

A GUIDE TO PRAYING THE ROSARY



THE PURPOSE OF THE ROSARY

The Rosary is a Scripture-based prayer. It begins with the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the great mysteries of the Catholic faith. The Our Father, which introduces each mystery, is from the Gospels. The first part of the Hail Mary is the angel's words announcing Christ's birth and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary.

The purpose of the Rosary is to help keep in memory certain principal events or mysteries in the history of our salvation, and to thank and praise God for them.

There are twenty mysteries reflected upon in the Rosary, and these are divided into:

- 5 Joyful Mysteries
- 5 Luminous Mysteries
- 5 Sorrowful Mysteries
- 5 Glorious Mysteries

What Are The Mysteries?

The Rosary prayer focuses on the life of Christ from the Scriptures - it is partly a history lesson. To that end, the beads of the Rosary are divided into five decades and 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.

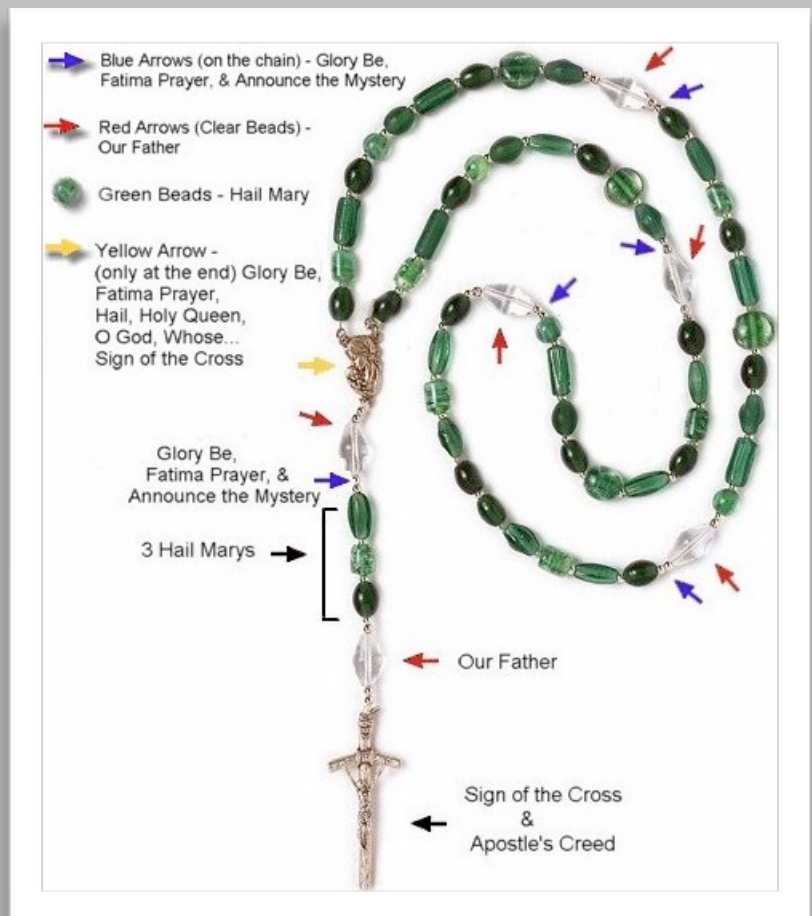
When praying the Rosary, each day of the week is assigned a set of the mysteries to pray for that day.

As suggested by St. Pope John Paul II the Joyful mysteries are said on Monday and Saturday, the Luminous on Thursday, the Sorrowful on Tuesday and Friday, and the Glorious on Wednesday and Sunday.



HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY

1. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross.
2. Holding the crucifix pray the Apostles' Creed.
3. On the first bead pray the Our Father.
4. On the next three beads pray the Hail Mary.
5. On the last bead pray the Glory Be.
6. Announce the first mystery and pray one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's, the Glory Be and The Fatima Prayer.
7. Repeat until the five decades are prayed.
8. Pray the Hail, Holy Queen.
9. Finish by making the Sign of the Cross.



THE PRAYERS OF THE ROSARY

The Sign Of The Cross

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

Apostles' Creed

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 to the dead. 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 sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

Our Father

Our Father who is in heaven, holy be your name. Your Kingdom come. Your 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 you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your 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

Fatima 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.

