

Devotions to the Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary



The Virgin of the Immaculate Conception

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Caption: *The Immaculate Conception* was painted by the Spanish artist Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (b. 1617, Sevilla, d. 1682, Sevilla in 2015).

The dogma of the "Immaculate Conception" arose in the fifth Century, but remained optional until the 17th Century. Around the time of Murillo's birth the doctrine was elevated to an absolute level, much to the delight of Spaniards who were well-known for their devotion to the Marian cult.

According to the Catholic doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, the Virgin was already free from the original sin, that applied to all the descendants of Adam and Eve, at the moment she was conceived by her parents. This became official dogma in 1854 but was widely accepted long before, especially in 17th-century Counter Reformation Spain.

The image of a virgin whose triumph over sin is acknowledged by the cosmos in the form of a crown of stars, an aura of golden light from the sun, and the moon for a footrest is from the Book of Revelation.

At Mary's feet, Cherubim hold a proclamation of the uniqueness of her freedom from sin taken from the story of the Old Testament heroine Esther (15): "for this law does not apply to you but for all others."

Many artists in Murillo's native Seville specialized in the Immaculate Conception, but none equaled him in giving pictorial form to the Virgin's purity through the delicate use of color and light.

(See the back cover for more information about Murillo's work and life.)

# FORWARD

This Little Office conveys the structure of an office only in outline. Even among the Little Offices, it is only an attenuation. Nevertheless, it was graced with many indulgences in the old *Raccolta*. It affords the faithful an opportunity to cultivate special devotion to the Immaculate Conception of our Lady by stopping every three hours of the day just briefly, in the way we stop thrice a day to say the Angelus. Hence it is especially suited for the laic. Some may not have the time or opportunity to follow this devotion on certain days. Therefore, I have provided a very brief substitute for it on the last page of this document. It consists of just the Collect from this Office plus the treble invocation to the Immaculate Conception. This substitute might be said just once a day.

Those who have a special devotion to the Immaculate Conception will want to say it daily (or at least on Saturdays) throughout the year. For others, this Office is recommended at special times, such as on Saturdays during Marian months. In particular, it may be said daily during the Octave of the Immaculate Conception; that is, each day from 8<sup>th</sup> December to and including 15<sup>th</sup> December. Another plan for those who have less time for this devotion is to pray it on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (8<sup>th</sup> December) and/or on the Saturday in the Octave, and then, by way of substitution, to pray the very brief devotion once a day on the other days in the Octave. (Again, I have provided the text for the substitution on the last page of this document.)

The traditional intention for this devotion is to cultivate purity of soul and body by appealing to the Immaculate Conception of our Lady, the very figure of purity among God's creatures, to supplicate for us.

There is no Office of Lauds for this devotion. Matins is properly said at midnight but may be transferred so that it is prayed upon rising, followed shortly or immediately by Prime. The proper hour for Prime is 6.00 a.m.; for Terce, 9.00 a.m.; for Sext, noon; for None, 3.00 p.m.; for Vespers, 6.00 p.m.; for Compline, 9.00 p.m. If any *Hora* be missed, it may simply be said prior to and with the next Hour. The first and last Hours (Matins and Compline) each open with an additional versicle and response; and a Commendation is said at the end of the day after Compline.

# LITTLE OFFICE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

## —MATINS—

Come, my lips, and wide proclaim  
The Blessèd Virgin's spotless fame.

☩. O Lady, make speed to befriend me.

☩. From the hands of the enemy, mightily defend me.

☩. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

☩. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

Alleluia [*from Septuagesima to Easter, replace this Alleluia with this:*  
Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.]

### *Hymn*

Hail, Queen of the heavens!  
Hail, Mistress of earth!  
Hail, Virgin most pure,  
Of immaculate birth!

Clear star of the morning,  
In beauty enshrined!  
O Lady, make speed  
To the help of mankind.

Thee God in the depth  
Of eternity chose;  
And formed thee all fair,  
As His glorious spouse;

And called thee His Word's  
Own mother to be,  
By whom He created  
The earth, sky and sea.

Amen.

☩. God elected her, and pre-elected her.

℞. He made her to dwell in His tabernacle.

☩. O Lady, hear my prayer.

℞. And let my cry come unto thee.

