

# Mary and the History of The Rosary

'The Rosary is my favourite prayer'. St. Pope John Paul II

'The greatest method of praying is to pray the Rosary'. Saint Francis de Sales

**"All families need God.** Every single one. We need His help, His strength, His blessing, His mercy and His forgiveness. It takes simplicity. To pray as a family, simplicity is needed....

As a family, you can pray the 'Our Father' around the dinner table. That's not difficult to do, it's easy. Praying the rosary together, as a family is very beautiful and it gives strength. Also praying for one another: A husband for his wife and a wife for her husband. Parents praying for their children and children for their parents and grandparents. Praying for one another."

- POPE FRANCIS



## Mary, The Mother of God

Jesus, our Lord and God, is our only Saviour. He is the one who brings peace, heals our wounds and brings us life. However, when He was dying on the cross, He must have had a reason to entrust His Mother, Mary, to John and John to Mary. In this way, Jesus wanted to let us know that He wants Mary to be our mother. Jesus wants us to entrust everything to Him through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Mary, The Mother of God, is our Mother. Through her intercession and blessing we are granted many graces and gifts, as she is the chosen one through whom God brought the Light to the world. Mary's deepest wish is to protect us and draw us closer to God.

Jesus knows well that true devotion to His Mother leads souls to Him. As Pope Paul VI wrote in his encyclical celebrating the centenary of the apparitions at Lourdes:

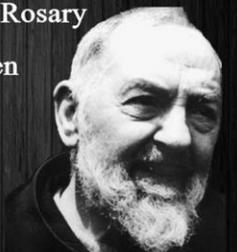
*"Everything in Mary leads us toward her Son, our only Saviour, by whose foreseen merits she was preserved immaculate and full of grace; everything in Mary lifts up our hearts to the praise of the Holy Trinity."*

The Church sees Mary, then, not as the goal, but as the guide, who always leads souls who honour her with true devotion - to her Son, especially to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. When we pray to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for help in time of need, she in turn points to the Tabernacle, to Him who is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life," and has a way of conveying to us what she said to the steward at Cana: "Do whatever he tells you." (Jn.2:5)

Love our Lady  
& make her loved

Always recite the Rosary  
and recite it as often  
as possible.

- St. Pio of Pietrelcina





**1). SET THE STAGE:** Find a crucifix or statue of Our Lady and place in a prominent spot in your living room. Set up a candle or two and a small vase of flowers (*real or silk*) to give a calm, restful and reverent feel to your “prayer place” or in May, create a little May Altar to Our Lady. You will be amazed at how this ambience will affect the children. They will sense that something special happens here!

**2). CARVE OUT SOME TIME:** Most parents report that the end of the day is best. All the chores are done, the kids are in their pajamas and everyone is ready to “call it a day.” But by spending 15 minutes saying the Family Rosary, you will transform your ordinary day into a precious bouquet of love for Our Lady.

**3). ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION:** One way to keep their little wandering minds engaged is to assign a different mystery to each child. “Joan, will you please lead the third glorious mystery?” There’s nothing like a “pop quiz” to keep them on their toes! Many children actually enjoy the sense of responsibility this entails; it is an honour to lead the rosary.

**4). HAVE A “PLAN B”:** Stuff happens: especially in a family! So, have a contingency plan and you will never miss your chance to pray your rosary. For example, if you are going for a drive with the children in tow, go ahead! Pray your rosary in the car. (*they can’t squabble as much if they’re praying, right?*) With enough consistency, the day just won’t feel complete without your family rosary!

**5). ORA ET LABORA:** “Pray and work” This is the ancient Benedictine motto and it works for families, too. So, the dishes aren’t done (*but you are!*) and the laundry still needs folding. With gentle music to set the tone, assign one person as “leader.” The rest of the family can pray the rosary while doing what needs to be done to maintain your busy household. Our Lady is a mother; she understands!

**Enjoy it – it’s a blessing, not a chore!**

## The Rosary

The Rosary is a prayer that the Church received in 1214 by St. Dominic, who had received it from the Blessed Virgin as a means of converting the Albigensians and others.

Mary has appeared to several people over hundreds of years, every time asking them to pray the rosary, and promising her special protection and the greatest graces.

The word Rosary means “Crown of Roses”. Our Lady has revealed that each time we say a Hail Mary, we are giving her a beautiful rose, and that each complete Rosary makes her a crown of roses. The rose is the queen of flowers, and so the Rosary is the rose of all devotions, and it is, therefore, the most important one.

The Holy Rosary is considered a perfect prayer because within it lies the awesome story of our salvation. With the Rosary, we meditate on the mysteries of Joy, Sorrow, Light, and the Glory of Jesus and Mary. It’s a simple prayer, and it can seem a repetitive one, but instead it is like two sweethearts who many times say to one another the words: “I love you”. With each “Hail Mary” we invite Our Lady to pray for us. Mary always grants our request. She joins her prayer to ours. Therefore, it becomes ever more powerful because what Mary asks, she always receives. Jesus can never say no to whatever His Mother requests.

In every apparition, the heavenly Mother has invited us to say the Rosary as a powerful gift, bringing us to true peace. With your prayer made together with your heavenly Mother, you can obtain the great gift of bringing about a change of hearts and conversion. Each day, through prayer, you can drive away from yourselves, your family and from your homeland many dangers and many evils and receive many blessings.

**Our Lady of the Rosary, Pray for us!!**

