

The Rosary

The Rosary is a prayer to remind us that Jesus loved us so much that he died on the cross for us.

The rosary tells the story of Jesus' life in four parts:

- The Joyful Mysteries

- The Sorrowful Mysteries

- The Glorious Mysteries

- The Luminous Mysteries

Catholics have been given a very special gift in the rosary. Each time we pray the rosary we should focus on Jesus' life as well as a special person or intention that we want to pray for.

The Rosary in History

Our Lady of Fatima

Feast Day: May 13th

Between May 13 and October 13, 1917, Our Lady appeared to three children (Lucia de Jesus, age 10, and her cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, age 9 & 7) near Fatima, Portugal. Mary asked the children to pray the rosary for world peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners and for the conversion of Russia. During the last apparition on October 13th, in the presence of about 70,000 people, the Lady told them that she was "Our Lady of the Rosary" and asked that a chapel be built in her honor on that site. After the apparition everyone present witnessed the miracle promised to the three children in July and September. The sun appeared as a disc that gave off various colors and could be looked at without difficulty, it spun like a fireball and looked as if it would fall to the earth.

Mary gave the children three secrets. Lucia, who later became a Carmelite nun, revealed the first secret in 1927, concerning devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The second secret was a vision of hell. Pope John Paul II revealed the third secret in 2000; it spoke of a 'bishop in white' who was shot by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows into him. Many people linked this to the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981. The feast of Our Lady of Fatima was approved by the local bishop in 1930; it was added to the Church's worldwide calendar in 2002. Sister Lucia died in 2005 at the age of 97.

The Rosary in History

Saint Dominic

Feast day: August 8th

Dominic was a priest who founded the Dominican order in the year 1215. The Dominican priests live very simple & prayerful lives.

Dominic received a vision from Our Lady who showed him a wreath of roses, representing the rosary. She told him to say the rosary daily, teach it to all who would listen, and eventually the true faith would win out. Dominic was one of the first people to begin to pray the rosary. He spread devotion to it and used it to strengthen his spiritual life.

The Rosary in History

Our Lady of Lourdes

Feast day: February 11th

St. Bernadette was born in Lourdes, France. Her parents were very poor and she herself was in poor health. One Thursday, February 11, 1858, when she was sent with her younger sister and a friend to gather firewood, a very beautiful Lady appeared to her above a rose bush in a grotto called Massabielle. The lovely Lady was dressed in blue and white. She smiled at Bernadette and then made the sign of the cross with a rosary of ivory and gold. Bernadette fell on her knees, took out her own rosary and began to pray the rosary. The beautiful Lady was God's Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. She appeared to Bernadette seventeen other times and spoke with her. She told Bernadette that she should pray sinners, do penance and have a chapel built there in her honor.

Many people did not believe Bernadette when she spoke of her vision. She had to suffer much. But one day Our Lady told Bernadette to dig in the mud. As she did, a spring of water began to flow. The next day it continued to grow larger and larger. Many miracles happened when people began to use this water. Through that humble girl, Mary revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized Our Lady of Lourdes for the diocese. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907.

The Joyful Mysteries

The Joyful Mysteries are about Jesus' birth and his early life.

1. **The Annunciation**- The angel Gabriel tells Mary that she will be the mother of his son.
2. **The Visitation**- Mary visits St. Elizabeth to tell her the good news.
3. **The Nativity**- Jesus is born
4. **The Presentation**- Jesus is presented in the Temple
5. **Finding in the Temple**- Jesus was lost, Mary & Joseph found him in the temple teaching about God.

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Sorrowful Mysteries teach us about the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross.

1. **Agony in the Garden-** Jesus prayed in the Garden because he was afraid and he knew he was going to die
2. **Scourging at the Pillar-** After Jesus was arrested he was tied up and whipped
3. **Crowning with Thorns-** The soldiers made a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus' head to make fun of him
4. **Carrying the Cross-** Jesus carried his cross to Calvary, he fell 3 times.
5. **The Crucifixion-** Jesus forgave all who hurt him and died with 2 thieves on the cross. He died for our sins because he loved us so much.

