



My Rosary Companion

The Mysteries, Prayer & Reflections

Dear Friend,

Bishop James E. Walsh of Maryknoll found tremendous support in the Rosary while a prisoner of the Communists.

He couldn't say Mass, couldn't recite his Breviary; but he had his 10 fingers to count the Hail Marys on. Some days he said 6 Rosaries; other days, 12 or even 18.

The Rosary was a never-failing lifeline all through his 12 prison years. Although life seemed rather wearisome at times, he was never unhappy or despondent. The Rosary ministered to his deep need to keep in touch with God.

Whenever he felt oppressed by any trouble, the Rosary afforded him hope and consolation. Instead of worrying about people, he offered his "Rosary ministry" for them. You may be sure he didn't accidentally stumble upon the Rosary devotion in prison. For many years previously, he had said a 15-decade Rosary daily.

Are you perhaps "stumbling" upon the Rosary for the first time as you read this booklet, or have you been a friend of the Rosary for years? In any case, Franciscan missionaries and our Franciscan Mission Associates trust you will find the Rosary a rich source of blessings from now on. May we ask that you remember us sometimes in prayer? Thank you and God bless you!

The Franciscan Friars

How to Use Your Rosary Booklet

When Bishop James E. Walsh was a prisoner of the Communists, the Rosary he prayed so often was truly a Rosary of Faith. It served him as a refresher course in Christian doctrine. Let me quote him on that:

“The mysteries provided a clear and complete review of the great central truths of religion and the great crucial events in the history of God’s dealings with His universe.”

As you are surely aware, in recent years many of these “great central truths” and “great crucial events” have been questioned and disputed. It’s no longer shocking or even startling to hear a Catholic say, “I just don’t know what to believe anymore.”

That you may know what to believe, this little Rosary of Faith booklet has been prepared.

It is intended as a refresher course in Christian doctrine. Each meditation focuses on one major truth or event in salvation history.

If you use this booklet often, these mysteries of our faith will remain vividly present to your heart and mind. Your desire to remain faithful will be strengthened, and doubts will vanish as does the darkness when daylight approaches. There are 20 Rosary mysteries. The joyful mysteries are said on Monday and Saturday, the sorrowful mysteries on Tuesday and Friday, the glorious mysteries on Wednesday and Sunday, and the luminous mysteries on Thursday.

The Bead Prayers

The chart on page 25 shows which prayers are to be said. The text of these prayers is found on pages 26, 27, 28 and 29.

*The essence of prayer
lies not in being always
on your knees,
but in conforming
your will totally to God
in all the events of life.*

St. Jane Frances de Chantal

1st Joyful Mystery:

THE ANNUNCIATION

Suggested Reading: Luke 1:26–38



MARY'S MESSAGE: In this mystery, two great truths of faith are combined: the Trinity and the Incarnation. It is the Father's Son who becomes man by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Son took on our humanity, and made us partakers of his divinity. Mankind couldn't reach up to God; so God reached down, down to make fruitful the womb of a humble virgin.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, teach me to welcome the will of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit in my daily life. May I always remain the Lord's loving servant, firm in faith and joyful in hope. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

2nd Joyful Mystery:

THE VISITATION

Suggested Reading: Luke 1:39–57



MARY'S MESSAGE: This mystery recalls my three-month visit with Elizabeth and Zechariah. May it remind you that God's Son didn't just come earthward on a short visit. He is with His Church until the end of the world. His Spirit, who sanctified the unborn John the Baptist, is also your Sanctifier. May you guard the rich deposit of faith with the help of the Divine Spirit who dwells in you.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, pray that I may hold fast to the word of life. In the hour of my death, may I be ushered into the celestial mansions for an unending eternity of bliss. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

3rd Joyful Mystery:

THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD

Suggested Reading: Luke 2:1–20



MARY'S MESSAGE: Born of the Father before time began, Jesus Christ was born as a child in a lowly stable. He is my Son. I heard the straw crackle under his baby back in the manger. I saw him shed his first tears. I helped him to take his first unsteady steps. Now I reign with him in heavenly glory.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, by God's grace I am now passing through this human life. May it be a life of faith in your Son who loved us and gave himself for our salvation, first in the manger of Bethlehem and afterward on the cross of Calvary. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

4th Joyful Mystery:

THE PRESENTATION

Suggested Reading: Luke 2:22–38



MARY'S MESSAGE: Joseph and I journeyed to Jerusalem to present the Child to his Father. Simeon, that great man of faith, held the Lord's Anointed in his arms. Then he was willing to die, for he had seen the Lord's salvation! For perhaps an hour, the temple priests had Jesus in their midst. Then they let him go, in exchange for a pair of birds.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, may I prize my faith too dearly to accept anything in exchange. May I be presented to God with a purified soul, holding fast to faith, firmly grounded and steadfast in it. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

