

# *Prayers honoring the Holy Face & Name of Jesus*

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# History of Holy Face Devotion



Throughout the centuries, many saints and mystics have told us that *"there is no practice more profitable for the entire sanctification of the soul than the frequent meditation of the sufferings of Jesus Christ"* (Saint Alphonsus de Liguori). One of the early Fathers of the Church (St. Augustine) stated that *"a single tear shed at the remembrance of the Passion of Jesus is worth more than a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, or a year of fasting on bread and water."* One form of meditating on the Passion of Jesus is to meditate on His Holy Face.

Veneration of the Holy Face of Jesus began during the actual Passion of Our Lord, when St. Veronica wiped His face as He carried the cross to Calvary. The sacred image of Our Lord appeared miraculously on that veil, and it has been revered ever since. According to tradition, St. Veronica later entrusted the veil to St. Clement, a disciple of St. Peter who became the third Bishop of Rome (Pope). For the next three centuries, the Holy Veil was kept in the Roman catacombs during the early persecutions of the Church. Eventually, Veronica's Veil was placed in the Basilica of St. Peter and kept there until the present day.

## Sr. Marie of St. Peter

Fifteen centuries later, the Shroud of Turin was brought to light and by the 17th century, it was on display for the faithful to venerate, especially the Holy Face that was imprinted on the Shroud. In 1843, Our Lord appeared to Carmelite nun Sr. Marie of St. Peter (1816-1848), and He asked her to establish a devotion to His Holy Face and Holy Name. Special prayers and promises were given to Sr. Marie from Our Lord, who said: *"All who honor My Holy Face in a spirit of reparation thereby perform for Me the services of the pious Veronica."*

The primary purpose of the devotion is to make reparation for sins against the first three commandments: 1) denial of God; 2) blasphemy; and 3) the profanation of Sundays and Holy Days. Our Lord spoke to Sr. Marie of St. Peter about the pain that blaspheming His Holy Name caused, and how even children wound Him in this way. He likened it to a poison arrow that pierces His Heart, and gave her a means of reparation for this particularly grievous sin called The Golden Arrow Prayer.

The Lord showed Sr. Marie that His Holy Face was the mirror of the Divine Perfections comprised and contained in the Most Holy Name of God. Therefore, Jesus taught her prayers of devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus (The Litany of the Holy Face of Jesus and the Holy Face Chaplet), in reparation for the sins of modern disbelievers and to combat atheistic Communism. In fact, this was the first revelation from Heaven about Communism, which was at its very beginning stages since Karl Marx, the father of Communism, had not even published his "Communist Manifesto" until 1848.



Jesus told her that in the future, if people did not repent, then God's Justice would use the *"malice of revolutionary men - that is the Communists"* as the instrument of His punishment. He added: *"Think of the outrages inflicted on Me by the Society of Communists, the enemies of the Church and of her Christ! ... They have laid their hands upon the anointed of the Lord. But their machinations are vain, their designs shall be foiled. I desire the establishment of the work of reparation! For it is the Work of Reparation to the Holy Face that will disarm God's justice."*

For those who honor Christ's most Holy Face, Jesus made the following promises to Sr. Mary of St. Peter:

1. By offering My Face to My Eternal Father, nothing will be refused, and the conversion of many sinners will be obtained.
2. By My Holy Face, they will work wonders, appease the anger of God and draw down mercy on sinners.
3. All those who honor My Face in a spirit of reparation will by so doing perform the office of the pious Veronica.
4. According to the care they take in making reparation to My Face disfigured by blasphemers, so will I take care of their souls which have been disfigured by sin. My Face is the Seal of the Divinity, which has the virtue of reproducing in souls the image of God.
5. Those who by words, prayers or writings defend My cause in the Work of Reparation, especially My priests, I will defend before My Father, and will give them My Kingdom.
6. As in a kingdom, they can procure all that is desired with a coin stamped with the King's effigy, so in the Kingdom of Heaven they will obtain all they desire with the precious coin of My Holy Face.
7. Those who on earth contemplate the wounds of My Face shall in Heaven behold it radiant with glory.
8. They will receive in their souls a bright and constant irradiation of My Divinity, that by their likeness to My Face they shall shine with particular splendor in Heaven.
9. I will defend them, I will preserve them and I assure them of Final Perseverance.

