



BEADS OF GLASS

A Rosary Haiku Sequence

by Johnny Baranski

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The Catholic Rosary begins with the Apostles Creed, followed by one Our Father, three Hail Mary, and a Glory Be. Next comes five mysteries, each consisting of one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's, and a Glory Be. There are four sets of five mysteries : Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious. Joyful mysteries: The Annunciation (The Angel Gabriel tells Mary she shall bear the Son of God), The Visitation (Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth who is pregnant with John The Baptist), The Nativity, The Presentation (Joseph and Mary present Jesus in the temple where Simeon predicts Christ's death and resurrection), and The Finding of The Child Jesus in the Temple teaching the Rabbis. Luminous Mysteries: John's Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, The Wedding at Cana (at which Jesus turns water into wine, His first public miracle), The Proclamation of The Kingdom (Jesus establishes his church), The Transfiguration (The Glory of God shining in Christ's face), and The Institution of the Sacrament of The Eucharist. Sorrowful Mysteries: The Agony in The Garden (Christ sweats water and blood while praying the night before His execution), The Scourging at The Pillar, Christ is crowned with thorns and mocked, Jesus carries his cross, and The Crucifixion. Glorious Mysteries: The Resurrection, Christ's Ascension into Heaven, The Descent of The Holy Spirit (His disciples given the gift of tongues), The Assumption (of Mary bodily into Heaven), and Mary's Coronation as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

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for Carlos

Joyful Mysteries

western meadowlark without warning she announces 'i'm pregnant'

convict's daughter sweet and short her visitation

silent night born homeless this poem too

ikebana the presentation perfect until a sneeze

about his father's work he forgets to call home amber alert

Luminous Mysteries

in the hearth reborn fallen eucalyptus

summer sunset the wine red sea

praying mantis upon this rock he builds his church

transfiguration ten thousand hiroshimas

this is my body this is my blood mosquito

Sorrowful Mysteries

pulling one weed after another agony in the garden

everybody's whipping boy the fat kid

crown of thorns the choir a little off key

hillside pilgrimage her knees my lungs crosses to bear

plum-colored sky billie holiday sings 'strange fruit'

Glorious Mysteries

echoes my thirst cricket in the empty cup

ascension thursday consumed by clouds

gift of the spirit in tongues speak waterfalls

honeysuckle moon coltrane uplifts me body and soul

mystical rose a crown of twelve stars virgo

