

The Rosary of Our Blessed Mother:

The Rosary Prayers are powerful and efficacious in seeking Christ and as weapons against evil. The very power of the words themselves can lead those who feel weak in their prayer life toward a deeper relationship with Jesus, through his Blessed Mother (who always and only points the way to Him), by creating a general mood, and an attitude and posture of prayer, through which their open spirits can learn from the Holy Spirit.

The Rosary is a prayer taken directly from Holy Scripture, with the first part of the Hail Mary taken from the words of the Archangel Gabriel, who called Mary "Full of Grace," and the second part from the lips of Mary's cousin Elizabeth, who exclaimed, "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb!" The Holy Catholic Rosary is the life and ministry of Jesus, given to us by the Virgin Mary herself for meditation and prayer in an orderly, reverential manner, whereby we learn who Jesus is.

The Rosary IS not a mantra, nor a good luck charm, nor a magic spell, or to be worn as ornamentation. To pray the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a sweet chain linking us to God!

"The Rosary is my favorite prayer...The simple prayer of the Rosary marks the rhythm of human life."

John Paul II

"Love the Madonna and pray the rosary, for Her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today."

Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

"There is no problem, either material or moral, national or international, that cannot be solved effectively by the Rosary and by our sacrifices."

Sr. Lucia of Fatima



<http://www.viarosa.com/Rosary/HowToPray.html>

The Memorare

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

<http://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/memorare.html>

The Rosary:

The rosary beads are arranged as follows:

At the bottom, or beginning, is the Crucifix, a representation of our Lord Jesus on the Cross, dying for us so that we are redeemed from sin and death.

The crucifix is attached to the pendant, which contains five introductory beads, usually made with 2 large (or separate) and 3 small beads.

The pendant is joined to the 5-decade loop with a centerpiece, which typically has a depiction of the Blessed Mother (or Jesus, the Holy Spirit, a Saint, or a rose, or a combination of these). The "loop" contains five decades of the rosary, so named because they consist of ten beads each.



How to use the Rosary:

We begin the Rosary by blessing ourselves with the crucifix *and saying*

The "**Apostles' Creed**," *and then following the pendant beads above the crucifix, say*

The "**Our Father...**,"

Three "**Hail Mary...**" prayers, and

One "**Glory be to the Father...**"

We then meditate on the mysteries,

Announce the First Mystery; *on the large (separate) bead*

Then, the prayer that Jesus taught, the "Our Father..."

Next, on each of the ten smaller beads, prayerfully recite the "Hail Mary..."

Announce the next mystery at the start of each decade; for a total of 5 decades.

At the end of each decade, recite the

"Glory be to the Father".... and the "**Fatima Prayer**,"

(Note: The Gloria and Fatima Prayers fall on the space between the decade and the next mystery bead).

The Sacred Mysteries:

Are the Rosary prayers which focus on the life of Christ, taken from Scriptures; it is partly a history lesson.

The beads of the Rosary are **divided into five decades (or sections); each decade represents an event from the life of Christ.**

These five events are grouped into a set of Mysteries, that is a "truth" from the life of Christ.

There are **four sets of these "mysteries" of five events...** each focused on important part of the life of Christ.

When praying the Rosary;

each day of the week is assigned a set of the mysteries to pray for that day.

There are four sets of Mysteries on which to meditate; pray:

The Joyful Mystery, (The Joyful Mysteries on Mondays and Saturdays),

The Sorrowful Mystery, (The Sorrowful on Tuesdays and Fridays),

The Glorious Mystery, (The Glorious on Wednesdays and Sundays)

The Luminous Mystery, (The Luminous recited on Thursdays),

(The detailed prayers from scripture are listed at the end of this document)

At the end of the Rosary, on last large bead of the pendant, the centerpiece at the bottom of the rosary leading to the Crucifix again, recite to Mary the

"Hail, Holy Queen" *prayer and the closing prayer*

"O God who's only begotten son..."

How To Pray using the Rosary:

Begin with the opening **Preparatory Prayer** as follows:

O God, come to my assistance.

O Lord, make haste to help me.

+In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Take the crucifix in hand, and prayerfully recite

"The Apostle's Creed":

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary,

Suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell;

The third day, He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty;

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;

The holy Catholic Church;

The communion of saints;

The forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; And life everlasting.

Amen.

