks below.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in _____

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy _____ come.

Thy will be done

On _____, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily _____,

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against _____,

And lead us not into temptation,

But _____ us from evil.

_____.

WORD BANK:

Amen	us
earth	deliver
kingdom	bread
heaven	



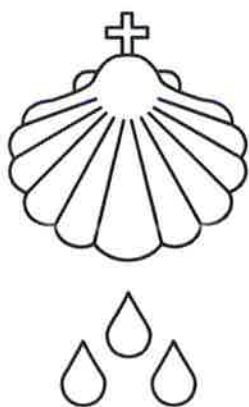
BAPTISM MATCHING

Instructions: In today's second reading, St. Paul writes about Baptism. Write the name of the symbol next to the image. Feel free to color them, too. The colors are up to you!

Find out about your own baptism. Ask your family members some questions, and take time to listen. If you already know the answers or think you know them, check the answers with your family.

WORD BANK:

candle dove water oil



Some questions you can ask your parents:

On what day and year was I baptized?

Who are my godparents, and why did you choose them?

Who was the priest?

During the baptism, how did I do?

What was most memorable to you about that day?

Week Thirty

Days 204–210

THE BIBLE
IN A YEAR
WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

Exile Narrative: Isaiah 28–42 | Supplemental: Zephaniah 1–3; Baruch 1–6; Ezekiel 1–3; Proverbs 11:9–12:4

DESPITE OUR SINS, THE LORD WILL BE OUR GOD



Ezekiel's "Chariot Vision"
by Matthaeus Merian

Various contexts are featured in this week's readings. Isaiah and Zephaniah write before the Babylonian Exile, in Judah. Baruch and Ezekiel write while among the exiles in Babylon. Judgment and hope continue to be central themes.

- Isaiah is well-known for containing not only important prophecies for the people of his own time, demanding that they return to faith in the Lord, but also for many prophecies directly related to Jesus Christ.
- For example, the Lord says, "Behold, I am laying in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation" (Isaiah 28:16). In the New Testament, 1 Peter 2:6 speaks about Jesus as this precious cornerstone and foundation.
- Much of Isaiah 40 is proclaimed during the season of Advent, such as "A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD'" (Isaiah 40:3).
- Matthew quotes Isaiah 40:3 as being fulfilled by John the Baptist in preparation for Jesus' ministry (see Matthew 3:1–3).
- The prophet Zephaniah prophesies after Isaiah and in the days of Josiah, the young king who restores worship in the kingdom of Judah (see 2 Kings 22–23).
- In chapter 1, Zephaniah accuses the people of Judah of many evils. They have fallen into idolatry, they have failed to pray, their leaders are bad, they are superstitious, and they believe that no judgment will come upon them for their actions. All of these indictments touch on the heart of their relationship with the Lord.
- Baruch highlights the importance of acknowledging willful sin.
- In this book, the people confess their sins and admit that, though they knew the Law, they disobeyed the Lord. They lacked hearts willing to be changed to be what God called them to be. They pray for deliverance.
- The final line of Baruch 2 offers hope: "I will make an everlasting covenant with them to be their God and they shall be my people; and I will never again remove my people Israel from the land which I have given them."

Dive Deeper

Zephaniah 1 cites the evils of the people of Judah. Knowing that God offers hope and mercy, do any of the prophet's accusations apply to you? If so, pray about them, ask for God's help in making changes, and seek his mercy as you step in the right direction.

Bible Answers

What is the meaning of the vision in Ezekiel 1?

In the vision that occurred during the Babylonian Exile, Ezekiel describes seeing a heavenly chariot where God is enthroned. He sees shining wheels with eyes around the edges. "From the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures" with different faces—man, lion, eagle, and ox (Ezekiel 1:5).

Some hold that the creatures are suggestive of the Babylonian zodiac. The message to those in exile is that the Babylonian deities have not overcome the Lord, but God is on high above the universe. Others believe the creatures are a foreshadowing of the writers of the Gospels. The vision reminds those in exile (and us) that during tumultuous times, God abides. He will restore them—and us—according to his promise.



