

+This booklet is intended to provide very basic guidance to beginners on how to recite the Rosary.

It includes:

- + A brief (vanilla) history of the Rosary as a Catholic devotion
- + A resource list of (less vanilla) versions of that history, the continuing practice of the Rosary in a Catholic Mystic context and other contexts, by various people who know what they are talking about.
- + The Rosary prayers in full, to follow along with during group recitations, if you are a beginner, or returning to this practice and need a refresher.
- + Details of the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary.
- + A list of the Marian Feast Days for 2024: for your private devotions, but also as a calendar for the Queer Mysteries group, will meet for recitation on these days.

+A very brief history of the Rosary, according to one Catholic source:

"The rosary is an incredibly rich practice of prayer that developed slowly, evolving over the centuries. The first recorded use of the word "rosary" did not appear until 1597. But the rosary are found far earlier.

While it has been largely abandoned by Catholics in the West, the rosary is one of the most powerful prayers you may ever pray.

+Early Origins:

The rosary has roots in several early Christian prayer traditions. They share similar formats to the rosary with repetitive structures and prayers.

Third-century Christian hermits and monks in Egypt (known as Desert Fathers) used stones and later prayer ropes to keep track when praying the 150 Psalms.

Various forms of "the Jesus Prayer" (such as "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.") became popular. The short prayer was said over and over again in a type of mantra while counting beads.

The Our Father was also prayed 150 times, using a string of beads with five decades referred to as a Paternoster (Latin for "Our Father")

+The Hail Mary:

The <u>Hail Mary prayer</u> came together slowly. It took more than a thousand years. The earliest version simply added Mary's name to the message delivered by the angel Gabriel to Mary: "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee" (Luke 1:28).

Around 1050 AD, the words Elizabeth used to greet Mary during the Visitation were added: "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb" (Luke 1:42). In 1261, Pope Urban IV added the name of Jesus to the end of Elizabeth's words.

St. Peter Canisius published the Hail Mary in his 1555 Catechism with almost the entire final petition: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners."

Eleven years later, the Catechism of the Council of Trent (a work that Canisius was instrumental in creating) included, for the first time, the entire final petition, concluding with the words "now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

The version of the Hail Mary we pray today was given official approval in 1568.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women; and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

+The Meaning of Rosary Beads:

Catholics were not the first to pray with beads. And while the exact origin of prayer beads is unknown, men and women of many faiths and cultures (Hindus, Greeks, Buddhists, and more) have (and do) use beads to pray. In fact, the word bead in English is actually derived from an Old English word bede that means prayer.

The use of prayer beads almost universally is to allow the person to keep track of the number of prayers that have been said, while at the same time focusing on the deeper meaning of the prayers themselves.

While praying with beads certainly wasn't an original idea, it's a powerful reminder that everything before the coming of Jesus was preparing for that moment and that God yearns to transform everything into something holy, even something as ordinary as a small rope with some beads on it."

(This is <u>Source</u> for this account, if that matters.)

+ That being said:

There are many other versions of how the Rosary came to be, which both augment and diverge from this orthodoxy.

Here is a very short list of excellent resources from scholars, witches, Marian devotees, Occult philosophers and other practitioners about the origin and practice of the Rosary.

I am predominantly including audio visual resources, because that is how I personally learn best. They are mostly quite short dialogues and podcasts, but there is one book.

+Accessible resources on the Rosary, and Marian Devotions in general:

+The Way of the Rose - by Clark Strand and Perdita Finn

One of the most comprehensive spooky Rosary books out there, and the most accessible.

I'm also including this one especially because **the audiobook it is** available for free to **Spotify Premium** subscribers, which removes some barriers to access for broke people and neurodiverse people, which is a lot of us.

+St Anthony's Tongue

A podcast by a Catholic Mystic and Magician, with many episodes on the Rosary and Marian devotions, which include some deep dives on how to use the Rosary as both a devotional and magical tool. These episodes are excellent primers for those who have never prayed the Rosary, but might be equally enlightening/enlivening for those who have only prayed the Rosary within the bounds of organized Catholic faith.

+Train Wrecks for Jesus with Revs. Maggie and Mark.

One of my favorite crackpot theology podcasts. The hosts are delightful, very funny, excruciatingly British in the best ways. They are both independent ministers (formerly C of E and Liberal Catholic, respectively).

The podcast is great in general, but for Marian themes start with this wonderful episode on the Virgin Birth.

+The Spirit Box with Darragh Mason

<u>This episode</u> with Catholic Witch Celeste Mott is a fantastic overview of the intersection between Folk Catholicism and Western Witchcraft.

As a side note, <u>this episode</u> with Robert Peter is a good introduction on working with Saints within a Chaos Magic framework.

+Nish the Fish on Youtube

Nish is a Hindu Tantrika in the Kashmir Shaivist tradition who teaches on Vedanta and many other aspects of Indian Scripture via his Discord and YouTube channel. He's a young but phenomenally knowledgeable and engaging teacher with a very adept grasp of the intersection between different mystical traditions, which he addresses through a non-dual, Shaivist lens.

He has this whole playlist of videos on Christian Mysticism from a Tantrik perspective, which includes several excellent videos from a Marian Devotee Angela Rose. These are all deep dives on the Mother in her many forms, and there is at least one video which includes a full recitation of the Rosary to follow along with.

