

PRAYING THE LIFE OF CHRIST THROUGH THE ROSARY

By this prayer to Mary, the most holy Mother of God and our Mother, we help to realize the wish of the Council: "Let all faithful Christians offer urgent prayers to the Mother of God and Mother of men in order that she may intercede with her son in the communion of all the Saints, until the whole family of nations -- whether they bear the honored name of Christian or still do not know their Savior -- may be joyfully assembled into a single People of God, in peace and harmony, to the glory of the most holy and undivided Trinity." Lumen Gentium



**Let us pause and remember that we are always and everywhere in the holy presence of God. Lord as we come to You today fill our hearts and our whole beings with the wonder of Your presence.
Glory to You, Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Paraclete most Holy.
Amen.**



The name of The Rosary means "crown of roses."

Since the Rosary is composed, principally and in substance, of the prayer of Christ and the Angelic Salutation, that is, the Our Father and the Hail Mary, it was without doubt the first prayer and the principal devotion of the faithful and has been in use all through the centuries, from the time of the apostles and disciples down to the present.

It was only in the year 1214, however, that the Church received the Rosary in its present form and according to the method we use today. It was given to the Church by St. Dominic, who had received it from the Blessed Virgin as a means of converting sinners.

From the time Saint Dominic established the devotion to the holy Rosary, it has always been called the Psalter of Jesus and Mary. This is because it has the same number of Hail Marys as there are psalms in the Book of the Psalms of David. Since simple and uneducated people were not able to say the Psalms of David, the Rosary is held to be just as fruitful for them as David's Psalter is for others.

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

1. ANNUNCIATION – LUKE 1: 26–38

The angel Gabriel announced that Mary would be the Christ-bearer. Mary said: “Be it done to me according to Thy will.”

2. VISITATION – LUKE 1: 39 – 56

Elizabeth greets Mary and says:” Blessed are you among all women. Blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

3. NATIVITY – LUKE 2: 1 –20

The Virgin Mary gives birth to the Redeemer of the world.

4. PRESENTATION AT THE TEMPLE – LUKE 2: 22 –39

Mary and Joseph present the Child Jesus in the Temple

5. FINDING IN THE TEMPLE – LUKE 2: 42 – 52

Mary and Joseph find Jesus amidst the elders in the Temple

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

1. BAPTISM OF JESUS – JOHN 1: 29 – 34

The heavens open and the voice of God acknowledges that Jesus is the Beloved Son.

2. WEDDING OF CANA – JOHN 2: 1 – 11

The first of the signs or miracles of Jesus when He changes water into wine.

3. THE PROCLAMATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD – MATTHEW 4: 17

Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom and calls us to change our ways.

4. THE TRANSFIGURATION – MATTHEW 17: 1 – 8

The glory of God shines through in the face of Christ and the apostles are instructed to “listen to Him”.

5. THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST – MATTHEW 26: 26 – 30

Christ offers His Body and Blood as food under the signs of bread and wine.

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

1. AGONY OF JESUS IN THE GARDEN – LUKE 22: 39 – 44

Jesus prays that the Father’s will be done, not His as He contemplates His coming death.

2. SCOURGING OF JESUS AT PILLAR – MATTHEW 27: 26

Jesus is cruelly scourged almost unto death.

3. CROWNING WITH THORNS – MATTHEW 27: 28 – 31

A crown of thorns is placed on the head of Jesus while He is mocked by the soldiers.

4. CARRYING THE CROSS – LUKE 23: 26 – 32

Jesus carries a heavy wooden cross on the way to Calvary.

5. CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH – MATTHEW 27: 33 – 50

Jesus is stripped of His clothes, nailed to the cross and spends three hours in agony.

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

1. RESURRECTION OF JESUS – MATTHEW 28: 1 – 20

Jesus rises from the dead glorious and immortal.

2. ASCENSION OF JESUS – LUKE 24: 50 – 51

Jesus ascends into heaven and sits at the right hand of God.

3. DESCENT OF HOLY SPIRIT – ACTS 2: 24

The Holy Spirit descends upon Mary and the Apostles and gives them new life.

4. ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY – Revelations 12: 1

Mary is taken to heaven because of the great privilege she has had.

5. CORONATION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – James 1: 12

Mary is crowned as Queen of heaven and earth.