*Collect of the Immaculate Conception:*

*Let us pray.*

Holy Mary, Queen of Heaven, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and Mistress of the world, who forsakest no one and despisest no one, look upon me, O Lady, with an eye of pity, and entreat for me of thy beloved Son the forgiveness of all my sins, that, as I now celebrate with devout affection thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, so hereafter, I may receive the prize of eternal blessedness by the grace of Him, Whom thou, a virgin, didst bring forth, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth in perfect Trinity, God, world without end. Amen.

☩. O Lady, hear my prayer.

℞. And let my cry come unto thee.

☩. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. Thanks be to God.

☩. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

℞. Amen.

℣. O Lady, make speed to befriend me.

℞. From the hands of the enemy, mightily defend me.

℣. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

℞. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

Alleluia [*from Septuagesima to Easter, replace this Alleluia with this:*  
Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.]

*Hymn*

Hail, Virgin most wise!  
Hail, Deity's shrine!  
With seven fair pillars,  
And table divine!

Preserved from the guilt,  
Which has come on us all!  
Exempt, in the womb,  
From the taint of the fall!

O new star of Jacob!  
Of angels the Queen!  
O gate of the saints!  
O mother of men!

To Zabulon fearful  
As th'embattled array!  
Be thou of the faithful  
The refuge and stay.

Amen.

☩. The Lord Himself created her in the Holy Ghost.

℞. And poured her out among all His works.

☩. O Lady, hear my prayer.

℞. And let my cry come unto thee.

*Collect of the Immaculate Conception:*

*Let us pray.*

Holy Mary, Queen of Heaven, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and Mistress of the world, who forsakest no one and despisest no one, look upon me, O Lady, with an eye of pity, and entreat for me of thy beloved Son the forgiveness of all my sins, that, as I now celebrate with devout affection thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, so hereafter, I may receive the prize of eternal blessedness by the grace of Him, Whom thou, a virgin, didst bring forth, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth in perfect Trinity, God, world without end. Amen.

☩. O Lady, hear my prayer.

℞. And let my cry come unto thee.

☩. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. Thanks be to God.

☩. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

℞. Amen.

—TERCE—

☩. O Lady, make speed to befriend me.

℞. From the hands of the enemy, mightily defend me.

☩. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

℞. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

Alleluia [*from Septuagesima to Easter, replace this Alleluia with this:*  
Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.]

*Hymn*

Hail, Solomon's throne!  
Pure ark of the law!  
Fair rainbow! and bush,  
Which the Patriarch saw.

Hail Gedeon's fleece!  
Hail, blossoming rod!  
Samson's sweet honeycomb!  
Portal of God!

Well fitting it was,  
That a Son so divine  
Should preserve from all touch  
Of original sin,

Nor suffer by smallest  
Defect to be stained  
That mother, whom He  
For Himself had ordained.

Amen.



☩. I dwell in the highest.

℞. And my throne is on the pillar of the clouds.

☩. O Lady, hear my prayer.

℞. And let my cry come unto thee.

*Collect of the Immaculate Conception:*

*Let us pray.*

Holy Mary, Queen of Heaven, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and Mistress of the world, who forsakest no one and despisest no one, look upon me, O Lady, with an eye of pity, and entreat for me of thy beloved Son the forgiveness of all my sins, that, as I now celebrate with devout affection thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, so hereafter, I may receive the prize of eternal blessedness by the grace of Him, Whom thou, a virgin, didst bring forth, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth in perfect Trinity, God, world without end. Amen.

☩. O Lady, hear my prayer.

℞. And let my cry come unto thee.

☩. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. Thanks be to God.

☩. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

℞. Amen.

☩. O Lady, make speed to befriend me.

℞. From the hands of the enemy, mightily defend me.

☩. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

℞. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

Alleluia [*from Septuagesima to Easter, replace this Alleluia with this:*  
Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.]

*Hymn*

Hail, virginal mother!  
Hail, purity's cell!  
Fair shrine, where the Trinity  
Loveth to dwell!

Hail, guardian of pleasure!  
Celestial balm!  
Cedar of chastity!  
Martyrdom's palm:

Thou land set apart  
From uses profane!  
And free from the curse  
Which in Adam began!

Thou city of God!  
Thou gate of the east!  
In thee is all grace,  
O joy of the blest!

Amen.

☩. As the lily among thorns.

☩. So is my beloved among the daughters of Adam.

☩. O Lady, hear my prayer.

☩. And let my cry come unto thee.

