

# St. John's Newsletter



If you get to Mass early enough to join in the Rosary, you may have noticed that the leader starts the Rosary with the Angelus prayer. While the Angelus devotion may not be well known in the 21st century, this very old prayer deserves a comeback.

In general we know that praying the Angelus was a practice that formed as an offshoot of the Liturgy of the Hours (daily prayers of the religious). The roots of the devotion can be traced back to the 600s.

After evening vespers, monks would pray three Hail Marys and meditate on the mystery of the Incarnation. That practice of reciting three Hail Marys grew into a larger devotion of praying the Angelus in the evening, then in later years at dawn, and then finally at midday.

The belfries of local churches and monasteries would ring the bells three times at 6:00 a.m., noon, and 6:00 p.m. to call all people nearby to stop everything and **pray together** the Angelus. In recent years the prayer has seen greater attention through the Sunday Angelus address by popes, but since Vatican II it has fallen out of practice.

While we don't hear the church bells, it would be feasible to set an alarm to remind us to pray together.



## The Angelus

The Angelus is an oil painting by French painter Jean-François Millet, completed between 1857 and 1859. The painting depicts two peasants bowing in a field over a basket of potatoes to say a prayer, the Angelus, that together with the ringing of the bell from the church on the horizon marks the end of a day's work.

Online Sources;

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/angelus>

<https://theangelusprayer.com/angelus-prayer-history/>

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/9f/ea/a2/9feaa290da7043e86fe0722ca9707221.jpg>

Volume 14 -February 2023 -- St. John's Newsletter is a once-a-month publication aimed at providing you with items of interest about our Catholic faith. If there is a topic you are interested in, please contact the parish office and we will try to address it in future issues. – Submitted by Mary Jo Peters

## The Angelus

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.

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Learn more at [TheAngelusPrayer.com](https://TheAngelusPrayer.com) or get  
the book *Praying the Angelus* by Jared Dees.