TEMPLE OF BEL

This first-century temple, located in Palmyra, Syria, was dedicated to Bel, or Baal.

Baruch 6 mentions Bel in its condemnation of idolatry.



Scan the QR code to listen to the *Bible in a Year* podcast on the Ascension app, to get exclusive content, and to access transcripts for every episode. Download the reading plan at <https://media.ascensionpress.com/category/ascension-podcasts/bibleinayear/>

The Bible in a Year is a daily podcast, produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz, where we read the whole Bible following *The Great Adventure* Bible-study program created by Jeff Cavins. This bulletin was adapted from *The Bible in a Year Companion* books that complement the podcast.

Week 30

Paragraphs 1485–1538



THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

Faith. By "analogy of faith" we mean th

How We Worship PART TWO: THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

HOW DOES JESUS HEAL US?

Suffering is a severe consequence of the world's brokenness, although not every suffering directly results from personal sin. Jesus is the ultimate healer of both our souls and bodies. However, Jesus does not physically cure everyone who asks, nor does he remove suffering; instead, he redeems and transforms suffering. Sin has far worse effects than any suffering; when we accept our suffering and join it to Christ, suffering becomes redemptive.

Keep in Mind

- In suffering, we can refuse God's will and become resentful, or we can unite ourselves with Christ's sufferings.
- God may allow suffering to help us grow, soften our hearts, correct our lives, or because it is redemptive.
- The sufferings of Christ lack nothing; when we unite our sufferings to his, we can be coworkers in his redemptive work.
- Whether we receive healing or not, we can unite our sufferings to Christ.
- The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is for anyone "in danger of death from sickness or old age" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1514).
- The sick are anointed with holy oil for healing and forgiveness.
- The sacrament can be received again if the person recovers but falls seriously ill again.
- The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is sometimes received along with Confession and Holy Communion (Viaticum) to prepare a person for death.
- The sacrament provides grace to fortify a person in the face of severe sickness or to spiritually prepare for death.



Dive Deeper VIATICUM

The Church provides countless spiritual riches in preparation for death. This image shows one such gift, Viaticum, the Eucharist given as food for the journey (see CCC 1524).

How does the notion of uniting your suffering with Jesus challenge your understanding of suffering? How can suffering lead to spiritual growth and a deeper connection with Christ?

- The grace of the Anointing of the Sick “renews trust and faith in God,” protects from “discouragement and anguish,” and fortifies us “for the final struggles before entering the Father’s house” (CCC 1520, 1523).
- The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick may include an apostolic pardon, a powerful prayer that grants a plenary indulgence that removes the temporal consequences of sin.
- Above all, the sacrament prepares us “for passing over to eternal life” (CCC 1532).

Use the space below to reflect on this week's content.

Take It to Prayer

God our Father, please meet us
in our need. Fill our breath and
our lungs with your Holy Spirit.
Fill our minds with your truth,
clarity, and goodness. Help us to
say “yes” to you at this moment
and every moment of our lives.
We pray this through Jesus
Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



The best place to listen along is the Ascension app.
Scan the QR code to get exclusive bonus content
and transcripts for every episode.

