

During October, the Church celebrates the Month of the Rosary. Let us explore what the Rosary is all about.

History of the Rosary

Tradition states that Our Lady appeared to Saint Dominic in the twelfth century: Dominic was praying about the heresy that seemed to overwhelm Europe at that time. It is believed that Our Lady gave him a rosary and promised him that if he spread devotion to it, he would overcome the heresy, and his order (Dominicans) would flourish.

Around that time, religious orders would recite together the 150 Psalms at different times throughout the day, and night. Since many of the people at that time could not read, but wanted to participate in this devotion, they started to pray using 150 pebbles or a string with 150 beads or knots. As they ran their fingers over each bead or knot, they would recite an "*Our Father*" or "*Hail Mary*".

A Dominican assigned mysteries to each of the decades. These mysteries were events in the life of Jesus.

In 2002, Pope John Paul II proclaimed the next year to be the "Year of the Rosary", and added another five mysteries, the Mysteries of Light. These focused on the public life of Jesus, and the proclamation of the kingdom of God.

Each set of mysteries can be prayed on designated days, or all can be prayed. Usually the Joyful are prayed on Mondays and Thursdays, the Luminous (or Light) on Thursdays, the Sorrowful on Tuesdays and Fridays, and the Glorious on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Pope Benedict XVI said,

“When reciting the Rosary, the important and meaningful moments of salvation history are relived. The various steps of Christ's mission are traced. With Mary the heart is oriented toward the mystery of Jesus. Christ is put at the center of our life, of our time, of our city, through the contemplation and meditation of his holy mysteries of joy, light, sorrow and glory. “

Venerable Patrick Peyton was an ardent advocate of the Rosary. Father Peyton reached out to people with a call to pray and, more especially to pray as a family. “The Family that prays together stays together” and “A world at prayer is a world at peace” were two of his most famous phrases.

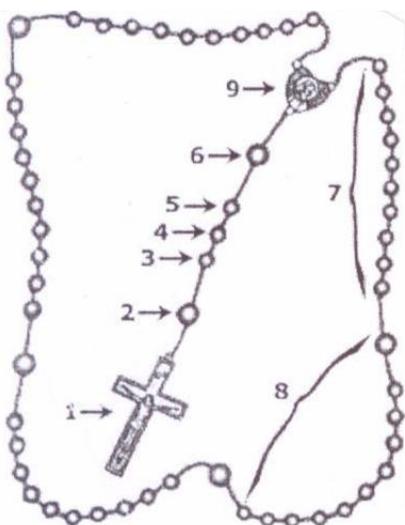
Did you know that praying the rosary in public takes years off purgatory? Check www.catholic.org for more information on indulgences.

Fifteen Promises of the Rosary

In the thirteenth century, Saint Dominic and Blessed Alan received the following promises from Our Lady for all those who faithfully pray the Rosary:

1. To all those who shall pray My Rosary devoutly, I promise My special protection and great graces.
2. Those who shall persevere in the recitation of My Rosary will receive some special grace.
3. The Rosary will be a very powerful armor against hell; it will destroy vice, deliver from sin and dispel heresy.
4. The Rosary will make virtue and good works flourish, and will obtain for souls the most abundant divine mercies. It will draw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
5. Those who trust themselves to Me through the Rosary will not perish.
6. Whoever recites My Rosary devoutly reflecting on the mysteries, shall never be overwhelmed by misfortune. He will not experience the anger of God nor will he perish by an unprovided death. The sinner will be converted; the just will persevere in grace and merit eternal life.
7. Those truly devoted to My Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
8. Those who are faithful to recite My Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the light of God and the plenitude of His graces and will share in the merits of the blessed.
9. I will deliver promptly from purgatory souls devoted to My Rosary.
10. True children of My Rosary will enjoy great glory in heaven.
11. What you shall ask through My Rosary you shall obtain.
12. To those who propagate My Rosary I promise aid in all their necessities.
13. I have obtained from My Son that all the members of the Rosary Confraternity shall have as their intercessors, in life and in death, the entire celestial court.
14. Those who recite My Rosary faithfully are my beloved children, the brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion to My Rosary is a special sign of predestination.

How to Pray the Rosary



Using rosary beads, we begin with the Sign of the Cross. (1)

On the first large bead, we pray the Apostles Creed,

Followed by one Our Father (2),

Three Hail Marys [offered for an increase in faith (3), hope (4), and charity (5)],

A Glory Be (6), and the Fatima Prayer.

Next come five mysteries (e.g. 7 & 8), each consisting of one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, a Glory Be, and the Fatima Prayer. Conclude with the Hail Holy Queen.

Apostles 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; on 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 there He will 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.

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou amongst 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.

Glory Be

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

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins and save us from the fires of Hell.
Lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.

Hail Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and 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 vale of tears.
Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus,
O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Amen.