5th Joyful Mystery:

THE FINDING IN THE TEMPLE

Suggested Reading: Luke 2:41–52



MARY'S MESSAGE: For mysterious reasons of his own, the boy Jesus remained in the temple after the Passover celebrations. When God appeared on earth in a visible way, his words and actions were sometimes puzzling, even bewildering. Had Jesus explained his plan to us, we need not have sought him in sorrow. Learn from Joseph and me to walk in faith all the days of your earthly pilgrimage.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, help me to keep my eyes fixed on Jesus who inspires and perfects our faith. May this faith sustain me in joy and in sorrow until I finally find my Savior God in the heavenly temple. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

1st Luminous Mystery:
BAPTISM OF JESUS CHRIST

Suggested Reading: Mt 3:17



MARY'S MESSAGE: According to Jewish law, Joseph and I presented Jesus as a baby in the Temple; then came blessed Simeon's confession that he had finally seen Jesus, the Light of the world. Much later, as a grown man, Jesus came to the river Jordan, there to be baptized by John, his cousin. During his baptism, the Spirit of God descended, bathing the entire scene in light. From the heavens God said: "This is my beloved Son" (Mt 3:17).

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, help me follow your Son and always remain a person of light and joy. May the light presented to me at my baptism remain bright for all of us on our pilgrim's way to our heavenly home. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

2nd Luminous Mystery:

CHRIST REVEALS HIMSELF AT CANA

Suggested Reading: John 2:1–12



MARY'S MESSAGE: I was more than pleased but somewhat stunned when Jesus, my son, performed his first miracle at the wedding we attended in Cana of Galilee. For a while, I felt that he had ignored me and my plea to help the newlyweds. His miraculous changing of water into wine brought light to a dark situation and eventually serenity to all the guests.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, allow me to feel the joy you experienced when Jesus performed his first miracle. May I hear your words to the waiters: “Do whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5) and be as swift as they in fulfilling all of Jesus’s commands and counsels. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

3rd Luminous Mystery:

**PROCLAMATION OF THE KINGDOM
AND CALL TO CONVERSION**

Suggested Reading: Mark 1:15



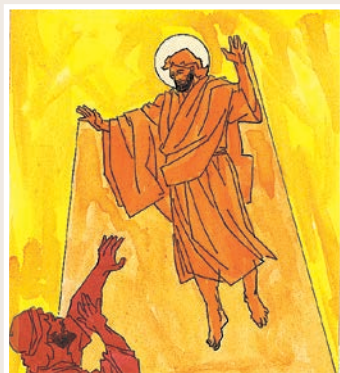
MARY'S MESSAGE: My son, Jesus, proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom of God, calling everyone to conversion. He announced the ministry of the light of the mercy of God, which he continues to exercise until the end of the world, particularly through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, now entrusted to his church. Jesus taught that the light of peace would overcome the darkness of hatred.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, help us be men and women of goodness. May we be generous flames of light to brighten our space of existence. May the light of the goodness of our lives gain its increase in the radiance of the grand beacon of Light, who is Jesus Christ. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

4th Luminous Mystery:
THE TRANSFIGURATION

Suggested Reading: Luke 9:35



MARY'S MESSAGE: Mount Tabor remained always in the apostles' memory when the divine glory of Jesus was shown to them. I was pleased for them because every day for the previous 30 years I was fortunate and blessed to be in his light, enjoying the happiness of his presence. His apostles, however, needed to see with their own eyes Jesus, transfigured in the grand light of the Godhead.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, help me keep my resolve always to listen to Jesus Christ and to put his words into daily practice. May I always stay close to your Son and be like him in doing good always and everywhere. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

5th Luminous Mystery:

INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

Suggested Reading: John 13:1



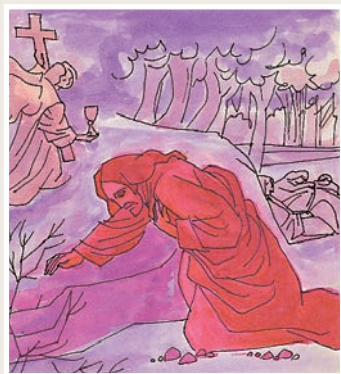
MARY'S MESSAGE: The Thursday Passover meal when he instituted the Holy Eucharist, offering his body and blood as the eternal food for all of us, reminded me of our many family meals together in Nazareth. John told me how that Seder meal went, what Jesus said and did the evening before his death. You could say that in a rather special way, I was uniquely present at the Last Supper because it was from my body that Jesus received his flesh and blood.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, how fortunate I am to be able to receive the Body and Blood of your Son in daily Communion. Grateful for the Holy Eucharist as the memorial of his suffering and death, we pray daily that we may experience the salvation he won for us, now and forever. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

