

A Short History

- Traditionally, the Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary are celebrated on the 27th of August. The Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin are part of the Franciscan Crown Rosary which, as tradition states was founded by a Franciscan novice in the early fifteenth century after the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him.

- Before entering the cloister, the holy young man would place flowers at the statue of the Blessed Virgin, a practice that continued during his time as a novice. For some unknown reason, the young man decided to leave the cloister and return to the world. This decision caused the young man to be melancholic. In spite of this, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to the young man teaching him to pray a rosary focusing on her seven joys and telling him not to leave the Franciscan order.

- As the young man was prayerfully engaged in this new devotion, after Our Lady appeared to him, his Novice Master witnessed him and saw a vision of an angel weaving a wreath of 10 roses. After each wreath of 10 roses, the angel would insert a lily. After the wreath was complete, the angel placed the crown of roses upon the head of the novice.

- After explaining the devotion to the Novice Master, who demanded to be told what he was seeing, they shared the vision with the other Franciscans, who then began to recite the Franciscan Crown of Our Lady's Joys.



The holy Church herself attributes to the merits of Mary's faith the destruction of all heresies:

Rejoice, O Virgin Mary, for thou alone hast destroyed all heresies throughout the world.



From the *Magnificat*:

My soul doth magnify the Lord.

And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Because He hath regarded the humility of His slave:

For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Because He that is mighty hath done great things to me; and holy is His name.



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The Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary



I. The Annunciation of the Angel to Mary (Lk 1:26-38)

“The Immaculate Virgin Mary joyfully conceived Jesus by the Holy Ghost.” Imagine the joy in the heart of Mary to learn from the messenger of the Almighty that she, who was willing to be but a handmaid or servant in the household of the Lord, was to be really the Mother of God. What joy and happiness at the greeting of the angel. What joy to know that now within her womb she carried the Son of God.



II. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth (Lk 1:39-45, 56)

“The Immaculate Virgin Mary joyfully carried Jesus visiting Elizabeth.” Charity and love inspired this visit. How happily our Blessed Mother must have made her way over the hills to the distant home of her cousin Elizabeth, who also was with child, the future John the Baptist. Like the other women, Mary would have wanted to tell her cousin the news and share the joys of a pregnant mother. But she kept this secret in her heart and let the Holy Ghost reveal it, and He filled John the Baptist with joy in his mother's womb, Elizabeth, and Mary herself.



III. The Nativity of Our Lord (Lk 2:1-7)

“The Immaculate Virgin Mary joyfully brought Jesus into the world.” Everyone who has ever experienced the bliss of Christmas has had just a faint echo of Mary's joy when she gave birth to Christ. Every mother shares that joy. Mary experienced it in all her innocence and sweetness. She experienced the holy happiness of bringing into the world the Son of God, who was to be the Redeemer and Saviour of all men.



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IV. The Adoration of the Magi (Matt. 2:1-2, 9-11)

“The Immaculate Virgin Mary joyfully exhibited Jesus to the adoration of the Magi.” Every mother is happy when she can show her child to others. Every mother is joyful when friends or acquaintances or even chance visitors comment about her child, praise it, and even bring it gifts. That was the happy experience of Mary when the three Wise Men came hundreds of miles to adore and honour her Child, to bring gifts to her Boy.



V. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:41-51)

“The Immaculate Virgin Mary joyfully found Jesus in the temple.” To have her child with her is a mother's joy. But to find a child that is lost is a greater joy because of the contrast with the sorrow of separation. Mary experienced such a bliss when she found Christ in the temple teaching and listening to the doctors, the learned professors of the law.



VI. The Resurrection of Our Lord (Lk 24:1-8)



“The Immaculate Virgin Mary joyfully beheld Jesus after His resurrection.” Words fail in expressing the happiness of the Mother of God when she saw her Son risen from the grave, saw Him in the full beauty of manhood, saw the Boy whom she had brought into the world, had reared and trained and taken care of for so many years. Her joy, in contrast to the grief of the first Good Friday, was supreme.

VII. The Crowning of Our Lady in Heaven as Queen

“The Immaculate Virgin Mary was joyfully received by Jesus into Heaven and there crowned Queen of Heaven and earth.” No human pen can express, nor human brush depict, the joy in Mary's heart when she was finally reunited with her Son in the bliss of the beatific vision. Neither can we express in words the happiness in her heart when she was crowned, rewarded by her Divine Son who made her the Queen of this world and of the heavenly court.

