

# OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

St. Mary Parish

October 2021

## What is the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary?

October 7 was dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary after Christians won the Battle of Lepanto over Muslim forces on this date in 1571. This naval battle ended the threat of Muslim domination of the Mediterranean. The victory at Lepanto was attributed to Mary's intercession, after people prayed the rosary.



October is dedicated to the rosary.

The Rosary can aid us in our spiritual battles. Our meditation on the life of Jesus and our seeking Mary's intercessory help can give us the courage to face our problems and our enemies—to conquer through the love of Jesus Christ! This feast reminds us to dedicate all our efforts to God—and to seek His will in humble prayer before we choose to act.

Pope Pius V began this feast in honor of Mary's intercession in 1573. The entire month of

October is dedicated to the rosary.

*In his encyclical letter on faith (Lumen Fidei), Pope Francis explains why Mary is so important to those who follow Jesus: "The Mother of Our Lord is the perfect icon of faith; as Saint Elizabeth would say: 'Blessed is she who believed.' (Lk 1:45)." The Rosary is our way of joining Mary in pondering all that she treasured*

## What is the Rosary and Why Do Catholics Pray It?

"His mother treasured all these things in her heart." This is how the Gospel of Luke describes Mary's reflection on the mystery of Jesus. The rosary is a tool that helps Christians to reflect on the life, death and resurrection of Christ. People have prayed the rosary in its present form for more than 500 years.



*Mary's joy is to point the way to her Son. This is what the Rosary is all about.*

The rosary is a form of meditative prayer that encourages us to reflect on the life of Christ from the unique perspective of His mother. We use the repetition of ancient prayers as a way to quiet and focus our mind and will on the praise of Jesus Christ. The rosary also encourages us to humbly place ourselves within the midst of Jesus' family—at prayer with His Mother, giving glory to His heavenly Father and recalling all that Jesus did to win our salvation.

The rosary uses one of the most ancient prayer forms. The religious exercise of reciting prayers while following a string of beads or a knotted cord is, in fact, widespread among the major religious groups, occurring not only in the Christian

tradition but also in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam. In the Christian church, the practice began in the early days of Christianity, apparently originating among early monks and hermits, who used a piece of heavy cord knotted at intervals as an aid to recite their shorter prayers.

The word rosary means 'crown of roses.' The symbolism stems from the custom of offering spiritual bouquets—gifts of prayers—in honor of other believers. The rose is also one of the early symbols of the Virgin Mary.

All the prayers of the rosary, as well as the 20 familiar events in the life of Jesus and Mary that serve as meditations for each decade, are found in or based on the Scriptures. In much the same way that a stained-glass window in a church invites us to dwell on God by presenting a moment in the life of Christ or a picture of a saint, the rosary uses our fingers and our lips to recall and meditate on Scripture.



### Pope John Paul II on the Rosary:

*"The simple prayer of the rosary beats the rhythm of human life."*

## St. Mary Parish

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### Rosary Resources on the Web:

[www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayers/rosary](http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayers/rosary)  
*Eternal Word Television Network web site*

[www.rosary-center.org](http://www.rosary-center.org)

*Dominican web site from Portland, OR*

[www.hcfm.org/main/rosary.php](http://www.hcfm.org/main/rosary.php)

*Holy Cross Family Ministry*

[www.wafusa.org](http://www.wafusa.org)

*World Apostolate of Fatima*

[www.eucharisticfamilyrosary.com](http://www.eucharisticfamilyrosary.com)

*recommended by Our Sunday Visitor*



*“The Church has always attributed **particular efficacy to this prayer**, entrusting to the Rosary, to its choral recitation and to its constant practice, the most difficult problems. At times when Christianity itself seemed under threat, its deliverance was attributed to the power of this prayer, and Our Lady of the Rosary was acclaimed as the one whose intercession brought salvation.*

*Today I willingly entrust to the power of this prayer ... the cause of peace in the world and the cause of the family.*

***Confidently take up the Rosary once again. Rediscover the Rosary in the light of Scripture, in harmony with the Liturgy, and in the context of your daily lives.”***

*Pope John Paul II, On the Most Holy Rosary, 2002*

***“Ask Mary to lead you to Jesus, and you will know what it is to live by His side.”***

*Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan*

***“The rosary, when it is prayed in an authentic way, not mechanically and superficially but profoundly, brings, in fact, peace and reconciliation.”***

*Pope Benedict XVI*

## *The Rosary in the Life of the Christian Family*

“The Holy Rosary, by age-old tradition, has shown itself particularly effective as a prayer which brings the family together. Individual family members, in turning their eyes toward Jesus, also regain the ability to look one another in the eye, to communicate, to show solidarity, to forgive one another and to see their covenant of love renewed in the Spirit of God.

Many of the problems facing contemporary families, *especially in economically developed societies*, result from their increasing difficulty in communicating. Families seldom manage to come together, and the rare occasions when they do are often taken up with watching television. To return to the recitation of the family Rosary means filling daily life with very different images, images of the mystery of salvation: the image of the Redeemer, the image of his most Blessed Mother. The family that recites the Rosary together reproduces something of the atmosphere of the household of Nazareth: its members place Jesus at the center, they share his joys and sorrows, they place



their needs and their plans in his hands, they draw from him the hope and the strength to go on.

To pray the Rosary *for children*, and even more, *with children*, training them from their earliest years to experience this daily ‘pause for prayer’ with the family, is admittedly not the

solution to every problem, but it is a spiritual aid which should not be underestimated. “

*Pope John Paul II, On the Most Holy Rosary, 2002*

### **Want help praying the Rosary on your Device?**

*Use the **Hallow app**—you can pray the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and access many other resources to enrich your life of prayer.*

**Other helpful resources for videos on the Rosary—**  
*Ascension Presents ([www.Ascensionpress.com](http://www.Ascensionpress.com))*  
*Word on Fire ([www.wordonfire.com](http://www.wordonfire.com))*