HYMN

**In the virtue and wisdom of God
and your fiat at Gabriel's word
with Joseph your most chaste spouse
you raised our Lord in love.**

**We come to you our Mother
as we respond to your Son's call
despite our frail humanity
to make disciples of all nations
and so, in glory, with shouts of joy;
Our souls magnify the Lord as we sing:**

**Oh Mary, Mother of God,
Queen of the Rosary
Help us to serve with love and zeal
after the Heart of Christ
with the virtue and wisdom of God.**

**Oh Mary, Mother of God,
Queen of the Rosary
let your faith be our way
to your Son for us and the world.**



REFLECTION: THE ROSARY IS NOT CONTRARY TO THE BIBLE

Some people do not see the point of the Rosary and others feel it is blasphemous. The very first Protestant in history, Reformation leader Martin Luther wouldn't agree with this "modern" criticism of the Rosary. He said:

"Our prayer should include the Mother of God . . . What the Hail Mary says is that all glory should be given to God, using these words: "Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus Christ. Amen!" You see that these words are not concerned with prayer but purely with giving praise and honor . . . We can use the Hail Mary as a meditation in which we recite what grace God has given her. Second, we should add a wish that everyone may know and respect her " (Personal Prayer Book, 1522).

Many people think the Rosary is "all about Mary." The Rosary is actually mostly about Jesus. Almost 90% of the Rosary is directly from the Bible. And the rest is from early Christians.

Jesus is at the Center – Here are the Main Prayers of the Rosary

*** In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost**

*** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. (Said before the Rosary)**

*** 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. (Said before each decade)**

*** 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. (Said after each decade)**

*** O my Jesus, forgive us of our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls into heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy. (Said after each decade)**

*** Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. (Luke 1:28)
Blessed art thou among women (Luke 1:41–42a, Luke 1:48),
Blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus (Luke 1:42b)
Holy Mary, Mother of God (Luke 1:43)
Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen (Luke
2:35, John 2:3–5)**

HYMN: HAIL, O STAR OF THE OCEAN (AVE MARIS STELLA)

A traditional 9th century hymn.

**Hail, O Star of the ocean, God's own Mother blest,
ever sinless Virgin, gate of heav'nly rest.**

**Taking that sweet Ave, which from Gabriel came,
peace confirm within us, changing Eve's name.**

**Break the sinners' fetters, make our blindness day,
Chase all evils from us, for all blessings pray.**

**Show thyself a Mother, may the Word divine
born for us thine Infant hear our prayers through thine.**

**Virgin all excelling, mildest of the mild,
free from guilt preserve us meek and undefiled.**

**Keep our life all spotless, make our way secure
till we find in Jesus, joy for evermore.**

**Praise to God the Father, honor to the Son,
in the Holy Spirit, be the glory one.**

Amen.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Response: MAY OUR PRAYERS RISE TO YOU, O GOD, AS AN INCENSE OFFERING.

**That we will take time daily to meditate on the life of Jesus so that we can
better model our lives on His, we pray:**

**That through the recitation of the rosary we will pray and work for peace, we
pray:**

**That the recitation of the rosary will be a means of overcoming abortion and
the lack of dignity for life, we pray:**

That we may have an openness to God as Mary did, we pray:

**That we will come to understand that all prayer is an ongoing communication
with the Lord, putting ourselves in His presence and listening to know His will
we pray:**

That we become people who pray always, we pray:

That we remember in prayer all those in need, all those who are without faith or hope or love; we remember our own personal needs as well as the needs of our church and country. we pray:



Our Lady of the Rosary

**Through thee, to us, our Savior came,
Through thee, to Him, we fain would go.
Our lives are marred by wrong and shame,
Yet, confidence in thee we know.
The friendship thou dost give to all
Who love thy name, shall ever be
Assurance thou wilt hear our call,
Sweet Lady of the Rosary!**

**Thou art our Strength upon the way,
Our Morning Star, to cheer and guide;
Our Beacon Light to show the day,
And lead us to the Savior's Side;
A Comforter in ev'ry pain
We find, O Mother blest, in thee,
And seek we, never, thee in vain,
Fair Lady of the Rosary!**

**Thy praises, Mary, we would sing,
And all our faculties employ,
That unto thee our hearts might bring
A glory-crown of love and joy.
Bless thou each humble effort made
In thy regard, and grant that we
May by thy influence be swayed,
Our Lady of the Rosary!**

**Robert, Cyril. Our Lady's Praise in Poetry.
Poughkeepsie, New York: Marist Press, 1944.**



Star of the Sea

The name Mary means star of the sea. It is, says St. Bernard, very well given to her, because she is indeed a star which enlightens, guides, and leads

us to a harbor in the stormy sea of this world.

The road you must follow through this life being so dangerous, you need a guide to walk safely. You cannot have a better guide than the most Blessed Virgin, because she is most pure within and without and because she knows all the paths and all the means to keep you safe amid the dangers you will encounter.

You have without doubt a need for light in this life, where you are always as if upon a stormy sea. In danger, in narrow and perilous paths, think of Mary, invoke her holy name; at once you will find comfort and deliverance from all your troubles.

(Meditations for Sundays and Feasts)

**Saint John Baptist de La Salle,
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
assist us in having a great devotion to Mary, the Christ-bearer.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!