Next are the five pendant beads, and beginning with the first large bead, recite the prayer that Jesus taught us;

"Our Father":

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy Name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

On the next 3 small beads, recite once on each bead, to obtain the three theological gifts of: faith, hope and love;

"Hail Mary":

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women, and blessed 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.

And follow with the

Gloria:

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

Amen.

Fatima Prayer:

Oh My Jesus, Forgive us our sins and save us from the fires of hell, Lead all souls to heaven, especially those that are in most need of thy mercy.

Amen

Announce the First Mystery; on the large (separate) bead

Then, the prayer that Jesus taught, the "Our Father..."

Next, on each of the ten smaller beads, prayerfully recite the "Hail Mary..."

Announce the next mystery at the start of each decade; for a total of 5 decades.

At the end of each decade, recite the

"Glory be to the Father" and the "Fatima Prayer",

(Note that: The Gloria and Fatima Prayers fall on the space between the decade and the next mystery bead).

At the end of the fifth decade,

As you reach the centerpiece at the bottom of the rosary leading to the Crucifix again, recite to Mary the **"Hail, Holy Queen"** prayer:

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy! Our light, our sweetness, our hope!

To thee do we cry, poor, banished children of Eve.

To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy upon us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed Fruit of Thy Womb, Jesus;

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V: Pray for us oh Holy Mother of God

R; That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

O God whose only begotten son by his life death and resurrection, has purchased for us the reward of eternal life, grant we beech thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most Holy Rosary of The Blessed Virgin Mary, that we may immediate what they contain and obtain what through Christ our Lord.

Amen

V: And may the Divine assistance remain always with us,

R; Amen

V: May The Souls of the faithfully departed, rest in peace

R; Amen

"Immaculate and sorrowful Heart of Mary,

Pray for us."



--A Prayer for His Holiness Pope Francis--:

Lord, source of eternal life and truth; Give to your Sheppard Francis a Spirit of courage and right judgment, A spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care may he, as successor to the apostle Peter and Vicar of Christ, build your church into a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for the world.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



Say: One Our Father..., One Hail Mary... and One Glory Be...

--A Prayer to Saint Michael The Arc Angel--:

*Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*



**“Saint Rocco Our Protector,
Pray for Us.”**



+In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

The Sacred Mysteries

The Rosary prayer focuses on the life of Christ from the Scriptures...it is partly a history lesson.

The beads of the Rosary are divided into five decades (or sections);

each decade represents an event from the life of Christ.

These five events are grouped into a set of Mysteries,

that is a “truth” from the life of Christ.

There are four sets of these “mysteries” of five events each...

focused on important part of the life of Christ.

The complete Rosary consists of twenty decades

(divided into four sets of Mysteries said on specific days),

each containing 5 decades:

The four Sets of mysteries:

The Joyful Mystery, (Recited on Mondays and Saturdays),

The Sorrowful Mystery, (Recited on Tuesdays and Fridays),

The Glorious Mystery, (Recited on Wednesdays and Sundays)

The Luminous Mystery, (Recited recited on Thursdays),

(Listed next are the Mysteries, 4 different versions)

THE MYSTERIES...

The Joyful Mysteries

Prayed on Mondays and Saturdays

The events surrounding the coming of Our Lord, God made man, are a cause for intense joy. We meditate on these mysteries asking Our Lady to help us discover the secret of Christian joy — the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh.



The Annunciation of the Lord

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph.... And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" — Luke 1:26-28

The Visitation

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah.... And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb. — Luke 1:39-41

The Nativity of the Lord

And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. — Luke 2:7

The Presentation of the Lord

And when the parents brought in the child Jesus ... he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." — Luke 2:27-30

The Finding in the Temple

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed. — Luke 2:45-47

The Luminous Mysteries

Prayed on Thursdays

The public life of Our Lord reveals what the reign of God's Kingdom is like — both in the miracles He worked and in His preaching. We meditate on these mysteries asking Our Lady to help us to allow His light to shine in our darkness.



The Baptism of Jesus

And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove. — Matthew 3:16

The Wedding Feast of Cana

Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ... This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee. — John 2:4-5, 11

The Preaching of the Kingdom

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel." — Mark 1:14-15

The Transfiguration

And as [Jesus] was praying, the appearance of his countenance was altered, and his raiment became dazzling white.... And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" — Luke 9:29-35

The Institution of the Eucharist

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." — Matthew 26:26-27

The Sorrowful Mysteries

Prayed on Tuesdays and Fridays

The Passion and death of Our Lord reveal how much God loves us. We meditate on these mysteries asking Our Lady to help us comprehend this love and to experience its life-giving power.