The Glorious Mysteries

The Glorious Mysteries tell us about Jesus' resurrection from death and the glorious life that awaits us in heaven.

1. **The Resurrection**- Jesus rose from the dead because he is God
2. **The Ascension**- Jesus returned back to his father in heaven
3. **The Descent of the Holy Spirit**- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to Mary and the Apostles
4. **The Assumption**- Mary is taken to Heaven body & soul
5. **The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**- Jesus crowns Mary queen of heaven and earth

The Luminous Mysteries

The Luminous Mysteries tell about Jesus' ministry when he went out to the people to teach them about God.

1. **The Baptism of the Lord-** John baptized Jesus in the river Jordan. God spoke and said, "This is my Son, with whom I am well pleased."
2. **The Wedding at Cana-** Jesus' first miracle, he turned water into wine
3. **The Proclamation of the Kingdom-** Jesus preaches to the crowds about the Kingdom of God
4. **The Transfiguration-** Jesus and 3 apostles go to the top of Mt. Tabor where they see Jesus shining in God's glory along with the prophets Elijah & Moses
5. **The Institution of the Eucharist-** Before he died, Jesus gave us his body & blood in the Holy Eucharist. He said, "This is my body and this is my blood."

The Joyful Mysteries

Joyful Mysteries Bible Chapters

Luke: 1 & 2, Matthew : 2

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin about to marry a man named Joseph. The virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, you who enjoy God's favor! The Lord is with you. She was troubled by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favor. You are to bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and his reign will have no end. Mary said to the angel, "But how can this come about?" The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Mary said, 'You see before you the Lord's servant, let it happen to me as you have said.' And the angel left her.

Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was with child. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.'

Now it happened that at this time Caesar Augustus demanded that a census be taken, and everyone went to be registered in their hometown. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth to David's town called Bethlehem, in order to be registered together with Mary, his wife, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds out in the fields keeping guard over their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood over them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were scared, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you news of great joy. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. All at once with the angel there was a great choir of heavenly host, praising God with the words: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace for those he favors.

After Jesus had been born some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east asking, 'Where is the infant king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' King Herod summoned the wise men and asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared and sent them on to Bethlehem with the words, 'Go and find out all about the child, and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' When they set out, suddenly the star they had seen rising went forward and halted over the place where the child was. They found the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were given a warning in a dream not to go back to King Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Joyful Mysteries



- _____ To whom did the Angel Gabriel appear?
- _____ What did the Angel tell Mary she must name her son?
- _____ What was the name of Mary's husband?
- _____ Whom did Mary go to visit?
- _____ What did Mary and Joseph use for a crib?
- _____ Where was Jesus born?
- _____ What gifts did the 3 Kings give to the Baby Jesus?
- _____ When do we celebrate Jesus' birthday?
- _____ What was the name of the town where Mary, Joseph & Jesus lived?
- _____ What sign did God give to the 3 Kings so that they could find the Baby Jesus?

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| A. Bethlehem | F. Jesus |
| B. Joseph | G. Elizabeth |
| C. A star | H. Nazareth |
| D. Gold, Frankincense &
Myrrh | I. A manger |
| E. Mary | J. Christmas |

The Sorrowful Mysteries

Sorrowful Mysteries Bible Chapters

Luke: 22 & 23

Jesus was arrested in the Garden where he went to pray with his disciples. The soldiers took Jesus to Caiaphas, the high priest. There he had a trial. The priests and rulers agreed that he was guilty of claiming to be God's son. They did not believe that he was. They agreed that he should be put to death for lying.

Under the Roman law, however, the Jewish leaders could not condemn a person to death. So the Jewish leaders took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate asked Jesus who He was. Jesus said, "I am what you say I am." Pilate could find no reason for putting Jesus to death, but after a long time, he told the Jewish rulers to do what they wanted to do with Jesus.