*Collect of the Immaculate Conception:*

*Let us pray.*

Holy Mary, Queen of Heaven, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and Mistress of the world, who forsakest no one and despisest no one, look upon me, O Lady, with an eye of pity, and entreat for me of thy beloved Son the forgiveness of all my sins, that, as I now celebrate with devout affection thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, so hereafter, I may receive the prize of eternal blessedness by the grace of Him, Whom thou, a virgin, didst bring forth, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth in perfect Trinity, God, world without end. Amen.

☩. O Lady, hear my prayer.

☩. And let my cry come unto thee.

☩. Let us bless the Lord.

☩. Thanks be to God.

☩. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

☩. Amen.

☩. O Lady, make speed to befriend me.

☩. From the hands of the enemy, mightily defend me.

☩. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

☩. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

Alleluia [*from Septuagesima to Easter, replace this Alleluia with this:*  
raise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.]

*Hymn*

Hail, city of refuge!  
Hail, David's high tower!  
With battlement crowned  
And girded with power

Filled at thy Conception  
With love and with light!  
The dragon by thee  
Was shorn of his might.

O woman most valiant!  
O Judith thrice blest!  
As David was nursed  
In fair Abisag's breast;

As the saviour of Egypt  
Upon Rachel's knee;  
So the world's great Redeemer  
Was cherished by thee.

Amen.

☩. Thou art all fair, my beloved.

℞. And the original stain was never in thee.

☩. O Lady, hear my prayer.

℞. And let my cry come unto thee.

*Collect of the Immaculate Conception:*

*Let us pray.*

Holy Mary, Queen of Heaven, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and Mistress of the world, who forsakest no one and despisest no one, look upon me, O Lady, with an eye of pity, and entreat for me of thy beloved Son the forgiveness of all my sins, that, as I now celebrate with devout affection thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, so hereafter, I may receive the prize of eternal blessedness by the grace of Him, Whom thou, a virgin, didst bring forth, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth in perfect Trinity, God, world without end. Amen.

☩. O Lady, hear my prayer.

℞. And let my cry come unto thee.

☩. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. Thanks be to God.

☩. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

℞. Amen.

—VESPERS—

℣. O Lady, make speed to befriend me.

℞. From the hands of the enemy, mightily defend me.

℣. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

℞. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

Alleluia [*from Septuagesima to Easter, replace this Alleluia with this:*  
Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.]

*Hymn*

Hail, dial of Achaz!  
On thee the true Sun  
Told backward the course  
Which from old He had run!

And, that man might be raised,  
Submitting to shame,  
A little more low  
Than the angels became.

Thou, rapt in the blaze  
Of His infinite light,  
Dost shine as the morn  
On the confines of night;

As the moon on the lost  
Through obscurity dawns;  
The serpent's destroyer!  
A lily 'mid thorns!

Amen.

☩. I made an unfailing light to arise in Heaven.

℞. And as a mist, I overspread the whole earth.

☩. O Lady, hear my prayer.

℞. And let my cry come unto thee.

*Collect of the Immaculate Conception:*

*Let us pray.*

Holy Mary, Queen of Heaven, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and Mistress of the world, who forsakest no one and despisest no one, look upon me, O Lady, with an eye of pity, and entreat for me of thy beloved Son the forgiveness of all my sins, that, as I now celebrate with devout affection thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, so hereafter, I may receive the prize of eternal blessedness by the grace of Him, Whom thou, a virgin, didst bring forth, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth in perfect Trinity, God, world without end. Amen.

☩. O Lady, hear my prayer.

℞. And let my cry come unto thee.

☩. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. Thanks be to God.

☩. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

℞. Amen.

—COMPLINE—

✠. May Jesus Christ, thy Son, appeased by thy prayers, O Lady,  
convert our hearts.

✠. And turn away His anger from us.

✠. O Lady, make speed to befriend me.

✠. From the hands of the enemy, mightily defend me.

✠. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

✠. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

Alleluia [*from Septuagesima to Easter, replace this Alleluia with this:*  
Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.]

*Hymn*

Hail, Mother most pure!  
Hail, Virgin renowned!  
Hail, Queen with the stars,  
As a diadem, crowned.

Above all the angels  
In glory untold,  
Standing next to the King  
In a vesture of gold!

O Mother of Mercy!  
O star of the wave!  
O hope of the guilty!  
O light of the grave!

Through these may we come  
To the haven of rest;  
And see Heaven's King  
In the courts of the blest!

Amen.



☩. Thy name, O Mary, is as oil poured out.