The Agony in the Garden

And going a little farther [Jesus] fell on his face and prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt."

— Matthew 26:39

The Scourging

Then [Pilate] released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

— Matthew 27:26

The Crowning with Thorns

And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. — Matthew 27:28-29

The Carrying of the Cross

And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him.... They came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they compelled to carry his cross.

— Matthew 27:31-32

The Crucifixion

And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split. — Matthew 27:50-51

The Glorious Mysteries

Prayed on Wednesdays and Sundays

In triumph, Our Lord empowers us to follow Him courageously. We meditate on these mysteries asking Our Lady to intercede for us, that we may always keep in mind the glory of God as we seek to do His will here on earth.



The Resurrection

Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

— John 20:8

The Ascension of the Lord

He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." ... When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. — Acts 1:7-9

The Descent of the Holy Spirit

There appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. — Acts 2:3-4

The Assumption of Our Blessed Mother

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. — 1 Thessalonians 4:14

The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven

A great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. — Revelation 12:1

THE MYSTERIES...

The Joyful Mystery (Mondays, Saturdays, Sundays of Advent, and Sundays from Epiphany until Lent)



1. The Annunciation

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. And coming to Mary, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." (Lk 1:26-28)



2. The Visitation

Mary set out and traveled to the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (Lk 1:39-45)



3. The Birth of Our Lord

And Mary gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger . . . And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Lk 2:1-20)



4. The Presentation in the Temple

Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple to present him to the Lord. At the temple Simeon and Anna came forward, gave thanks to God and spoke about Jesus to all who were present. (Lk 2:22-38)



5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

The boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:41-50)

The Glorious Mystery (Wednesdays, and Sundays throughout the year)



1. The Resurrection

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. An angel appeared and said, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for He has been raised just as He said." (Mt 28:1-10)



2. The Ascension of Our Lord

As Jesus blessed them He parted from them and was taken up to heaven. (Lk 24:44-53)



3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit

Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit." (Jn 14:15-21)



4. The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven

"Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory." (from Munificentissimus Deus (1950):DS 3903)



5. The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

"We believe that the Holy Mother of God, the new Eve, Mother of the Church, continues in heaven to exercise her maternal role on behalf of the members of Christ." (from the Solemn Profession of Faith: Credo of the People of God)

The Sorrowful Mystery (Tuesdays, Fridays, and daily from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday)



1. The Agony in the Garden

Jesus went to a place called Gethsemane to pray. "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." (Mt 26:36-46)



2. The Scourging at the Pillar

The chief priests with the elders and the scribes held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, had Jesus scourged and handed him over to be crucified. (Mk 15:1-16)



3. The Crowning with Thorns

They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (Mt 27:27-31)



4. The Carrying of the Cross

Jesus, weak from being beaten, was unable to carry His cross to Golgotha alone. Simon, a man of Cyrene, helped him. (Mk 15:20-22)



5. The Crucifixion

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (Lk 23:33-46)

The Luminous Mystery (Thursdays throughout the year)



1. The Baptism in the Jordan

And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Mt. 3:17)



2. The Wedding at Cana

"Women, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." (Jn 2:1-12)



3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mk 1:15)



4. The Transfiguration

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. (Lk9:29)



5. The Institution of the Eucharist

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. (Jn 13:1)

THE MYSTERIES... (Short Version)

The Joyful Mysteries:

- (1) **The Annunciation:** The Angel Gabriel declares God's will for Mary to become the Mother of Jesus and Mary humbly and amazedly accepts that Salvation will enter the world through her body.
- (2) **The Visitation:** Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, who carries John the Baptist in her womb, who leaps for joy at the sound of Mary's voice. We see a testament that within the wombs of all women live children with very present individual souls, present before their birth.
- (3) **The Birth of Jesus:** Salvation entered the world in suffering, lived it in suffering and finished it in suffering. Suffering is the one and only thing that ALL human beings share in the world, and God chose to both share it with us, and to sanctify it by attaching it to God himself. Suffering is no longer empty and meaningless, but is purposed for the Salvation of the world.
- (4) **The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple:** Simeon proclaims the coming of the Lord. What do his ancient eyes see?
- (5) **The Finding of the boy Jesus in the Temple:** Jesus says He is about His Father's work. He has always know who He is, and yet he submits in obedience to His earthly Parent and Guardian.

