

THE ROSARY

The Rosary (from Latin *rosarium*, meaning "rose garden" or "garland of roses") is a traditional Catholic devotion and has been prayed since the thirteenth century. While meditating on the life of Jesus, one recites prayers that bring one closer to Him and to His Mother, Mary.

The Rosary is divided into five sets of prayers called decades which are said using a set of 59 beads. Each decade represents a mystery or event in the life of Jesus. Contemplating on each of these mysteries helps one develop a stronger relationship with Jesus. There are four sets of "Mysteries of the Rosary" (*Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious*). Each of these sets of Mysteries are usually said on specific days of the week (*see below*).

- One begins the Rosary with the **Sign of the Cross** and praying the **Apostles' Creed** while holding the Crucifix.
- The **Our Father** is prayed on the large bead.
- The **Hail Mary** is prayed on each of the three small beads.
- The **Glory Be** is said on the next large bead. Then one reflects on the first of five **Mysteries** and prays an **Our Father**.
- Then pray ten **Hail Marys** (called a decade) using the next ten beads.
- Then pray the **Glory Be** and the **Fatima Prayer**.
- Before each decade, announce the next Mystery followed by an **Our Father**. For each of the ten beads, pray a **Hail Mary** while meditating on the Mystery. Continue the Rosary by repeating these prayers.
- After five decades are completed, we finish the Rosary by praying the **Hail Holy Queen**, the **Concluding Prayer** and the **Sign of the Cross**.



The Family That Prays Together... Stays Together

The Family Rosary is the Rosary recited aloud together, by as many of the family and their friends as can be present. Any family (two or more people) may say the Family Rosary in any suitable place and at any time. A leader says aloud the first part of each prayer; a second person or group of persons answers aloud the second part of the prayer.

To begin the Family Rosary, all hold the Crucifix of their Rosary in the right hand and make the Sign of the Cross. The leader begins the Apostles' Creed and proceeds through the rest of the Rosary. The leader announces the Mystery before each decade. Five decades (one complete Mystery: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious or Luminous) should be recited each day.

THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

(Mondays and Saturdays, may be said on Sundays during Advent and Christmas):

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

(Tuesdays and Fridays, may be said on Sundays during Lent):

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

(Wednesdays and Sundays):

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
5. The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

(Thursdays):

1. The Baptism in the Jordan
2. The Wedding at Cana
3. Proclamation of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. Institution of the Eucharist

THE ROSARY PRAYERS

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; 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 sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence 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.

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 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 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

In June 13, 1917, Our Lady of Fatima asked that an additional prayer be added after each decade of the Rosary; It is a prayer of forgiveness to Jesus and is said following the Glory Be after each decade.

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are in most need of Thy mercy.

Hail Holy Queen

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 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.

Concluding Rosary Prayer

O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that meditating upon 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.