℞. Thy servants have loved thee exceedingly.

☩. O Lady, hear my prayer.

℞. And let my cry come unto thee.

*Collect of the Immaculate Conception:*

*Let us pray.*

Holy Mary, Queen of Heaven, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and Mistress of the world, who forsakest no one and despisest no one, look upon me, O Lady, with an eye of pity, and entreat for me of thy belovèd Son the forgiveness of all my sins, that, as I now celebrate with devout affection thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, so hereafter, I may receive the prize of eternal blessedness by the grace of Him, Whom thou, a virgin, didst bring forth, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth in perfect Trinity, God, world without end.

Amen.

☩. O Lady, hear my prayer.

℞. And let my cry come unto thee.

☩. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. Thanks be to God.

☩. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

℞. Amen.

### THE COMMENDATION

These praises and prayers  
I lay at thy feet,  
O Virgin of virgins!  
O Mary most sweet!

Be thou my true guide  
Through this pilgrimage here;  
And stand by my side  
When death draweth near.

Amen.

℞. Thanks be to God.

## SHORTER DEVOTION TO BE PRAYED ONCE A DAY

For those who might find this exercise to be too onerous or too time-consuming, it is possible to pray just once each day in the Octave of the Immaculate Conception the following Collect of the Immaculate Conception, followed by the treble invocation to our Lady under this same title. The text to be prayed is given hereunder in bold type:

**Holy Mary, Queen of Heaven, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and Mistress of the world, who forsakest no one and despisest no one, look upon me, O Lady, with an eye of pity, and entreat for me of thy belovèd Son the forgiveness of all my sins, that, as I now celebrate with devout affection thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, so hereafter, I may receive the prize of eternal blessedness by the grace of Him, Whom thou, a virgin, didst bring forth, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth in perfect Trinity, God, world without end. Amen.**

**O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us.**

**O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us.**

**O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.**

Notice that the Collect of this devotion concentrates on asking our Lady to pray for us to be pure. Purification from sin is the chief purpose of devotion to the Immaculate Conception. If we are pure of sin, we become fit suppliants to pray for other urgent causes.

### The Chaplet of the Immaculate Conception



## THE CROWN OF THE TWELVE STARS or 'ROSARY' OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The following form of prayer is known popularly as a 'little psalter'. This one is part of the devotions proper to our Lady under the title of the Immaculate Conception. For that reason, one of its titles is *The Rosary of the Immaculate Conception*, where the noun *Rosary* bears the wider meaning of a spiritual rose garden, a reference to general devotion to our Lady.

The Crown of the Twelve Stars, like the Litany and the Little Office and the Chaplet of the Immaculate Conception, is especially appropriate to use during the Vigil, Feast and Octave of the Immaculate Conception. The Octave begins on the feastday and ends on 15<sup>th</sup> December. The Golden Octave which prepares us for Christmas begins on 17<sup>th</sup> December but may be anticipated to 6.00 p.m. or later on the eve of that day, so that it may be last observed on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Then follows Christmas Eve and the Twelve Days of Yuletide, with the Octave of Christmas forming the first part of that. Epiphanytide follows.

### OPENING

**V.** Let us offer praise and thanksgiving to the Most Holy Trinity, Who has shown unto us the Virgin Mary, clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and on her head, a mystic crown of twelve stars.

**R.** *Forever and ever. Amen.*

**V.** Let us praise and bless the Eternal Father for having chosen her as His daughter.

**R.** *Amen.*

One *Pater*, said by all silently.

## I

☩. Praised be the Eternal Father, Who predestined her to be the mother of His divine Son.

℞. *Amen.*

*Together:*

God hail thee, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessèd art thou amongst women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## II

☩. Praised be the Eternal Father, Who preserved her from all stain of sin in her conception.

℞. *Amen.*

*Together:*

God hail thee, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessèd art thou amongst women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## III

☩. Praised be the Eternal Father, Who adorned her at her birth with His most excellent gifts.

℞. *Amen.*

*Together:*

God hail thee, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessèd art thou amongst women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## IV

✠. Praised be the Eternal Father, Who gave her St. Joseph to be her companion and most pure spouse.

℞. *Amen.*

*Together:*

God hail thee, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessèd art thou amongst women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## V

✠. Praised be the divine Son, Who became incarnate in her womb, and there abode for nine months.

℞. *Amen.*

*Together:*

God hail thee, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessèd art thou amongst women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## VI

✠. Praised be the divine Son, Who was born of her and was nourished at her breast.