1st Sorrowful Mystery:
THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

Suggested Reading: Luke 22:39–44



MARY'S MESSAGE: The sorrowful mysteries lasted only hours, but they remain etched in my memory forever. May it be the same for you whom Christ has redeemed at such great personal cost. Remember always his agony in the garden. Remember the sweat falling like drops of blood to the ground. Remember the immense love he bore you, centuries before you were born. Be ready to confess your faith in him without hesitating.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, may there be enkindled in my heart a fire of faith and a love to match Christ's love for me in the garden of sorrows. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

2nd Sorrowful Mystery:

THE SCOURGING

Suggested Reading: Mark 15:1–15



MARY'S MESSAGE: The Lamb of God endured the most cruel of scourges. It was the agony of the flesh after the agony of the spirit. Pilate's underlings were not limited to 40 lashes, as were Jewish soldiers. Rest assured that Jesus didn't keep count. He kept no record of what he endured for sinners.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, pray for me that I may always be found faithful and generous. May the blood of the spotless Lamb cleanse me and make me worthy to stand before him holy, free of all reproach and blame. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

3rd Sorrowful Mystery:

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

Suggested Reading: Mt. 27:27–31



MARY'S MESSAGE: My Son Jesus had to be crowned with thorns before being crowned with honor. His Amen of acceptance before Pilate had to precede his Alleluia of joyous triumph in heaven's halls of glory. Look upon my Son, that you may not lose heart when you suffer. Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed because you know that faith in Jesus leads to salvation and life everlasting.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, pray for me that I may keep the faith as I finish the race. May the Lord God grant me, on the day of rewards, a crown of glory in the eternal dwellings. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

4th Sorrowful Mystery:

THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

Suggested Reading: Mark 15:20–25



MARY'S MESSAGE: No apostle, disciple, or friend stepped forward to help Jesus on the rugged road to the crucifixion. Simon of Cyrene did so, under compulsion. The absence of his chosen ones must have grieved Jesus; yet he uttered no reproach. There is no reproach on his lips now as he sees some former followers turning away. They find the cross of fidelity too heavy.

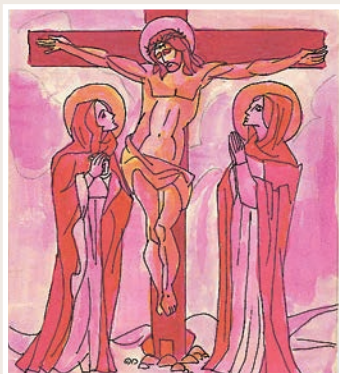
PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, turn your merciful eyes upon all who have lost their faith or are in danger of losing it. Mother of Faith, lead them back to him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

5th Sorrowful Mystery:

THE CRUCIFIXION

Suggested Reading: Mark 15:27–41



MARY'S MESSAGE: Look upon the pierced feet of the Saving Victim on your crucifix. Those are the feet of a kindly shepherd running tirelessly after lost sheep; the feet of a bearer of glad tidings of salvation; the feet that alighted on earthly soil and made it holy ground. The blessed feet of the Redeemer follow the sinner down the nights, down the days, down the arches of the years, as the poet wrote.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, pray that I may have strong feet and a loving heart to follow my Lord. May I cling faithfully to him in life and in death. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

1st Glorious Mystery:

THE RESURRECTION

Suggested Reading: Mt. 28:1–15



MARY'S MESSAGE: It was a greater miracle to emerge from a grave on Sunday morning than to come down from a cross on Friday afternoon. Jesus is the Risen Lord, Firstborn of the dead; and your resurrection will be patterned upon his own. Take him at his word, cleave to him, for he will do for you according to his magnificent promises.

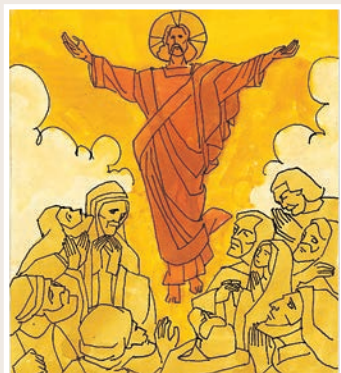
PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, join me in magnifying the Lord and in rejoicing in God our Savior. He is the Resurrection and the Life, the God who pledges to summon his sons and daughters forth from dust to splendor. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

2nd Glorious Mystery:

THE ASCENSION

Suggested Reading: Acts 1:1–14



MARY'S MESSAGE: Two angels told the sky-gazing Galileans, “This Jesus who has been taken from you will return, just as you saw him go up into the heavens” (Acts 1:11). In that one sentence you find three major truths: There is a heaven; Jesus ascended to heaven; Jesus will come again. “When the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8) May he always find in your heart and soul that vibrant faith he praised so often during his public ministry.