### **Ven. Leo Dupont**

Venerable Leo Dupont was a holy French aristocrat who lived in Tours, France at the time (1844-1847) of these reported visions of Jesus and Mary to Sr. Marie. Based on these messages, Dupont began to burn a vigil lamp continuously in his house before a picture of the Holy Face of Jesus based on the painted image on the Veil of Veronica. On the morning of Holy Saturday, a woman came to visit him with an eye disorder. He encouraged her to pray before the Holy Face and to rub some of the oil from the vigil lamp on her eyes. Once she did that, she was immediately healed of all eye pain. This was the first of thousands of miracles obtained through reverence to the Holy Face, promoted by Leo Dupont. For the next thirty years (1851-81), he welcomed all the pilgrims who came to his house to venerate His Holy Face and to seek a favor from Our Lord. The miracles were so numerous that Pope Pius IX declared Leo Dupont to be perhaps one of the greatest miracle workers in Church history! After his death, his house was converted into the Oratory of the Holy Face which is still active today.

In 1885, Pope Leo XIII established this special devotion as an Archconfraternity; and contrary to custom, He immediately established it for the ENTIRE WORLD. It is interesting to note that St. Therese of Lisieux was also very dedicated to this devotion, and her whole family were enrolled in the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face. This devotion prompted her to take the name, "Therese of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face."

## Blessed Maria Pierina de Micheli

About 50 years later, Jesus appeared to Blessed Maria Pierina de Micheli, the Superior in a Daughters of the Immaculate Conception community in Milan, Italy. Jesus had appeared to her previously, but on this First Friday in 1936, Jesus appeared with His Face covered in blood and He told her: *"I wish that my Face, which reflects the intimate sorrow of my soul, and the suffering and love of my Heart, be better honored. He who contemplates me consoles me."* At later visions, Jesus said: *"Each time my Face is contemplated I will pour my love into hearts and through my Holy Face the salvation of many souls will be obtained"* and *"Perhaps some souls fear that the devotion to my Holy Face may diminish that to my Sacred Heart. Tell them that, on the contrary, it will complete and increase it. Contemplating my Face, souls will share my sorrows and will feel the need for love and reparation. Is this not the true devotion to my Heart?"*

In further visions, Blessed Maria Pierina de Micheli (1890-1945) was asked to make a medal bearing the Holy Face of Jesus. One side has the image of the Holy Shroud of Turin and the words "Illumina Domine Vultum Tuum Super Nos" (May the light of your Face, O Lord, shine upon us). On the other side is an image of the sacred host, and the letters IHS and "Mane Nobiscum Domine" (Stay with us, O Lord). She also reported Jesus' desire of a special feast day on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday each year (Shrove Tuesday), to be preceded by a 9-day novena of prayer. In 1958, Pope Pius XII approved the devotion and medal, and declared the feast of the Holy Face of Jesus for all Roman Catholics to be the day before Ash Wednesday.



The medal became famous for the wonderful graces, conversions and cures associated with its use. The Blessed Virgin Mary told Blessed Maria Pierina that the medal is *"a weapon for defense, a shield for courage, a token of love & mercy in these troubled days of lust, evil, loss of faith and hatred for God and for His Church."* Mary also said anyone who makes *"a visit to the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday in reparation for the outrages that the Holy Face of my Son Jesus received during His Passion and is still receiving in the Holy Eucharist every day: will be strengthened in the Faith, and will be made ready to defend it; will overcome all difficulties, internal and external; and they will have a peaceful death under the loving gaze of my Divine Son."*

An 20th century Italian priest, St. Gaetana Catanoso (1879-1963), was an ardent devotee of the Holy Face of Jesus, and he said: *"If we wish to adore the real Face of Jesus, we can find it in the divine Eucharist, where with the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the Face of Our Lord is hidden under the white veil of the Host."*

# Prayers of the Holy Face Devotion

## The Golden Arrow Prayer

May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most mysterious and unutterable Name of God be always praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified in heaven, on earth and under the earth, by all the creatures of God, and by the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the most Holy Sacrament of the altar.

Eternal Father, we offer You the Holy Face of Jesus, covered with blood, sweat, dust and spittle, in reparation for the crimes of communists, blasphemers, and for the profaners of the Holy Name and of the Holy Day. Amen.



Many artists have tried to capture the Holy Face of Jesus, but there are two sources that are believed to show His true face.

(1) The Shroud of Turin is a centuries-old linen cloth that bears the negative image (front & back) of a crucified man, and is believed to be the burial cloth of Jesus.

(2) The original Divine Mercy Image was based on St. Faustina's vision of Jesus in 1931 and painted by Eugeniusz Kazimirowski in 1934.

