



THE COAT OF ARMS OF  
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
OF OUR LADY OF VICTORIES



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# THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF VICTORIES JERSEY CITY

## Blason

*Azure*, afloat a base barrires wavy of seven *Argent* and *Azure* is a galleass *Or* sailing towards the Dexter side, its two triangular sails of the second are unfurled, the main mast is surmounted by a pennon *Gules* charged with a cross of the second; on Dexter Chief a radiant sun of the third charged with a crowned monogram of the Blessed Virgin of the first.

## Marian Symbols

The color blue (*Azure*), and the monogram of the Blessed Virgin Maria charged on the radiant sun refer to the Holy Mother of God in her title of Our Lady of Victories.

## Christian Warship

The galleass (a type of Christian warship used during the 16th and 17th centuries) floating on wavy bars recalls the Battle of Lepanto that took place on 7 October 1571. It was a decisive battle between the naval forces of the Muslim Ottoman Empire and the Holy League (a coalition of Catholic states arranged by Pope Pius V), during which the Catholic naval power inflicted a major defeat on the fleet of the Ottoman Empire in the Gulf of Patras. This aftermath of the battle stopped the Muslim expansion in Europe.

The Holy League credited the victory to the Virgin Mary, whose intercession they implored through the praying of the Rosary. To commemorate the triumph of the Catholic League, Pope Pius V instituted the Feast of Our Lady of Victories, "*in memory and in perpetual gratitude of the miraculous victory that the Lord gave to his Christian people that day against the Turkish armada*" (cf. Fray Juan Lopez, O.P., *Libro en que se trata de la importancia y ejercicio del santo rosario*, Zaragoza: 1584, Domingo Portonariis y Ursino). At present, the feast is celebrated in the Catholic Church as the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (cf. Alban Butler, *Butler's Lives of the Saints*: 1999, p. 222).

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