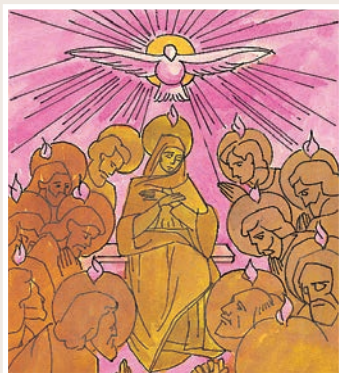
PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, continue to intercede for me that I may never be found lacking in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

3rd Glorious Mystery:

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Suggested Reading: Acts 2:1–41



MARY'S MESSAGE: The Holy Spirit formed Christ within me. He wants to form Christ in you. That is why you have been reborn of water and the Holy Spirit. That is why you have had your personal Pentecost, like the apostles and early Christians. Let the strengthening Spirit do his work in you. Believe me, it will be made beautiful and glorious for God your Father!

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, pray for me that I may allow the Divine Spirit free rein in my life. May I follow his guidance, heed his inspirations, and allow him to mold me into the image of your Son Jesus. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

4th Glorious Mystery:

THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

Suggested Reading: Judith 13:17–20



MARY'S MESSAGE: The Father, who associated me with Jesus in the mystery of redemption, chose also to associate me with Jesus in the mystery of glorification. Our Catholic faith proclaims that I was raised body and soul into heavenly glory when my earthly years were ended. I have been likened to my Risen Son in anticipation of the lot that awaits all the just. This is your faith. Cherish it.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, continue to cooperate in the birth and growth of divine life in our souls. Help us until we reach our heavenly homeland, there to rejoice with Jesus and you forever. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

5th Glorious Mystery:

THE CORONATION OF OUR LADY

Suggested Reading: I Pet. 1:3–9



MARY'S MESSAGE: The Son and his Mother have entered into an eternal inheritance. The same inheritance awaits all those who possess eternal life because they believe in the name of Jesus Christ. By accepting him as God's Son through faith, you receive Christ himself who becomes in you the source of eternal life. Continue in faith, in hope, in love, that no one may rob you of your prize.

PRAYER: Dear Blessed Mother, may your Holy Rosary deepen my faith, strengthen my hope, increase my love until I behold you face-to-face in the kingdom where you reign as Queen beside the immortal King of Ages. Amen.

Now recite the decade.

The Bead Prayers

A Visualization





The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the
Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.

He will come again 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 the 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.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary,
full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Fatima Prayer

(to be said after the Glory... after each decade)

O, my Jesus, forgive us our sins; save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy Mercy.

Hail Holy Queen

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, Hail our Life, our Sweetness, and our Hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us, Holy Mother of God;

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Prayer

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 meditating upon these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may learn to imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.



Blessing of St. Francis

The Lord bless you and
keep you
May He show His face
to you and have
mercy on you
May He turn His
countenance to you and
give you peace.
The Lord bless you!

Numbers 6:24-26



The Popes on the Rosary

With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love.

–Saint John Paul II

The Rosary ... is a form of union with God and has a most uplifting effect on the soul.

–Saint John XXIII

Place your confidence in the Holy Rosary. Use this most powerful form of prayer with the utmost possible zeal, and let it become more and more esteemed.

–Pius XII

The Rosary ... is also a powerful incentive and encouragement to the practice of Christian virtues, and these it develops and cultivates in our soul. Above all, it preserves and nourishes our Catholic faith.

–Pius XI

We Have a Dream

In a poignant description of the plight of Latin American peoples, a writer has stated that they are “betrayed for profit, condemned by indifference, scourged by ideologies.” Daily they “drag their crosses up a million calvaries, there to die with thirst unquenched and hunger gnawing.” Jesus Christ is continuing the sorrowful mysteries of His Passion in them.

That is why your Franciscan missionaries have a dream, a beautiful dream: We want those peoples to experience something of life’s joyful and glorious mysteries. We want to share spiritual and material blessings with them; to secure for them the spiritual and temporal rights to which their human dignity entitles them.

Please continue your spiritual and material support for which we are deeply grateful.

“Happy are those who dream dreams and are able to make them come true.” With God’s help and yours, our dream shall come true!

**Share your blessings with a
donation to our missions**

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