

Useful Resources

Scan the QR codes with your smart phone camera.



What Is the Rosary? - Video by Fr. Michael Nixon.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJCbCs-y1k>



How to Pray the Rosary- Bishop Robert Baron.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXcWknfC0vl>



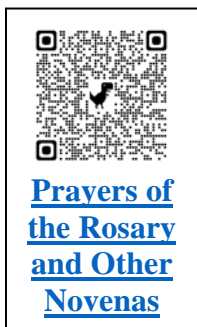
The History of the Rosary – Article by Sister Mary Peter, M.I.C.M. <https://catholicism.org/rosary-history.html>



5 Things You Didn't Know About the Rosary – The Catholic Talk Show Podcast. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqWK7ftAFkw>

The Rosary

The term “Rosary” is used to refer to both the prayer and the string of beads used to keep track of the decades of the prayer. The origins of the Rosary prayer and the use of the beads are both uncertain. The Rosary prayer begins with the recitation of the Apostle’s Creed, the Lord’s Prayer (“Our Father”), three “Hail Marys,” and the “Glory Be.” The prayer proceeds with five “mysteries” assigned to



that day.¹ After announcing each mystery and perhaps reflecting on a short piece of scripture related to the mystery, the Lord’s Prayer, ten Hail Marys, the Glory Be, and the “Fatima Prayer” are recited. Each recitation is a “decade” and, at the end of all five decades, the “Hail Holy Queen” prayer is said. The Rosary Prayer is often preceded by a preparatory prayer from the Roman Missal. Scan the QR code in the box to the left to find the Rosary Prayer recited before daily Mass at St. Casimir throughout the months of May and October, as well as other daily novenas.

The Rosary prayer gradually evolved between the 12th and 15th centuries. Eventually the five decades of ten Hail Marys were recited and linked with verses of psalms or other phrases evoking the lives of Jesus and Mary. During this time, this prayer form became known as the *rosarium* (“rose garden”), a common term for collections of similar prayers, poems and stories. During the 16th century, the structure of the Rosary crystallized. St. Dominic is often attributed with devising the Rosary as we know it. Inspired by a vision of our Blessed Mother, he preached the use of the Rosary in his missionary work. Even if it is not certain that St. Dominic “invented” the Rosary, there is no question that he popularized its use in his preaching.

The popularity of praying the Rosary culminated with the victory of the naval fleet of the Holy League, a coalition of Catholic states, organized by Pope Pius V to stop the fleet of the Ottoman Empire that was threatening Europe. While preparations were



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<https://stcasimir.org/>



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<https://www.facebook.com/StLizBmore/>

underway, the Holy Father asked all of the faithful to say the Rosary and implore our Blessed Mother's prayers, under the title Our Lady of Victory. Although outnumbered, the Holy League fleet, flying a blue banner depicting Christ crucified, defeated the Ottoman fleet on October 7, 1571, at the Battle of Lepanto. The Pope promulgated the Feast of the Holy Rosary on October 7, where the faithful would not only remember the victory, but also give thanks to the Lord for all of His benefits and remember the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother.

On May 13, 1917, the blessed mother appeared to three shepherd children at the Cova da Iria in Fátima, Portugal. The shepherd children reported seeing a woman "brighter than the sun." The woman wore a white mantle edged with gold and held a Rosary in her hand. She asked them to devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to pray "the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war [WWI]". Our Lady taught the children to pray after each decade of the Rosary: "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need of thy mercy." This is popularly known as the Fatima Prayer.

The use of knotted prayer ropes in Christianity goes back to the Desert Fathers in the 3rd and early 4th centuries. Evidence exists from the Middle Ages that strings of beads were being used to count Our Fathers and Hail Marys. These strings of beads became known as "Paternosters," the Latin for "Our Father." The first use of the Rosary in any general way was among the monks of the Middle East. The prayer beads were given to

them when they were invested in their habits as a "spiritual sword." Today, western monks and friars who wear some form of the Rosary on their habit generally wear it hanging from their waist on the left side — the same side where gentlemen were once accustomed to wearing their swords.

Saints of the Week

Scan the QR codes with your phone to read and listen about the lives of the Saints.



April 30 – Saint Pius V (1504 –). Implemented the sweeping reforms of the Council of Trent



May 1 – Saint Joseph the Worker. Feast of Saint Joseph proclaimed in 1955 to honor workers.



May 2 – Saint Athanasius (c. 296 – 373). Doctor of the Church and defender against Arian heresy.



May 3 – Saints Philip and James (son of Alphaeus). Apostles and Martyrs.



May 4 - Blessed Michael Giedroyc (1425-1485). Pious monk in Kraków, Poland.



May 5 – Saint Hilary of Arles (c. 441-449). Bishop at 29, he helped the poor and ransomed captives.



May 6 – Saints Marian and James. Martyred during the persecution of Valerian around the year 259.

¹ The Joyful Mysteries are said on Mondays and Saturdays, the Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesdays and Fridays, the

Glorious Mysteries on Wednesdays and Sundays, and the Luminous Mysteries on Thursdays.