

October is the month of the Rosary

The feasts in October includes one of the most popular, time-honored devotion of Catholics, the devotion to the [Holy Rosary](#) – Our Lady of the Holy Rosary (October 7).



Beads and Psalms: In ancient times, beads were a tool for memorizing prayer. Monks prayed the psalms from the Bible each day and used beads to keep track of them. Many Christians wanted to continue the tradition of the monks but they could not read and some could not afford Bibles so they prayed 150 Hail Marys since there are 150 psalms in the Old Testament.

The **traditional Rosary** is divided into three parts, which tells the story of Jesus' life (see "How to Pray the Rosary" pamphlet):

- The Joyful Mystery of the Rosary = The Announcement of Jesus' arrival, Jesus' birth and Jesus' childhood
- The Sorrowful Mystery of the Rosary = Jesus' Suffering and death
- The Glorious Mystery of the Rosary = Jesus' Resurrection from death and Ascension into Heaven, and his Mother Mary's Assumption into Heaven and her Crowning as Queen of Heaven and Earth



Each Mystery consists of five mysteries, which are scripture readings from the Bible.

1 decade = 10 Hail Marys

1 rosary = x 5 Decades / 5 Mysteries

1 rosary = 50 Hail Marys

x 3 parts with 5 Mysteries each

= 150 Hail Marys in a Traditional Rosary

These prayers, together with others, are prayed from the heart while reflecting on the Scriptural mysteries of Jesus and Mary. This prayer was named the Rosary, which came from a Latin word meaning "garland of roses." Praying the rosary is like offering a bouquet of prayers to God in honor of Jesus and Mary.

In October 2002 our Holy Father John Paul II wrote the Apostolic Letter [Rosarium Virginis Mariae \(the Rosary of the Virgin Mary\)](#)." This letter introduced five new mysteries, called the Luminous or Mysteries of Light, which are

- (1) Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan,
- (2) Jesus' self-manifestation at the wedding of Cana, (3) Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with the call to conversion,
- (4) the Transfiguration, and
- (5) the Institution of the Eucharist.

Try to make a more concerted effort to pray the Rosary together as a family during the month of October, read the Apostolic Letter to understand the beauty of this devotion more deeply, and pray the new Luminous mysteries.

Saint Dominic: Tradition tells us that in the year 1214 St. Dominic received the rosary. It was given to Dominic while he was praying for the conversion of sinners. The Blessed Mother appeared to him and encouraged him to preach about the importance of praying the Rosary. Dominic did as Mary asked and he became a powerful and inspiring preacher who founded a religious order, the Dominicans, devoted to Mary and to serving the people of God. More and more people began to pray the Rosary because of the Dominicans.

Europe wins the Battle with the Turks: Another reason that the devotion of the Rosary grew in popularity happened in 1571. The Turks, who had conquered most of the world, were threatening Europe. Pope Pius V convinced Christian leaders of several European countries to form one navy to fight off the Turks. On the day of the battle, the Pope, who was a Dominican, called upon the Christians of Europe to ask Mary's help by praying the Rosary. The Christian navy won the battle and Europe was saved! The Pope dedicated the victory to our Blessed Mother Mary. Later, Pope Gregory XIII named the anniversary of the battle the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Today, October 7, Catholics still celebrate this feast in Mary's honor.

Our Lady of Lourdes: In 1858 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared eighteen times to Saint Bernadette, a humble peasant girl, at Lourdes in France. Mary said the Rosary with Bernadette and asked her to tell the people to do penance for their sins and to pray. Many miracles still take place at Lourdes where people say the Rosary to obtain help from the Blessed Virgin.



Our Lady of Fatima: On May 13, 1917, the Blessed Virgin appeared to three little shepherd children at Fatima in Portugal. Their names were Lucy, Jacinta and Francisco. The Blessed Virgin Mary asked them to there on the thirteenth day of each month until October. On October 13, 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary again appeared to the children of Fatima and told them, "I am the Lady of the Rosary. I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins. People must not continue to offend our Lord. They must say the Rosary."

Information from Resources for Christian Living and "Prayer of the Heart" book by Father Bob Wright, Apostolate of the Word, Sacred Heart League and "The Holy Rosary" book by Fr. Lovasik, S.V.D. Divine Word Missionary