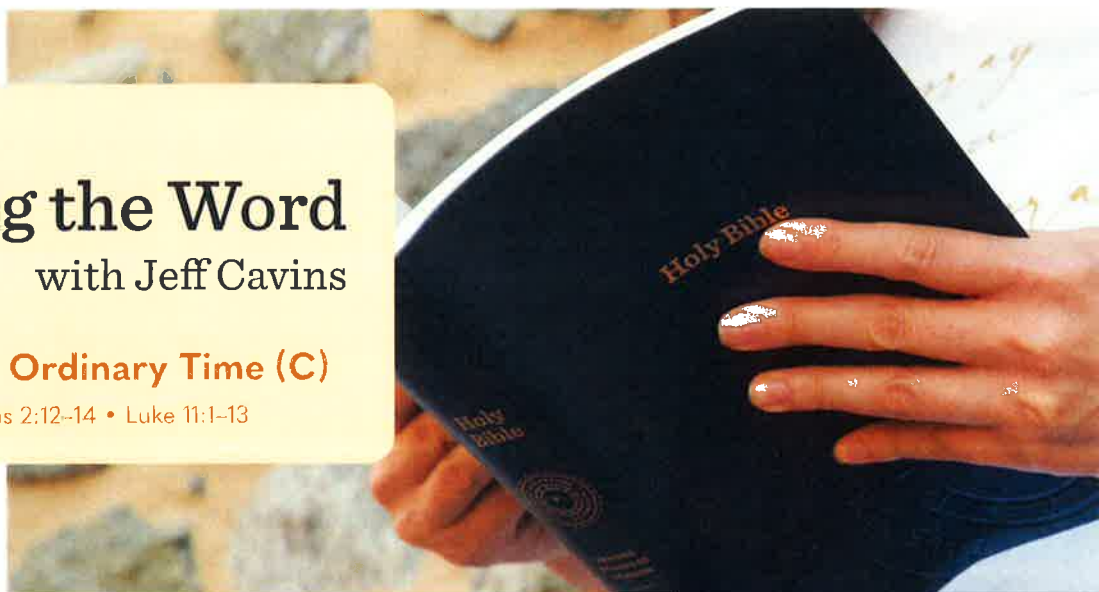
The Catechism in a Year is a daily podcast produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz. It helps us understand what it means to be Catholic by reading the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and allowing those truths to shape our lives. This bulletin was adapted from the books that complement the podcast: *The Catechism in a Year Companions* by Petroc Willey, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and Matthew Doeing.

Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Genesis 18:20–32 • Colossians 2:12–14 • Luke 11:1–13



Tenacious Prayer Is Vital



The powerful theme of persistence in prayer is our focus this week. The story of Abraham interceding for Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18) highlights the importance of tenacity. Abraham repeatedly asks God to spare the city if righteous people can be found, showing us that prayer requires perseverance, even when the outcome seems uncertain!

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus teaches his disciples both the structure and spirit of prayer. When the disciples ask, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1), Jesus offers them the Lord’s Prayer, a model for praising God, seeking his will, and asking for daily needs. More than a formula, this prayer reflects the heart of Jesus’ relationship with the Father. It reminds us that prayer is not only about asking but also about aligning ourselves with God’s will.

Jesus emphasizes the need for persistence in prayer through a parable of a man who knocked on a friend’s door at midnight, asking for bread. Though initially reluctant, the owner of the house eventually responds because of the persistence of the friend’s request. Jesus uses this story to encourage us to keep asking, seeking, and knocking, trusting that God hears us and will respond in his time.

This week, consider the areas in your life that require persistent prayer—whether it’s your family, work, health, or important decisions. Like St. Monica, who prayed tirelessly for the conversion of her son, St. Augustine, we are invited to pray without ceasing. Tools like novenas, the Rosary, and the Church’s liturgical rhythms can help us stay committed to prayer. Whatever you face, pray consistently and persistently. Jesus assures us: When we ask, we will receive; when we seek, we will find; when we knock, the door will be opened. Don’t give up—keep praying with tenacity.

Live the Gospel

Jeff Cavins says, “Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” This week, reflect on areas in your life that need persistent prayer. Consider praying a novena or adding the Rosary to your daily routine to stay consistent. Whatever you face, pray with trust and tenacity, knowing that God hears you and will respond in his perfect timing. Be tenacious in your prayer!”

Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/seventeenth-sunday-in-ordinary-time-c/>

Ponder and Pray

» How can you cultivate the tenacity to keep praying, even when answers don't come immediately?

» What fears or doubts might be holding you back from persistent prayer?

» How does Jesus' invitation to ask, seek, and knock challenge your current approach to prayer? How can you pray more intentionally?

“ If you ... know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?

—Luke 11:13”

Make It Your Own

You and others in your household may use this space to write anything about today's Mass. It might be your view of Jeff Cavins' reflection, your priest's homily, your answers to the questions on this page—anything to help you and your household get the most out of today's Mass.

Jeff Cavins is the author of *The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation* and the creator of the video series *Sundays with Ascension*, from which this reflection was adapted.

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