The Luminous Mysteries:

- (1) **Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan:** The sky is violently rent, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus. God thunders "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased!"
- (2) **Jesus' First Miracle at the Wedding of Cana:** Jesus does His mother's bidding, and performs His first Miracle at her request, which she makes in sympathy for the humiliation of the wedding party. Do we suppose that if He listened to her then, that He later stopped honoring her requests for those humiliated and hurting in the world?
- (3) **Jesus' Proclamation of the Kingdom:** The Kingdom of God is at hand. Not always in the future, but at hand this very instant, and then, and always.
- (4) **The Transfiguration:** Jesus is revealed to Peter, James and John, with Moses the Law and Elijah the Prophet, Christ glorified above them all.
- (5) **The Institution of the Eucharist:** This *is* My Body. This *is* My Blood. Jesus said it...why do so many not believe it?

The Sorrowful Mysteries:

- (1) **The Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane:** Jesus prays to have the cup of suffering and death pass from him, but prays for his Father's will.
- (2) **The Scourging of Jesus:** Jesus is cruelly flogged, the flesh is torn from His back.
- (3) **The Crowning with Thorns:** A cruel mockery, and an irony none of His torturers know.
- (4) **Jesus Carries His Cross to Calvary:** Falling three times under the weight of the cross, looking deeply and silently into the eyes of His mother...
- (5) **Jesus Dies on the Cross:** He commends his soul to God, after giving us His mother as our own Mother

The Glorious Mysteries:

- (1) **The Resurrection of Jesus:** Why do you look for Him among the dead? He is risen!
- (2) **The Ascension into Heaven** Jesus returns to the Father, to come again as He left, in a cloud of glory!
- (3) **The Descent of the Holy Spirit:** In the upper room, after 50 days, a sound like a rushing wind, and flames on the brows of the disciples.
- (4) **The Assumption of Mary into Heaven** Jesus gives the reward to His Mother that His entire Church will later receive.
- (5) **The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven:** A woman clothed with the sun, and crowned with 12 stars.

THE MYSTERIES... (And the verses in scripture).

<i>Joyful Mysteries - Monday and Saturday</i>		
1. The Annunciation	Lk. 1:28	Humility
2. The Visitation	Lk. 1:41-2	Charity
3. The Nativity	Lk. 2:7	Poverty
4. The Presentation	Lk. 2:22	Obedience
5. The Finding in the Temple	Lk. 2:46	Piety

<i>Sorrowful Mysteries - Tuesday and Friday</i>		
1. The Agony in the Garden	Lk. 22:44-45	Contrition
2. The Scourging at the Pillar	Jn. 19:1	Purity
3. The Crowning with Thorns	Mt. 27:28-29	Courage
4. The Carrying of the Cross	Jn. 19:17	Patience
5. The Crucifixion	Lk. 23:46	Self-denial

<i>Glorious Mysteries - Wednesday and Sunday</i>		
1. The Resurrection	Mk. 16:6	Faith
2. The Ascension	Mk. 16:19	Hope
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit	Acts 2:2	Love
4. The Assumption	Judith 15:10-11	Eternal Happiness
5. The Crowning of Mary	Apoc. 12:1	Devotion to Mary

<i>Mysteries of Light - Thursday</i>		
1. Baptism in the Jordan	Mt. 3:16-17	Submission to God
2. Self-manifestation at the wedding of Cana	Jn. 2:4-6	Trust in God
3. Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with His call to conversion	Mk. 1:14-15	Commissioned by God to evangelize
4. The Transfiguration	Lk. 9:29	Divine knowledge
5. Jesus' institution of the Eucharist	Lk. 22:19-20	Intimate Communion with God

<http://www.familyrosary.org/en/TheRosary/HowToPrayTheRosary/>

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The beads of the Rosary are **divided into five decades (or sections)**;

Each decade represents an event from the life of Christ.

These five events are grouped into a set of Mysteries, that is a “truth” from the life of Christ.

The complete Rosary consists of twenty decades (divided into four sets of Mysteries said on specific days), each containing 5 decades:

The Joyful Mysteries, Prayed on Mondays and Saturdays,
 The Sorrowful Mysteries, Prayed on Tuesdays and Fridays,
 The Glorious Mysteries, Prayed on Wednesdays and Sundays
 The Luminous Mysteries, Prayed on Thursdays.

Which comprise the entire Rosary prayer. It is permissible to pray one set of Mysteries per day, consisting of five decades, or once around the rosary.