

OCTOBER

# The Holy Rosary

The history of the Rosary is a bit vague (unclear). This powerful set of prayers developed over the history of the entire church, and it has been through a lot of changes over the years! The word *Rosary* come from the Latin word *rosarium*, which means “rose garden.” Even the name, however, is something that developed over time.

According to tradition and an account by a fifteenth-century Dominican named Alan de la Roch, the Rosary as we know it today comes from Our Lady as given to Saint Dominic, the founder of the Order of Friars Preachers (AKA the Dominicans) in 1206.

Saint Dominic had been praying and doing severe penances because of his lack of success in combating the Albigensian heresy, also known as Catharism. Mary appeared to Saint Dominic and praised him for his brave fight against the Albigensian heretics. Our Lady gave him the Rosary and explained that it was a mighty weapon to be used to teach the people. Defeat of the Albigensians in 1213 at the Battle of Muret is traditionally attributed to the Rosary.



The Rosary has also been used at other times throughout history to spread the truth of Christ and as a successful weapon against those who would seek to destroy God’s Church. Pope Saint Pius V, also a Dominican, attributed the defeat of the Turks at the Battle of Lepanto to the Rosary, which happened on the first Sunday of October in 1571. As a result, Pope Saint Pius V ordered a commemoration (celebration) of the Rosary to be made on that day.

Another great victory over the Turks attributed to the Rosary was on August 5, 1716, when Prince Eugene of Savoy defeated them at the Battle of Peterwardein in Hungary. It was after this that Pope Clement XI extended the feast of the Rosary to the whole Church. To this day, the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary is still set on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

They mysteries of the Rosary are centered around the life of Christ: from His conception to after His Resurrection, and subsequent Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and crowning her as queen of heaven and earth. The prayers of the Rosary---mainly the Pater Noster (Our Father) and Ave Maria (Hail Mary) are Biblical. At one point in the history of the Rosary, there were hundreds of mysteries! However, over time it was set to the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious mysteries. Pope Saint John Paul II later added the Luminous mysteries (AKA the “Mysteries of Light”) with his encyclical, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* (On the Most Holy Rosary), on October 16, 2002.

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee:  
blessed art thou among women.”

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## MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

### THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

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The Annunciation  
The Visitation  
The Birth of Our Lord/The Nativity  
The Presentation of Our Lord  
The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple

### THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

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The Agony in the Garden  
The Scourging at the Pillar  
The Crowning with Thorns  
The Carrying of the Cross  
The Crucifixion and Death of Our Lord

### THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

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The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan  
The Wedding at Cana  
The Proclamation of the Kingdom  
The Transfiguration  
The Institution of the Eucharist

### THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

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The Resurrection  
The Ascension  
The Descent/Coming of the Holy Spirit  
The Assumption of our Blessed Mother into Heaven  
The Coronation of our Blessed Mother



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## How to Pray the Rosary

1. Make the Sign of the Cross and say the Apostles' Creed.
2. Say the Our Father.
3. Say three Hail Marys
4. Say the Glory be to the Father and the Fatima Prayer.
5. Announce the First Mystery; then say the Our Father.
6. Say ten Hail Marys while meditating on the Mystery.
7. Say the Glory be to the Father and the Fatima Prayer.
8. Announce the Second Mystery; then say the Our Father.
9. Say ten Hail Marys while meditating on the Mystery.
10. Say the Glory be to the Father and the Fatima Prayer.
11. Announce the Third Mystery; then say the Our Father.
12. Say ten Hail Marys while meditating on the Mystery.
13. Say the Glory be to the Father and the Fatima Prayer.
14. Announce the Fourth Mystery; then say the Our Father.
15. Say ten Hail Marys while meditating on the Mystery.
16. Say the Glory be to the Father and the Fatima Prayer.
17. Announce the Fifth Mystery; then say the Our Father.
18. Say ten Hail Marys while meditating on the Mystery.
19. Say the Glory be to the Father and the Fatima Prayer.
20. Say the Hail Holy Queen followed by

Pray for us, O 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 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.

21. Make the Sign of the Cross.