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you do we cry poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, O most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of your 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.

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

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)

"Mary became the Mother of the Most High, willing to be His maidservant. Because of that 'yes' spoken by Mary Most Holy, the world obtained salvation and humanity was redeemed. Let us always do God's will and always say 'yes' to the Lord." - Padre Pio

2. The Visitation

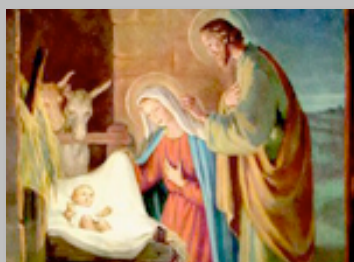
Mary set out and traveled to the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (Lk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

"May Mary guide you to heaven, the secure port of eternal salvation. May she be your gentle model and inspiration in the virtue of humility." - Padre Pio



3. The Nativity

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 of Jesus 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) "Like Mary, do your best to conform always and in everything to the will of God in all eventualities, and do not fear. This is the sure path to Heaven." - Padre Pio



5. The Finding of 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 LUMINOUS MYSTERIES



1. The Baptism of Jesus 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)

"I never cease to implore blessings for you from Jesus, and to beg the Lord to transform you totally in Him. How beautiful is His face, how sweet His eyes, and what a good thing it is to stay close to Him." - Padre Pio

2. The Wedding Feast 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)

"May the Mother of Jesus, and our Mother, always smile on you and obtain for you from her Most Holy Son, every heavenly blessing." - Padre Pio



3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom

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

"This heart of mine is Yours, my Jesus. So take this heart of mine, fill it with Your love, and then order me to do whatever You wish." - Padre Pio

4. The Transfiguration

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

"Don't tire yourself with things that cause anxieties, concerns and worries. Only one thing is necessary, to lift up your spirit and to love God." - Padre Pio



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)

"Jesus said to us, 'He who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood will have life everlasting.' So then, approach Holy Communion with holy love and fear. May the entire day be preparation and thanksgiving for Holy Communion." - Padre Pio

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES



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)

"Pray to God to console you when you feel that the weight of the Cross is becoming too burdensome, for in the garden Jesus asked His Father for some relief. But be ready to say with Jesus, 'Thy will be done!'" - Padre Pio

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)

"You are suffering, it is true, but fear not because God is with you. Do not offend Him but love Him. You suffer, but believe also that Jesus Himself suffers in you and for you." - Padre Pio



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)

"You asked if the Lord made me experience His crowning with thorns and His scourging, and how many times. My reply must be affirmative. All I can say is that this soul has suffered these things for several years, almost every week." - Padre Pio

4. The Carrying of the Cross

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

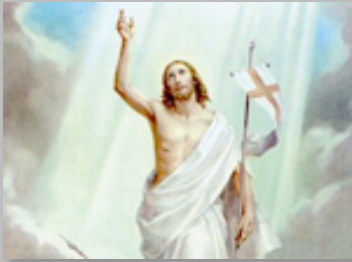
"At times Our Lord makes you feel the burden of the Cross. This burden seems intolerable to you. But carry it, because the Lord will extend His hand and give you strength." - Padre Pio



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 GLORIOUS MYSTERIES



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)

"Do not fear. Jesus is more powerful than all hell. At the invocation of His Name, every knee in heaven, on earth and in hell must bend before Jesus. This is the consolation for the good, and terror for the evil." -Padre Pio



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)

"Do not surrender your soul to temptation, says the Holy Spirit, since, the joy of the heart is the life of the soul. Sadness, however, is the slow death of the soul and serves no purpose. So have courage, fight well, and you will have the prize reserved for the strong-hearted." - Padre Pio



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)

"Jesus, reigning in heaven with the most holy humanity He had received from the womb of the Virgin, desired that His mother be reunited to Him not only with her soul, but also with her body. That body which had never been the slave of sin for one instant, was not to be a slave of deterioration either." -Padre Pio



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)

"Let us trust in Jesus and our heavenly Mother, and everything will work out well." - Padre Pio