

PRAYERS OF THE HOLY ROSARY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Rosary: A Prayer for Everyone

The Rosary is a series of meditations on the mysteries of Jesus Christ. It is prayed by reciting certain prayers while meditating on each mystery. Both parts are integral to the prayer: the beads and vocal prayers have been compared to the body of the Rosary, while the meditations are its soul, the intangible part that makes it what it is. There is value in reciting the prayers as they express the essence of the mysteries, and the meditations are a personal appropriation of the mysteries – each person brings their own experience, thoughts, and understanding. Thus the Rosary is truly a prayer for everyone.

The Prayers of the Rosary:

Introductory Prayers:

Begin holding the Crucifix and make the Sign of the Cross:

+ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Continue with the 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 is seated
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.

The first large bead is used for an 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.

**The three small beads are for Hail Marys; one each for
the intention of increasing Faith, Hope, and Charity. Acts
of Faith, Hope, and Charity are optional after each.**

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 our death.
Amen.

Act of Faith

*O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God
in three divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
I believe that your divine Son became man
and died for our sins and that he will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe these and all the truths
which the Holy Catholic Church teaches
because you have revealed them
who are eternal truth and wisdom,
who can neither deceive nor be deceived.
In this faith I intend to live and die. Amen.*

Act of Hope

*O Lord God, I hope by your grace
for the pardon of all my sins
and after life here to gain eternal happiness
because you have promised it
who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind,
and merciful.
In this hope I intend to live and die. Amen.*

Act of Charity

*O Lord God, I love you above all things
and I love my neighbor for your sake
because you are the highest, infinite and perfect
good, worthy of all my love.
In this love I intend to live and die. Amen.*

The next large bead begins the first decade. Each decade begins with announcing the mystery for meditation, and is followed by the Our Father (large bead), ten Hail Marys (small beads), and concluded with the Glory Be. Since 1917, it has been common to say a prayer from Fatima after each decade.

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,
save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to heaven,
especially those in most need of thy mercy.

Traditional concluding prayers prayed after five decades:

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 clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of
Christ.

Let us pray:

O God, whose only-begotten Son,
by his life, death, and resurrection
has purchased us the rewards of eternal life,
grant, we beseech you, that meditating on these mysteries
in 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.

Invocations:

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.
Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

**The Rosary is always concluded with the Sign of the
Cross:**

+ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Mysteries of the Rosary:

**There are 20 mysteries of the Rosary. The usual practice
is to meditate on five mysteries each day of the week.**

Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

Monday & Saturday

1. The Annunciation of the Lord to Mary
2. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
3. The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

4. The Presentation of our Lord
5. Finding Jesus in the Temple

Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

Thursday

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

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

Tuesday & Friday

1. The Agony of Jesus in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. Jesus is Crowned with Thorns
4. Jesus Carries the Cross
5. The Crucifixion and Death of the Lord

Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

Wednesday & Sunday

1. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ
2. The Ascension of Jesus to Heaven
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
5. The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth