

# THE ROSARY

## ITS BEADS • ITS PRAYERS • ITS MYSTERIES

### JOYFUL MYSTERIES (Monday and Saturday)

- The Annunciation
- The Visitation
- The Birth of Jesus
- The Presentation
- Finding of the child Jesus in the Temple

### SORROWFUL MYSTERIES (Tuesday and Friday)

- The Agony in the Garden
- The Scourging at the Pillar
- Crowning with Thorns
- Carrying of the Cross
- The Crucifixion

### GLORIOUS MYSTERIES (Wednesday and Sunday)

- The Resurrection
- The Ascension
- Pentecost (Descent of the Holy Spirit)
- The Assumption of Mary
- The Coronation of Mary

### LUMINOUS MYSTERIES (Thursday)

- Baptism of Jesus
- Wedding at Cana
- Proclaiming the Kingdom
- Transfiguration
- Institution of the Eucharist (Last Supper)

What has 59 beads, traces its roots to 1206, and is used to recall important events and times of Jesus's life?  
(Hint: The answer is written three times on this page in big letters.)

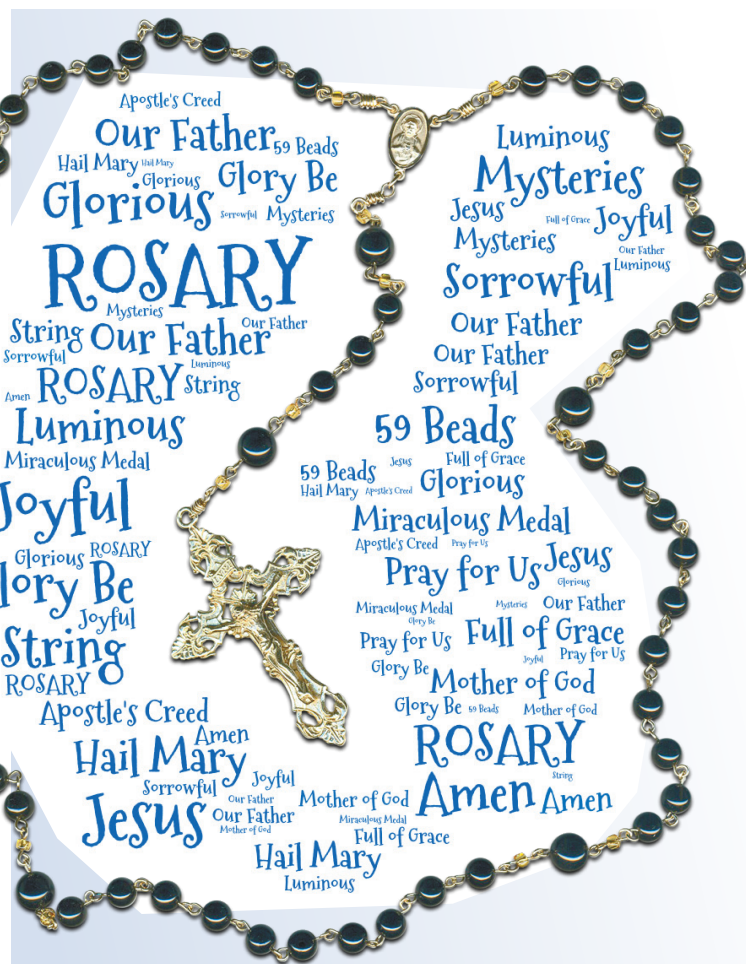
The rosary is a string of beads divided into five groups of 10 beads by one bead, with a strand of five beads and a crucifix that hangs from the bottom of it. Each bead has prayers that go along with it. Catholics begin by holding the crucifix and silently praying the Apostles' Creed, then moving onto the bead above the crucifix to say an Our Father. Each group of 10 beads is a decade, and after each decade there is a time to focus on one of four mysteries — joyful, luminous, sorrowful and glorious, that recall important moments in Jesus' life (see box at left).

When an apparition of the Virgin Mary revealed the rosary to St. Dominic Guzman in the 13th century, she made 15 promises to those who faithfully recite the prayer, including reception of special graces and her protection. The rosary would be "powerful armor" against the devil, and it could be used to destroy vice, decrease sin, and cause virtue and good works to flourish.

St. Dominic used the rosary in Europe where many Catholics were illiterate and couldn't learn about their religion through books. Today, you can continue to use the rosary, especially as a family prayer. And October is a perfect time to start. On Oct. 7, the Church celebrates the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.



Some parishes and schools create rosary gardens where markers, plants and stones are used as beads of the rosary. This way the faithful can pray and walk the rosary.



## PRAYERS OF THE ROSARY

### 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 sits 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 by 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 our death. Amen.

### GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

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.

### 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 unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

## HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY

1. While holding the crucifix, make the **sign of the cross** and then recite the **Apostles' Creed**.
2. Recite the **Our Father** on the first large bead.
3. On each of the three small beads recite a **Hail Mary** for an increase of faith, hope and charity.
4. Recite the **Glory Be to the Father** on the next large bead.
5. Recall the first rosary mystery and recite the **Our Father** on the next large bead. As a general rule, depending on the season, the joyful mysteries are said on Monday and Saturday; the sorrowful mysteries on Tuesday and Friday; the glorious on Wednesday and Sunday, and the luminous mysteries on Thursday.
6. On each of the adjacent 10 small beads (also referred to as a decade) recite a **Hail Mary** while reflecting on the mystery.
7. On the next large bead, recite the **Glory Be to the Father**.
8. Each succeeding decade is prayed in a similar manner by recalling the appropriate mystery, reciting the **Our Father**, **10 Hail Marys**, the **Glory Be to the Father**, while reflecting on the mystery.
9. When the fifth mystery is completed, the rosary is customarily concluded with the **Hail, Holy Queen**.