The soldiers made fun of Jesus. They called him a king, but they didn't believe that he was. They put a crown of thorns on his head and a staff in his hand. They put a scarlet (red) robe on him and spit on him. And they whipped him.

The soldiers took Jesus away to a hill called Golgotha or Calvary. On the way to Calvary, Jesus fell three times and Simon had to help Jesus carry his cross. When he got there they crucified him and put him to death on a wooden cross. Two robbers were crucified next to Jesus.

But even while he was on the cross, he forgave those who were crucifying him. He said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing."

It was during this time that some people came to know that he was the Son of God. One of these was a thief who was being crucified on a cross next to Jesus. Another who believed was a Roman soldier who was watching. There was a great earthquake. When the soldier heard the earthquake and saw the things that were happening, he became afraid and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" They hung a sign on Jesus' cross that said, "King of the Jews".

When Jesus died, the thick curtain that hung in the Jewish Temple was torn apart. It ripped from the top to the bottom. This curtain had separated two rooms. In one room only the high priest could go, and in the other room, others could go. When Jesus died, he made it possible for all people to go to God and worship him without anyone else in between. Jesus is now our high priest.

The Sorrowful Mysteries



- _____ How did Jesus die?
- _____ Who betrayed Jesus & how did he do it? (Luke 22: 47-49)
- _____ Why did Pilate ask Jesus who He was?
- _____ What did Jesus answer?
- _____ What is the Crown of Thorns and why did they put it on Jesus' head?
- _____ What did the crowd of people keep shouting?
- _____ When Jesus carried the cross how many times did he fall?
- _____ How many thieves were crucified with Jesus?
- _____ What did the sign on Jesus' cross say?
- _____ Where was Jesus buried?

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| A. 3 times. | F. Crucified on a cross |
| B. Crucify Him | G. A tomb in a cave |
| C. Judas, with a kiss | H. To trick Jesus |
| D. Crown made of thorns, they put it on Jesus to make fun of him | I. I am what you say I am |
| E. 2 | J. King of the Jews |

The Glorious Mysteries

The Glorious Mysteries Bible Chapters

Matthew: 28

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdalene and the other Mary went to visit the tomb of Jesus. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken by fear of him that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going ahead of you to Galilee; that is where you will see him." The women went quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. Meanwhile the eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. I will be with you always, to the end of time.

The Immaculate Conception

The **Immaculate Conception** is the conception of Mary, the mother of Jesus, without any stain of original sin in her mother's womb. From the first moment of her existence, she was preserved by God with the gift of divine grace. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, which is celebrated on December 8th, was established in 1476 by Pope Sixtus IV.

Luke 1: 26-30

And in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel being come in, said unto her: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." Who having heard, was troubled at his saying, and thought with herself what manner of greeting is this. And the angel said to her: "Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God."

The Glorious Mysteries



- _____ When do we celebrate the Resurrection?
- _____ Who discovered the tomb empty?
- _____ What was she told to do?
- _____ Who rolled back the stone from the tomb?
- _____ Before the Ascension, what did Jesus tell the disciples?
- _____ What did he promise the disciples?
- _____ Where is Jesus seated in Heaven?
- _____ Who is the Immaculate Conception?
- _____ When do we celebrate the Immaculate Conception?
- _____ What is Mary's title in Heaven?

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| A. Mary Magdalene | F. Tell the disciples that Jesus has risen |
| B. Easter | G. An Angel |
| C. Mary | H. He will be with them always |
| D. Baptize people in the
name of the Father, Son &
Holy Spirit | I. At the right hand of the Father |
| E. Queen of Heaven & Earth | J. December 8th |

The Luminous Mysteries

Luminous Mysteries Bible Chapters

Luke: 7:47-48, 9 & 22, John: 2, 20:22-23, Matthew: 3, Mark 1:15, 2:3-13

Jesus is Baptized

John the Baptist proclaimed this message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.' This was the man spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said: A voice of one that cries in the desert, 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make straight his path.' Then Jesus appeared: he came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. John tried to dissuade him, with the words, 'It is I who need baptism from you, and yet you come to me!' Then John gave in to him. When Jesus had been baptized he came up from the water, the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. Suddenly there was a voice from heaven, 'This is my Son, with whom I am well pleased.'

