

Praying the Rosary

**With Scriptural Reflections
and Prayers**

Featuring the words of Christ in red

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The Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary

“To recite the rosary is nothing other than to contemplate the face of Christ with Mary.”

Saint John Paul II

In his letter “Rosarium Virginis Mariae” October 16, 2002, Saint John Paul II expressed his esteem for a method of praying that has nourished the faith of generations of Christians. Saint John Paul II called on Catholics, and other Christians as well, to pray the rosary and enter “the school of Mary,” who knew Jesus Christ so well as his mother and who was his closest disciple.

Though it is not mandatory, Saint John Paul II also suggested that five mysteries be added to the traditional fifteen. He called them “Luminous Mysteries,” or the Mysteries of Light, which include the mysteries of Christ’s public ministry between his Baptism and his Passion. While leaving the use of these mysteries “to the freedom of individuals and communities,” Saint John Paul II suggested that they could help make the prayer more deeply centered in the life of Christ.

This book includes the Luminous Mysteries, taken from a period of Jesus’ life

PRAYERS OF THE ROSARY

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, † and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. 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 the 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.

The Our Father

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.



FIRST JOYFUL MYSTERY

The Annunciation

The Angel Gabriel said: "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will conceive and bear a son, and you shall call him Jesus."

LUKE 1: 30-31 (NAB)

Meditation

Nor was Mary afraid to do God's will. The angel left her, but she was not afraid, even as she faced Joseph's initial doubt, even though she did not fully understand it all. She trusted even through the birth in a poor stable, through the silent years at Nazareth, the mysterious years of Jesus' ministry and the darkest hours of His passion and death.

Mary believed God's purpose for her, even though she did not always understand.

Shall we not say too: "We are your servants, O Lord?" Shall we not say with Mary, "Be it done to me according to your word?"

One Our Father, ten Hail Marys and one Glory Be to the Father.

THIRD LUMINOUS MYSTERY

The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the Good News about the Kingdom, and healing people who had all kinds of disease and sickness.

MARK 4: 23 (NAB)

Meditation

After his Baptism in the Jordan, Jesus left the quiet safety of Nazareth to preach the Good News about the Kingdom. Crowds surrounded him as he went through Galilee, and he lifted their hearts with his words.

“A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.” John 10: 11-15 (NAB)

“This, then, is what I command you: love one another.” This was his great commandment.

One Our Father, ten Hail Marys and one Glory Be to the Father.