



Praying the Rosary

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20

The Rosary

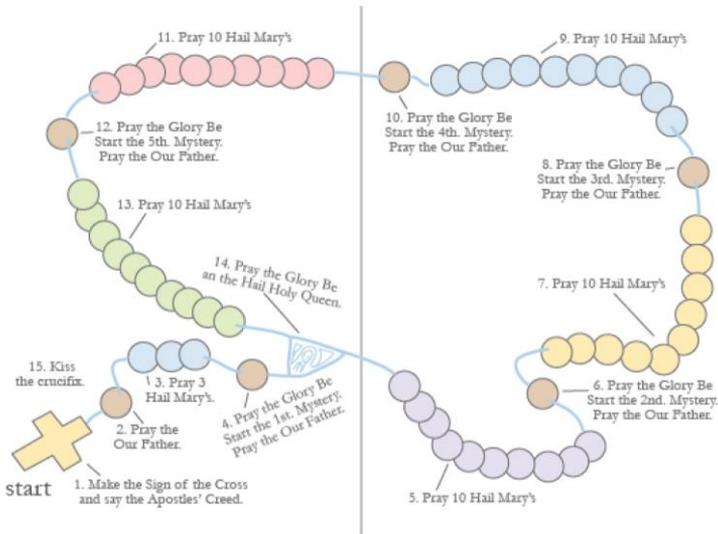
In 1917, in Fatima, Portugal, Our Lady appeared to three little shepherds named Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta. She told them not to be afraid, for she came from Heaven. Our Lady shared with them that the heart of Jesus was sad because many people were acting with hatred and pride instead of love and mercy, and they often forgot about Jesus' teachings and sacrifice. The kind little shepherds asked Our Lady what they could do to console Jesus' heart, and she called upon them to pray the Rosary and do small sacrifices consistently for world peace and for peace in every soul.

The Rosary is a special prayer that helps us meditate on important events in the life of Jesus, primarily, with the help of Mary. These events are called mysteries of the Rosary, and they are divided into four groups of mysteries: Joyful Mysteries, Luminous Mysteries, Sorrowful Mysteries, and Glorious Mysteries. Every mystery consists of praying one Our Father, ten Hail Marys and one Glory Be at the end.

After every mystery, Our Lady taught the little shepherds the following prayer:

**“O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell,
and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those
in most need of thy mercy.”**

Our Lady promised to those who pray the Rosary, to sanctify them with graces, virtues, mercy, and love from Jesus; also, to cause virtue and good works to flourish, to destroy vices, decrease sins, and give special protection, as well as the grace of final perseverance.



First, pray 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. 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.

Then, pray an Our Father, three Hail Marys, and one Glory Be for an increase in faith, hope, and charity.

The Joyful Mysteries (Monday/Saturday)

1. The Annunciation

When saying “yes” to God’s calls in our hearts, amazing things happen! Let’s thank Mary for her “yes” to the archangel Gabriel’s invitation to be the mother of God! Let’s surrender to the loving mission God has placed in our hearts!



2. The Visitation

Mary always helps where she is needed. Her cousin Elizabeth was advanced in age, and expecting Saint John. When Mary greeted her, Saint John jumped with joy inside her womb, to celebrate Jesus’ coming!



3. The Nativity

God loved us so much, that in this night full of joy and peace, our Savior Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a humble manger. The first ones to adore Jesus were faithful, good hearted shepherds led by angels, followed by the kind and persistent three Wise Men.



4. The Presentation

According to the law, Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple. There, they met Simeon, an old wise man who was faithfully awaiting the accomplishment of God’s promise in hopes of seeing and adoring the Savior.



5. Finding the Child Jesus in the Temple

The sacred family journeyed to Jerusalem when Jesus was 12 years old. On the last day, Mary and Joseph lost sight of Him, and eventually found Jesus in His Father’s house, the temple, explaining the scriptures to the wise men and priests.



The Luminous Mysteries (Thursday)

1. The Baptism of Jesus

Saint John invited people to repent and to discover the love of God. He baptized Jesus and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove, as a voice from Heaven said: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:17



2. The Wedding at Cana

At a wedding, Mary, observant of how to help, noticed that wine was scarce. She asked Jesus to intercede, and He decided to convert water into the best wine. When love in our hearts is scarce, let's turn to Jesus, who said: "Behold, I make all things new." Revelation 21:5



3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

Jesus taught that God loves us so much and, that God the Father sent him to save us. He invited to turn their hearts to God's goodness, to love one another, and to go to Heaven.



4. The Transfiguration

Jesus went up a Mountain named Tabor, with Peter, John, and James. There, He was transfigured and they saw Him as God shining with heaven's glory. Let's adore together God who is loving and almighty!



5. The Institution of the Eucharist

At the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, Jesus took the bread and wine, blessed them, and gave them to his apostles. Since then, Jesus truly visits and transforms our hearts when we receive the Holy Eucharist!



The Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday/Friday)

1. The Agony in the Garden

After the Last Supper, Jesus and his apostles went to the Mount of Olives. Before His Passion, Jesus prayed to his Heavenly Father and lovingly accepted His will by saying: “Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me; still, not my will but yours be done.” Luke 22:42



2. The Scourging at the Pillar

The soldiers apprehended Jesus and took him before Pilate. To please the crowd, Jesus was scourged and mistreated, offering it all to save us.



3. The Crowning with Thorns

Since the soldiers did not believe that Jesus was the son of God, they mocked him by placing a crown of thorns on his head, and dressing Him in a red cape. Jesus kept on suffering in silence, offering it for love.



4. The Carrying of the Cross

Jesus carried his heavy cross. He fell 3 times but always found the love and courage to get up and keep on going. Jesus encountered his mother along the way and found strength in her loving gaze. Simon of Cyrene, helped him carry his cross.



5. The Crucifixion

Jesus was crucified. In the midst of his pain, He prayed to his Heavenly Father for forgiveness, for the men did not know what they were doing. Jesus with a heart full of love, asked Mary to be our mother too, and was quick to forgive the repentant good thief. After loving us in every way possible and offering his sufferings for us, He died.



The Glorious Mysteries (Wednesday/Sunday)

1. The Resurrection

On Easter Sunday, Jesus arose triumphant and glorious. Mary Magdalene was the first one to see Him and ran to share the good news with the apostles. Jesus appeared to the apostles that same day. He's alive, alive forever and He saved us all!



2. The Ascension

Jesus appeared several times to his apostles to explain God's plan in the scriptures, to finish their spiritual training, and to remind them of their loving mission. Forty days after having risen, Jesus ascended into Heaven promising to be with us always until the end of time.



3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit

Ten days after the Ascension, the apostles and Mary were praying and the Holy Spirit came down on them in the form of tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit made them braver and wiser so they could fulfill their mission to preach Jesus' loving testimony to all the world.



4. The Assumption

Our Lady after Jesus was crucified, went to live with John. She prayed and took care of the apostles as their mother. When it was her time to go, angels came and took her to Heaven.



5. The Coronation of Our Blessed Lady

Mary was crowned in Heaven. From there, as our mother, she helps us, takes care of us, and intercedes for us, her children on earth, until Jesus calls us to Heaven.



Finally, pray the Hail, Holy Queen and Preparatory Prayer

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, 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 valley 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 clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us O Holy Mother of God; that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

O my God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech you, that by meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain, and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



“It is not how much we do, that is pleasing to God, but how much love we put into the doing.”

Saint Mother Theresa