℞. *Amen.*

*Together:*

God hail thee, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessèd art thou amongst women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## VII

☩. Praised be the divine Son, Who, in His childhood,  
willed to be taught by her.

℞. *Amen.*

*Together:*

God hail thee, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessèd art thou amongst women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## VIII

☩. Praised be the divine Son, Who revealed to her  
the Mystery of the Redemption of the world.

℞. *Amen.*

*Together:*

God hail thee, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessèd art thou amongst women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## IX

☩. Praised be the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity for having  
revealed to her for the first time His Name of Holy Ghost.

℞. *Amen.*

*Together:*

God hail thee, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessèd art thou amongst women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## X

☩. Praised be the Holy Ghost, by Whose operation  
she was at once virgin and mother.

℞. *Amen.*

*Together:*

God hail thee, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessèd art thou amongst women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## XI

☩. Praised be the Holy Ghost, by Whose power  
she was the living temple of the ever-blessed Trinity.

℞. *Amen.*

*Together:*

God hail thee, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessèd art thou amongst women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## XII

☩. Praised be the Holy Ghost, by Whom she was exalted  
in Heaven above every living creature.

℞. *Amen.*

*(Together:)*

God hail thee, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessèd art thou amongst women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Let us pray.*

For the Holy Catholic Church, for the propagation of the Faith, for peace among Christian princes and for the extirpation of heresies, let us pray together the *Salve Regina*: Hail, holy Queen, &c.

# LITANY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

(Recommended by Pope Pius VI. For private use only.)

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, hear us. *Christ, graciously hear us.*

God the Father, Source of all sanctity, *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, increated sanctity, *have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Ghost, Spirit of sanctity, *have mercy on us.*

Most Sacred Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, immaculate, *pray for us.*

Virgin of virgins, immaculate, *pray for us.*

Holy Virgin, by predestination immaculate, *pray for us.*

Holy Virgin, in thy conception, immaculate, *&c.*

Holy Virgin, after thy conception, immaculate,

Daughter of the Father, immaculate,

Mother of the Son, immaculate,

Spouse of the Holy Ghost, immaculate,

Image of the Wisdom of God, immaculate,

Dawn of the Sun of Justice, immaculate,

Living ark of the Body of Christ, immaculate,

Daughter of David, immaculate,

Guide to Jesus, immaculate,

Virgin, triumphing over original sin, immaculate,

Virgin, crushing the head of the serpent, immaculate,

Queen of Heaven and earth, immaculate,

Gate of the Heavenly Jerusalem, immaculate,

Dispenser of graces, immaculate,

Spouse of St. Joseph, immaculate,

Star of the world, immaculate,

Impregnable tower of the Church Militant, immaculate,

Rose amid thorns, immaculate,

Olive of the fields, immaculate,

Model of all perfections, immaculate,

Cause of our hope, immaculate,

Pillar of our faith, immaculate,

Source of divine love, immaculate,



Sure sign of our salvation, immaculate,  
Rule of perfect obedience, immaculate,  
Pattern of holy poverty, immaculate,  
School of devotion, immaculate,  
Abode of chaste modesty, immaculate,  
Anchor of our salvation, immaculate,  
Light of Angels, immaculate,  
Crown of Patriarchs, immaculate,  
Glory of Prophets, immaculate,  
Lady and Mistress of Apostles, immaculate,  
Support of Martyrs, immaculate,  
Strength of Confessors, immaculate,  
Diadem of Virgins, immaculate,  
Splendour of all Saints, immaculate,  
Sanctity of all Christians, immaculate,  
Companion of devout souls, immaculate,  
Joy of those who hope in thee, immaculate,  
Health of the sick, immaculate,  
Advocate of sinners, immaculate,  
Terror of heretics, immaculate,  
Protectress of all mankind, immaculate,  
Patroness of those who honour thee, immaculate,

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, *spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,  
*graciously hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, *have mercy on us.*

✠. In thy Conception, O Virgin Mary, thou wast immaculate.

✠. Pray for us to the Father, Whose Son Jesus,  
conceived of the Holy Ghost, thou didst bring forth.

