



A TREASURY *of* MARIAN PRAYERS

A Handbook of Popular Devotions



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CONTENTS

- 3** Prayers remembering
Scripture events
-

- 15** Prayers recalling Mary's
various titles
-

- 27** Litanies
-

- 39** Intercessory prayer to Mary
-

- 51** Prayers for specific needs
-

- 63** Hymns to Mary

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the ages, we Catholics have prayed to Mary, Mother of God, as a way to express our faith, to honor the woman chosen to participate in salvation history in a unique way, and to acknowledge that since Mary is fully alive in heaven, she is, and always will be, integrally connected to us. In *Marialis Cultus*, Pope Paul VI reminds us that “Mary, in fact, is one of our race, a true daughter of Eve, though free...of sin, and truly our sister, who as a poor and humble woman fully shared our lot” (no. 56). St. John Paul II in *Redemptoris Mater* invites us to see Mary’s role in today’s global struggles for justice and peace. A contemporary litany of Mary calls to Mary as “Widowed mother...Seeker of God’s will...Model of strength...Mother of a political prisoner.”

In some Marian prayers we directly praise God because we use Mary’s praise, such as in the Magnificat, or the angel’s praise in the beginning of the Hail Mary. At other times Marian prayer recalls mysteries of our faith;

for example, the Angelus recalls an event in the history of God's people. This remembering also occurs during the liturgical year—for example, recalling Mary's role in the birth of Christ. Because Mary is connected with us, because she is our mother and “truly our sister,” throughout our history, we have also prayed, asking Mary's intercession for our personal, communal, and world intentions.

We are privileged to know Mary as our intercessor, as well as model and witness, as one of us on this pilgrim journey. Mary is the symbol of the church, model of risk and courage, Christ-bearer to the world, advocate of those in need.

I hope that these prayers (and the many others in our Marian tradition) will provide for you a launching point for a renewed or newly discovered relationship with Mary, the woman of compassion, the faithful disciple.

Janet Schaeffler, OP

Prayers remembering Scripture events

We are gifted with many ways to pray to Mary. Because we learn about her life from Scripture and tradition, because Mary has a significant role in the mysteries of our faith, often our Marian prayer is rooted in a remembering of these cherished mysteries proclaimed in Scripture and lived throughout our tradition, reminding us of her “yes,” her constant and steady fidelity.



THE ANGELUS

In the Angelus, a meditation on Mary's "yes" to God, we reflect on her example and ask for her guidance and prayer.

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord,
thy grace into our hearts,
that we to whom
the Incarnation of Christ thy Son
was made known
by the message of an angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory
of his Resurrection.

Through the same Christ Our Lord.
Amen.



REGINA COELI

The Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven), an ancient Marian hymn, is prayed in place of the Angelus during the Easter season (Holy Saturday through the Saturday after Pentecost).

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

R. For he whom you did merit to bear,
alleluia.

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary,
alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God,

who gave joy to the world
through the resurrection of your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
grant we beseech you,
that through the intercession
of the Virgin Mary, his Mother,
we may obtain the joys
of everlasting life.

Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.



THE MAGNIFICAT

This prayer of Mary, found in Luke's gospel (1:46–55), flows from several Old Testament texts of praise. We pray this prayer with gratitude, praise, and commitment to see the world through God's eyes.

My soul proclaims the greatness
of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor
on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations
will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.