In 1996, a photographer accidentally placed the image of the Shroud on top of the original Divine Mercy image and discovered an almost perfect match between the two faces, as seen in this composite.

## PRAYERS OF REPARATION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

*as requested by Our Lord Jesus Christ. These prayers are to be said on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, and preferably before the Blessed Sacrament or before the picture of the Holy Face.*

Dear Lord, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, I (we) offer You these prayers in reparation for the sins which offend God the most in these modern times--the sins of blasphemy and the profanation of Sunday and Your Holy Days of Obligation.

Pray: 1 Our Father... 1 Hail Mary... 1 Glory Be...

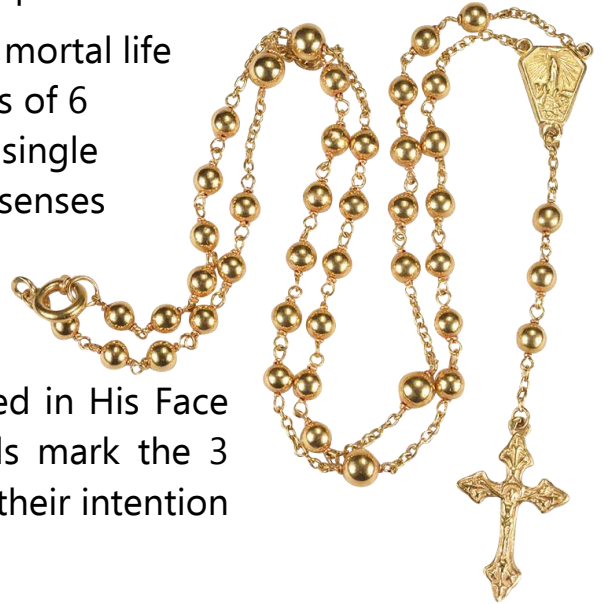
# The Holy Face Chaplet

The Holy Face Chaplet is composed of a cross and 39 beads.

The Cross calls to mind the mystery of our Redemption.

The 33 small beads represent the 33 years of the mortal life of our Lord. The first 30 beads (divided into 5 sets of 6 beads) recall the 30 years of His hidden life. The single bead before each set of 6 (total of 5) honors the senses of touch, hearing, sight, smell, and taste of Jesus.

Since these senses were situated principally in His Holy Face, we render reparative homage for all the sufferings which Our Lord has endured in His Face through each of these senses. The last 3 beads mark the 3 years of the public life of Our Lord, and have for their intention to honor all the wounds of His adorable Face.



In October 1845, Jesus said to Sister Mary of St. Peter:

*I have taken upon My Head all the sins of mankind so that My Members may be spared. Therefore, offer My Face to My Eternal Father for this is the means by which to appease Him. ... The mouth of this Holy Face represents the Divine Word, begotten of the Father, the two eyes of this adorable Face are the symbol of the reciprocal love of the Father and the Son, for these two eyes possess only one light, and one identical knowledge between them both, and they produce the one same love, which represents the Holy Ghost.*



## ***The Sign of the Cross***

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## ***On the Crucifix***

Eternal Father I offer You the cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ and all the other instruments of His Holy Passion, that You may put division in the camp of Your enemies; for as Your Beloved Son has said, "A kingdom divided against itself shall fall."

## ***On the medal, say the "Golden Arrow" prayer:***

May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most mysterious and unutterable Name of God be always praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified in heaven, on earth and under the earth, by all the creatures of God, and by the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the most Holy Sacrament of the altar.



# The Holy Face Chaplet (con't)

## Prayers for the 5 sets of beads

### 1. Meditate on Jesus' sense of TOUCH

How often do we read in the gospels of Jesus reaching out and touching people, especially those whom others backed away from? His touch was healing and comforting, but He was not given the same comfort during His Passion. His entire body recoiled from the awful pain that was reflected in His Face, which was spat upon, disfigured by blows, and pierced with a crown of thorns. Whenever we blaspheme the Holy Name of Jesus or God, we are spitting in His Face, and when we allow evil thoughts to dwell in our minds, we are a thorn piercing the Head of Jesus. Let us instead caress His Face with holy thoughts and words of praise, especially using the words He gave us in this devotion.

*On the single large bead, say:* My Jesus, mercy. Glory be....

*On the 6 small beads, say:* Arise, O Lord, and let Thy enemies be scattered, and let all that hate Thee flee from Thy Face.

