

The History of the Rosary

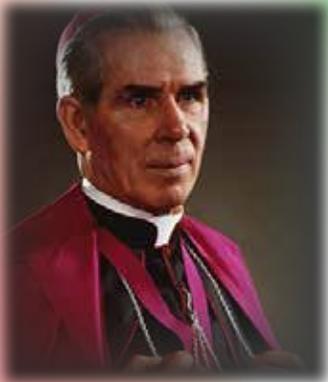
The Rosary is a mental and vocal prayer in which we meditate on the Life, Death, Passion and Glory of Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother, Mary. In 1208, Our Lady revealed the Rosary to St. Dominic. It was her wish that this devotion be spread throughout the world. In two of Mary's more recent apparitions at Lourdes and Fatima, she encouraged children to pray the Rosary and taught them its amazing power.

The format of the Rosary as we know it today evolved down through the centuries. We do know that many religions used beads as counters when reciting the same prayer many times as we do when we say the Hail Marys in the Rosary. In fact, the root of the word bead means prayer!

In medieval times a rosarium (rose garden) was used to describe a collection of similar things. Hence the collection of prayers became known as a rosarium and then later, rosary.

When we pray the Rosary, we remember 20 important events in the lives of Jesus and His mother, Mary. These events are known as mysteries, and are arranged in four groups: the Joyful, the Sorrowful, the Glorious, and, brought in by Pope John Paul II, the Luminous.

In 1951, an American Bishop Fulton J. Sheen added another dimension for reflection – The Missionary Rosary. In this Rosary, as well as think about the mysteries of Jesus' life, we pray for a different continent for each decade. Everyone needs prayers!



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, 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.

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; on 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 there 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 life everlasting. Amen.

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, and lead all souls to
Heaven, especially those who are in most need of
Thy mercy.



THE MISSIONARY ROSARY

HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION
2219 Kennedy Road
TORONTO ON
M1T 3G5
Toll Free: 1-800-897-8865
E-mail: hca@missionsocieties.ca

The Missionary Rosary is divided into 5 colours for each decade to represent the 5 continents of the World:

- **YELLOW** represents the morning light of the East, for **ASIA**.
- **GREEN** is for the forests and grasslands of **AFRICA**.
- **WHITE** symbolizes **EUROPE**, the seat of the Holy Father.
- **RED** calls to mind the fire of faith that brought missionaries to the **AMERICAS**.
- **BLUE** represents the ocean surrounding the islands of the **PACIFIC**.

HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY:

These prayers correspond to the Cross and the Beads before the first decade.

1. As we begin all prayer, we sign ourselves with Sign of the Cross.
 2. Recite the Apostles Creed.
 3. Recite the Our Father.
 4. Say Three Hail Marys (one each for faith, hope and love).
 5. Say the Glory be to the Father.
 6. First Decade:
 - Our Father,
 - 10 Hail Marys and
 - Glory be to the Father.
- Repeat the steps for the first decade as you go through the next 4 decades of the Rosary. After each decade, say the Fatima Prayer.
7. Invite children to say their own prayer to Mary.

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER.



JOYFUL MYSTERIES

1. The Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Our Lady
2. The Visitation of Our Lady to her cousin St. Elizabeth
3. The Birth of Jesus
4. The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

The Joyous Mysteries are to be said on Mondays and Saturdays.

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

1. The Agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemani
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning of Jesus with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross to Calvary
5. The Crucifixion and Death of the Lord

The Sorrowful Mysteries are to be said on Tuesdays and Fridays.

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

1. The Resurrection of Jesus
2. The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon our Lady and the Apostles
4. The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven
5. The Coronation of Our Lady in Heaven

These mysteries are to be said on Wednesdays and Sundays.

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

1. The Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan.
2. The Wedding Feast at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God.
4. The Transfiguration of Jesus
5. The Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper

These mysteries are to be said on Thursdays.