The Wedding at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. They ran out of wine, and the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, what do you want from me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you. There were six stone water jars standing there, each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. Then he said to them, 'Draw some out now and take it to the president of the feast.' They did this, and when the president tasted the water it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from-though the servants who had drawn the water knew-the president of the feast called the bridegroom and said, 'Everyone serves good wine first ; but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of Jesus' signs.

The Proclamation of the Kingdom

After Jesus' baptism, he went into the desert for 40 days where he was tempted by Satan. Jesus then went to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God. He told the people, "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel." He forgave many people's sins in the name of his Father and gave us the sacrament of Reconciliation. After his resurrection he appeared to his Disciples and blessed them with the gift of the Holy Spirit. He told them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven. Whose sins you retain are retained."

The Transfiguration

Jesus took Peter, John and James and went up the mountain to pray. It happened that, as he was praying, his face was changed and his clothing became sparkling white.

Suddenly there were two men talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of Jesus' passing, which was to take place in Jerusalem. Peter and the disciples were asleep, but they woke up and saw Jesus and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' As he was saying this, a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.'

The Last Supper

Jesus sent Peter and John to make the preparations for the Passover meal. They asked him, 'Where do you want us to prepare it?' He said to them, 'As you go into the city you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him into the house he enters and tell the owner of the house, "The Master says this to you: Where is the room for me to eat the Passover with my disciples?" The man will show you a large upper room furnished with couches. Make the preparations there.' They set off and found everything as he had told them and prepared the Passover.

When the time came Jesus took his place at table, the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have waited to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.' Then he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' He did the same with the cup after supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you.'

The Luminous Mysteries



- _____ Who baptized Jesus?
- _____ What was the name of the river where Jesus was baptized?
- _____ What did God say when Jesus was baptized?
- _____ What was Jesus' first miracle?
- _____ Where did it happen?
- _____ How many disciples went up on the mountain with Jesus?
- _____ Who appeared on the mountain with Jesus?
- _____ What did Jesus say about the bread?
- _____ What did Jesus say about the wine?

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| A. This is my son with whom I am well pleased. | F. John the Baptist |
| B. Moses & Elijah | G. Turned water into wine |
| C. 3 (Peter, James & John) | H. Jordan |
| D. This is my Body | I. The wedding at Cana |
| E. This is my Blood | |

Praying the Rosary

1. Hold the cross of the Rosary in your right hand and bless yourself with the Cross, saying, "In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."
2. Still holding the Cross, say, The "Apostles' Creed." I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of Heaven & Earth. I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by 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 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 the life everlasting. Amen.
3. On the first large bead after the Cross, say the Our Father; On the next three small beads, say the Hail Mary, for the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity; after the third Hail Mary, say "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."
4. Then announce the first mysteries.
Recite the "Our Father" on the large bead, followed by 10 "Hail Mary's" on the smaller beads, then say, the "Glory Be" for each decade of the Rosary. There are five decades for each Mystery.

After each Mystery, recite the "Fatima Ejaculation"

"O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell; lead all souls to Heaven especially those who are most in need of Thy Mercy."

The Joyful Mysteries:

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

The Luminous Mysteries:

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

The Sorrowful Mysteries:

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

The Glorious Mysteries:

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Coronation of B.V.M.

The Hail Holy Queen (said after the completion of the five mysteries)

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, O 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 most Holy Mother of God. 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 for us The rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that Meditating upon 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.

For the intentions of the Holy Father, recite one "Our Father," one "Hail Mary," and a "Glory Be."

In the name of The Father, and of The Son and of The Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Rosary- References

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