


The Eucharist and the Rosary.

The Joyful Mysteries.

Third Mystery.—The Nativity of Our Lord.

Communion.

HE first joy-note that rang out over our fallen earth was the harmonious message of the angels: "*Evangelizo vobis gaudium magnum*". When this sinful world of ours was silent and without welcome for the newborn King, the heavens were moved in their glorious mansions. If every door in the city of David was shut against Jesus, the gates of the Celestial City were opened wide and the sweet voices of angels bade Him welcome. "*Gloria in Excelsis Deo.*"

And we see the full development of this joy in the cave of Bethlehem. The unaccountable smiles of babyhood light up the Infant's face and pass on to charm the hearts of the few of earth's faithful who are grouped there around Him. The joy passes on to Mary, to Joseph, to the shepherds, to the magi. They are all happy, contemplating the frail form of the Son of God clothed there in human flesh before them. One look from His dear eyes,—one smile from His dimpled lips brings Heaven into their hearts, as there they stand, their tired foreheads leaning against the wood-work of the manger where He lies. They watch every movement of the little Almighty Hands, kissing them softly and reverently; and as their great love grew greater, daring to press their lips to the noble little brow where the Eternal Wisdom was planning out the sinful, sleeping world's redemption!

"Oh! to have been there!" we cry, in the longing of our hearts to see the Babe, but, when we come to realize