*Let us pray.*

O Almighty and Eternal God, Who didst prepare for Thy Son a worthy habitation, by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; we beseech Thee, that, as Thou didst preserve her from every stain of sin, through the merits of the pre-ordained atonement of Jesus Christ, so Thou wouldst grant, that we also may come without spot to Thee. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **THE CHAPLET OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

The Chaplet of the Immaculate Conception is prayed especially to obtain purity of soul and body. It was devised by St. John Berchmanns, S.J. It consists of a circlet of beads to which a short pendant is attached at a centrepiece medal on the circlet. The circlet consists of the same centrepiece, three groups of four joined or small beads and two larger or separated beads. The centrepiece and larger or separated beads separate each set of four beads from the other two sets of four beads. All the beads on the Chaplet should be white, the colour of our Lady's spotless purity. The pendant terminates in the Miraculous Medal, which is separated from the centrepiece by a single white (larger) bead. The obverse of the medal depicts our Lady standing in an oval around which is written "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee". The reverse side depicts a Marian monogram in which the letter *M* supports a cross at centre. Images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary stand under the monogram. The whole is surrounded by an oval of twelve stars. The centrepiece depicts the same figures on each of its faces.

There are three groups of beads, one to represent each Person of the Blessed Trinity, for our Lady is specially connected to each of Them. Each group consists of four beads because four is the number of our Lady (as the first being in rank after the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity). The small or joined beads number twelve in all, calling to mind the holy apostles. The total number of beads is fifteen, remembrancing the Fifteen Mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

St. John Berchmanns prayed this Chaplet daily that, through the intercession of our Lady, he would have the grace never to commit any sin against the virtue of purity.

For those who do not wish to pray this devotion daily, it could be followed according to some other programme, such as daily or on Saturdays (our Lady's weekday) during the month of December (the month dedicated the Immaculate Conception), or on Saturdays throughout the year, or every day in the Octave of the Immaculate Conception (8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December inclusive).

## HOW TO PRAY THIS CHAPLET

*Following is a slightly modified formula for this Chaplet, the alterations (here additions) pertaining only to its close.*

Kiss the medal.

On the medal, it is traditional to make the *Signum Crucis*. Some might prefer to do this first and then to say the standard invitory on the medal:

“*V̄*. O God, ✠ come to my assistance. *R̄*. O Lord, make haste to help me.”

The intention is always the same: that our Lady pray that God give unto me the grace never to commit a sin against the virtue of purity. To this, however, may be added other intentions.

First Quartet: In Honour of our Lady as the Second Eve, the faithful daughter of God the Almighty Father.

Say on the pendant bead, “Blessed be the Holy and Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary”, followed by one *Pater* on the same bead. Now say an *Ave* on each of the four joined or smaller beads. Say a Glory at the end of the last of these *Aves*.

Second Quartet: In Honour of our Lady as the Mother of God Himself, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Same prayers on the second set of beads.

Third Quartet: In Honour of our Lady as the spouse of God the Holy Ghost, the divine Love which relates the Father to the Son.

Same prayers on the third set of beads.

To close, on the centrepiece, say “O Mary conceived without sin, pray for me/us”. On the pendant bead, say this again. On the medal, say “O Mary conceived without sin, pray for me/us who have recourse to thee”.

## About Bartolomé Esteban Murillo's Work and Life

Murillo was born to Gaspar Esteban and María Pérez Murillo. He may have been born in Seville or in Pilas, a smaller Andalusian town.<sup>[1]</sup> It is clear that he was baptized in Seville in 1618, the youngest son in a family of fourteen. His father was a barber and surgeon. His parents died when Murillo was still very young, and the artist was largely brought up by his aunt and uncle.

His was a very pure life, and perfectly happy, all spent within that one Sevillian horizon which the artist never wished to change for any other.

His pre-eminence as, superlatively, the painter of the Immaculate Conception seems to have been foreshadowed in the circumstances of his birth. At Seville, in 1617, the dogma of the Immaculate Conception was solemnly promulgated for Spain; and this splendid celebration took place in Murillo's native city only a few months before his birth. The mere theological dogma of the Immaculate Conception — exemption from the original taint — necessarily eluded all material representation: the equivalent chosen was the theme of the Assumption. The body is seen exempt from all the laws of gravitation. Murillo has treated this theme more than twenty times, without repeating himself or ever wearying: six versions at Madrid, six others at Seville, the famous Louvre picture (dated 1678), and still others scattered over Europe — all these did not exhaust the painter's enthusiasm or his power of expressing apotheosis.



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For information or comments please send an email to [UVVIA.NL@shaw.ca](mailto:UVVIA.NL@shaw.ca)