

THE GIFT OF THE ROSARY

The Month of the Rosary

REACHING OUT IN TIMES OF NEED AND THANKSGIVING



I did not pray the Rosary early in my life, but rather when I was older with a young family. As a kid, my aunt who lived with our family always said the Rosary, but at the time I just chalked the prayer up as something "that aunts do." When I got confirmed, that same aunt bought me a beautiful Rosary as a confirmation gift. For years it collected dust in my bedside drawer as I went off to college and started work.

Then my young family (newborn baby and all) was thrust into the midst of a major personal crisis. I can't say what made me turn to it, but in that moment of need I reached for that Rosary in the drawer. At first, I learned the basics (1 Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be; repeat x5). Then, I slowly learned about the Mysteries, and I strove to meditate on them. And I was/am grateful when God came/comes to me in those moments of prayer and meditation. The beautiful moments of consolation and connection have deepened my faith. And it was during this time that I started striving to say the Rosary daily. I normally try to say the rosary in the quiet of the morning or on my commute to work before the day (and my mind) get busy. Or as happens more often or not, I'm saying the Rosary at night before bed.

However, it is not always moments of great consolation or spiritual insight. There are also times of great dryness as with all prayer. I've found myself being distracted or without focus (for example trying to say the Rosary with kids running around). I'll admit that I've missed a day or two since I committed to saying the Rosary every day. But even in those moments of dryness and distraction, I try to remember that the Rosary as part of a two-way conversation. Sometimes God is talking to me, while the other times I am offering up my Rosary to God and thanking Him. Spending time with Him and our Blessed Mother even in those moments of dryness. Either way, the Rosary is no longer buried in my bedside table but always with me in my pocket. And I am so thankful for that.

- Anonymous

HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY

From the United States Conference of Catholic
Bishops website
usccb.org

This website also provides a detailed list of all
the Mysteries

1. MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.
2. HOLDING THE CRUCIFIX, SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED.
3. ON THE FIRST BEAD, SAY AN OUR FATHER.
4. SAY ONE HAIL MARY ON EACH OF THE NEXT THREE BEADS.
5. SAY THE GLORY BE
6. FOR EACH OF THE FIVE DECADES, ANNOUNCE THE MYSTERY (PERHAPS FOLLOWED BY A BRIEF READING FROM SCRIPTURE) THEN SAY THE OUR FATHER.
7. WHILE FINGERING EACH OF THE TEN BEADS OF THE DECADE, NEXT SAY TEN HAIL MARYS WHILE MEDITATING ON THE MYSTERY. THEN SAY A GLORY BE.
8. (AFTER FINISHING EACH DECADE, SOME SAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER REQUESTED BY THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AT FATIMA: O MY JESUS, FORGIVE US OUR SINS, SAVE US FROM THE FIRES OF HELL; LEAD ALL SOULS TO HEAVEN, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE MOST NEED OF YOUR MERCY.)

AFTER SAYING THE FIVE DECADES, SAY THE HAIL, HOLY QUEEN, FOLLOWED BY THIS DIALOGUE AND PRAYER:

V. PRAY FOR US, O HOLY MOTHER OF GOD.
R. THAT WE MAY BE MADE WORTHY OF THE PROMISES OF CHRIST.

LET US PRAY: O GOD, WHOSE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, BY HIS LIFE, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION, HAS PURCHASED FOR US THE REWARDS OF ETERNAL LIFE, GRANT, WE BESEECH THEE, THAT WHILE MEDITATING ON THESE MYSTERIES OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, WE MAY IMITATE WHAT THEY CONTAIN AND OBTAIN WHAT THEY PROMISE, THROUGH THE SAME CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

(A PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH MAY ALSO FOLLOW.)

CONCLUDE THE ROSARY WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.