### 2. Meditate on Jesus' sense of HEARING

Several times throughout the gospel accounts, we hear Jesus say, "Let anyone with ears to hear, listen!" When we listen attentively, we can hear God's voice. During His Passion, Jesus heard many things – the sounds of despair from the weeping women, mockery from the Roman soldiers, insults and jeers from the Pharisees and other bystanders. But He also heard the sound of repentance and hope from the thief on the cross. Jesus said that whatever we do to others, we do to Him (Matthew 25:31-46), so think about what others may hear from our lips. Do we gossip, fling insults, use swear words, or even blaspheme God? Or do we compliment people, offer them comforting words, and praise our Lord and Creator? We should also learn to close our ears and spend time with the Lord in silence, so He can then speak to us!

*On the single large bead, say:* My Jesus, mercy. Glory be....

*On the 6 small beads, say:* Arise, O Lord, and let Thy enemies be scattered, and let all that hate Thee flee from Thy Face.

### 3. Meditate on Jesus' sense of SIGHT

In Matthew 6:22, Jesus says, "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness." Blood and sweat ran down the Holy Face of Jesus, stinging His eyes and causing His vision to blur. Yet through His Passion, Jesus was still able to look into the eyes of His Mother, to see and comfort the weeping women, and to see the spectators at the foot of the cross, some jeering and some weeping. Even today, Jesus sees and comforts those who are doing His Will and possibly suffering because of it, but He also sees and weeps for all those who ignore or even mock Him. We must ask God to open our eyes to those around us, especially if they need our help, and to guard our eyesight, particularly when it comes to impure or demonic images.

*On the single large bead, say:* My Jesus, mercy. Glory be....

*On the 6 small beads, say:* Arise, O Lord, and let Thy enemies be scattered, and let all that hate Thee flee from Thy Face.

#### **4. Meditate on Jesus' sense of SMELL**

The sense of smell has always been important to the people of God, because it can often awaken deep emotions or recall a powerful memory. In both the Old and New Testament, incense and fragrant herbs and oil were often used for worship and anointing. Those who have encountered the devil report a smell of sulfur or rotten eggs, while in contrast, many saints have exuded a fragrant, sweet scent, either before or after death. Therefore, it is quite possible that in addition to the natural earthly smells at the time, Jesus also sensed rotten, sulfuric smells as the demons surrounded Him during His Passion. Let us make sure that we offer up to Jesus the sweet smells of our prayers and sacrifices, and not the rotten smell of our sins.

***On the single large bead, say:*** My Jesus, mercy. Glory be....

***On the 6 small beads, say:*** Arise, O Lord, and let Thy enemies be scattered, and let all that hate Thee flee from Thy Face.

#### **5. Meditate on Jesus' sense of TASTE**

Psalm 34:8 encourages us to "Taste and see that the Lord is good..." but how do we do that? As Catholics, we are blessed to have the Holy Eucharist in which we can physically taste and consume Jesus, Our Lord. But during His Passion, Jesus could only taste bitterness. His mouth was parched and swollen, and they gave Him bitter wine to drink, which He rejected. The words which come out of our mouth can also be bitter or sweet – do we blaspheme and insult Our Lord and other people, or do we praise God and uplift others with our words? "Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good" (1 Peter 2:2-3).

***On the single large bead, say:*** My Jesus, mercy. Glory be....

***On the 6 small beads, say:*** Arise, O Lord, and let Thy enemies be scattered, and let all that hate Thee flee from Thy Face.



***On the final 3 beads, say:***

1. May God arise and let His enemies be scattered and let those who hate Him flee before His Face!
2. May the thrice Holy Name of God overthrow all their plans! May the Holy Name of the Living God split them up by disagreements! May the terrible Name of the God of Eternity stamp out all their godlessness!
- Lord, I do not desire the death of the sinner, but that he be converted and live. "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

***In Conclusion, say:***

Eternal Father, we offer You the Holy Face of Jesus, covered with blood, sweat, dust and spittle, in reparation for the crimes of communists, blasphemers, and for the profaners of the Holy Name and of the Holy Day. Amen.



# LITANY OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

*(composed by Sister Mary St. Peter)*

- I salute Thee, I adore Thee and I love Thee, O adorable Face of Jesus, my Beloved, noble Seal of the Divinity! Outraged anew by blasphemers. I offer Thee, through the heart of Thy blessed Mother, the worship of all the Angels and Saints, most humbly beseeching Thee to repair and renew in me and in all men Thine Image disfigured by sin.
- O adorable Face which was adored, with profound respect, by Mary and Joseph when they saw Thee for the first time, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which ravished with joy, in the stable of Bethlehem, the Angels, the shepherds and the magi, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which transpierced with a dart of love in the Temple, the saintly old man Simeon and the prophetess Anna, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which filled with admiration the Doctors of the Law when Thou appeared in the Temple at the age of twelve years, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which possesses beauty always ancient and always new, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which is the masterpiece of the Holy Ghost, in which the Eternal Father is well pleased, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which is the ineffable mirror of the divine perfections, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face of Jesus which was so mercifully bowed down on the Cross, on the day of Thy Passion, for the salvation of the world! Once more today in pity bend down towards us poor sinners. Cast upon us a glance of compassion and give us Thy peace.
- O adorable Face which became brilliant like the sun and radiant with glory, on the Mountain of Tabor, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which wept and was troubled at the tomb of Lazarus, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which was rendered sad at the sight of Jerusalem, and shed tears on that ungrateful city, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which was bowed down to the ground in the Garden of Olives, and covered with confusion for our sins, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which was covered with the sweat of blood, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which was struck by a vile servant, covered with a veil of shame, and profaned by the sacrilegious hands of Thine enemies, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which by Its divine glance, wounded the heart of St. Peter with a dart of sorrow and love, have mercy on us, Be merciful to us, O my God!
- Do not reject our prayers, when in the midst of our afflictions, we call upon Thy Holy Name and seek with love and confidence Thine adorable Face.
- O adorable Face which was washed and anointed by Mary and the holy women and covered with a shroud, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which was all resplendent with glory and beauty on the day of the Resurrection, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which is hidden in the Eucharist, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which will make sinners tremble, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which will fill the just with joy for all eternity, have mercy on us,
- O Lord, show us Thy Face, and we shall be saved!
- O Lord, show us Thy Face, and we shall be saved!
- O Lord, show us Thy Face, and we shall be saved!
- O adorable Face which will appear at the end of time in the clouds with great power and great majesty, have mercy on us,
- O adorable Face which merits all our reverence, our homage and our adoration, have mercy on us.

## Prayer to Offer the Holy Face of Jesus to God the Father, to Appease His Justice and Draw Down Mercy Upon Us

Almighty and Eternal Father, since it has pleased Our Divine Savior to reveal to mankind in modern times the power residing in His Holy Face, we now avail ourselves of this Treasure in our great need. Since our Savior Himself promised that by offering to You His Holy Face disfigured in the Passion we can procure the settlement of all the affairs of our household, and that nothing whatsoever will be refused to us, we come before Your throne.

Eternal Father, turn away Your angry gaze from our guilty people whose face has become unsightly in Your eyes. Look instead upon the Face of Your Beloved Son; for this is the Face of Him in whom You are well pleased. We now offer You His Holy Face covered with blood, sweat, dust, spittle and shame, in reparation for the worst crimes of our age, which are atheism, blasphemy, and the desecration of Your holy days. We thus hope to appease Your anger justly provoked against us. The All-Merciful Advocate opens His mouth to plead our cause; listen to His cries, behold His tears, O God, and through the merits of His Holy Face hearken to Him when He intercedes for us poor miserable sinners.

### Prayer to the Holy Face

*composed by Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face*

O adorable face of Jesus, sole beauty which ravishes my heart, vouchsafe to impress on my soul Your divine likeness so that it may not be possible for You to look at Your spouse without beholding Yourself! O my Beloved, for love of You I am content not to see here on earth the sweetness of Your glance, nor to feel the ineffable kiss of Your sacred lips, but I beg of You to inflame me with Your love so that it may consume me quickly and that soon I may behold Your glorious countenance in heaven.

O Jesus, who in Thy bitter Passion didst become “the most abject of men, a man of sorrows,” I venerate Thy Sacred Face whereon there once did shine the beauty and sweetness of the Godhead; but now it has become for me as if it were the face of a leper! Nevertheless, under those disfigured features, I recognize Thy infinite Love and I am consumed with the desire to love Thee and make Thee loved by all men.

The tears which well up abundantly in Thy sacred eyes appear to me as so many precious pearls that I love to gather up, in order to purchase the souls of poor sinners by means of their infinite value. O Jesus, whose adorable face ravishes my heart, I implore Thee to fix deep within me Thy divine image and to set me on fire with Thy Love, that I may be found worthy to come to the contemplation of Thy glorious Face in Heaven. Amen.

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