+This is a concise list, and you will note the focus is on predominantly Western traditions and perspectives. I have not touched on Santeria, the various lineages of Vodou/Vodoun/Voodoo/Vudu/The 21 Divisions, or any of the numerous of Afro-Carribean and Latinx syncretic religions and practices that centre Marian worship and Saint worship.

That is because these are closed, initiatory traditions. They are incredibly complex and mostly oral lineages with a tonne of geographic and cultural variables.

For the sake of transparency: I am an active but currently non-initiatory practitioner in one of these traditions. My work in this space is long held but very private, and has been conducted under the direct guidance of initiated members if that lineage. This work informs my relationship to the Rosary and to Catholic devotions at a fundamental level. However, as an Aboriginal person active in another faith system of the global Black diaspora, I hold a respectful boundary around sharing even secondary resources: I understand all oral lineages as being protected by protocols regarding who can and cannot speak for knowledge, even in a secondary way. The nature of oral traditions from high-context cultures is such that a lot of information is non-verifiable outside of communities of practice. There is a tonne of garbage out there, which is often difficult to parse.

Nonetheless, for White people especially, I think it is important to get a basic grasp of these traditions, the ways they intersect with Catholicism, and the ways that religious syncretic faith systems have been part of the survival of formerly enslaved and actively colonized people. So I've located a few vetted sources which I feel are reasonable to share.

Haitian Vodou is arguably the best known of these traditions and also the most widely stigmatized and misrepresented. Here are a couple of sources which I believe to be reputable, with summary information on the relationship between Haitian Vodou and Catholicism. Vodou rites include Catholic prayers, elements of Catholic ritual, and all of the Lwa (spirits) are syncretized with Catholic saints, sometimes with multiple Catholic saints depending on a number of factors.

This article is in two parts, providing a summary of the historical and continual entwinement of Catholicism and Vodou. The author is an Houngan Asogwe (an initiated priest) who cites his lineage as La Fraicheur Belle Fleur Guinen in Haiti.

This reading list, put together by a queer transmasc Houngan, for those with in interest in deeper study.

Hounfo Racine Deesse Dereyale is a Vodoun Sosyete (Temple) in, of all places, Palmerston North in Aotearoa/NZ. The Houngan Asogwe is a Kiwi guy (also queer I am 99 per cent sure) called Liam who was initiated through La Sosyete La Belle Deesse Dereale in Haiti, and started the NZ house with their parentage and permission. The site does not go into a whole lot about Catholicism in particular, but it is interesting and accessible nonetheless. Houngan Liam cites his guiding Lwa (spirit) as Erzulie Dantor, who is syncretized with the Virgin Mary, specifically the Black Madonna of Czestochowa.

The 21 Divisions of Dominican Vudu is a distinct tradition to the Haitian lineage. The 21 Divisions is arguably more heavily Catholicized that Haitian Vodou, for reasons that are outlined in the opening chapters of Hector Salva's book, linked here. The book emphasizes the Rosary and the Saints in particular as a tool of the Dominican Brujx/a/o.

Rosaries, psalms and many other aspects of Catholic ritual are also widely present in **Southern Conjure and Hoodoo**- lifeways and systems of practical magic originating in the southern states of the US.

Kinitra Brooks is a phenomenal scholar of many things, including **Southern Conjure**. Here she is on a **podcast**.

Crescent City Conjure is a reputable New Orleans botanica that run many online courses on Hoodoo/Conjure and also have a blog/IG.

The intersection of **Aboriginal lifeways and the Catholicism** imposed on us by missionaries is a complex topic and a bit too much of a cultural live-wire for me to touch on in-depth. But, I will say that in much the same way as the Black traditions outlined above represent a range of integrations and re-shapings of colonial faith systems, it would likewise be wrong to assume that the matter is in any way cut-and-dry with my own people. There are many Aboriginal people who would identify as practicing Catholics, many members of my own family included. At one point in my own life I might have just dismissed this as Sunken Place behavior- in some cases I still do, but I also have a more mature understanding of the ways Aboriginal people have claimed and metabolized Catholic faith and practices in a range of very adaptive and arguably Queer with a capital Q ways. Our adaptations are not distinct syncretic traditions in the way that Afro-Carribean traditions are, but there are strong similarities.

Here is an article about Arrente artist Kathleen Kemarre Wallace who made a Holy Mother stained glass window for a Catholic Church in Alice Springs.

Mum Shirl is a legendary Wiradjuri Auntie and activist who was also a devout Catholic.

And here is a very short history from Wiradjuri author **Anita Heiss.**

+The Rosary Prayers: Step-by-step

There is no definitive right way to pray the Rosary- people ad or subtract certain elements with some degree of idiosyncracy- but this is the basic structure and order of prayers in English.

(Latin versions of the prayers follow: learn those if ya nasty)

+(Holding the Cross): make the sign of the cross.

(Hold the cross to the sternum) The son

(Hold the cross to the right shoulder) and the Holy

Hold the cross to the left shoulder) Spirit

Amen.

+ (we are skipping the Apostle's Creed cos it sucks)

+ First large bead: Pater Noster / Our Father / The Lord's Prayer

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
Lead us not into temptation
And deliver us from evil

(Note: the Protestant version of the prayer includes the line *for thine is the Kingdom/the power and the glory/forever and ever/Amen*, and if you grew up with this version you will probably autopilot and recite those last lines- but this line is not in the Catholic version of the prayer and it's not in the Rosary

Addendum: according to some lapsed Catholics in the group it actually used to be in the Rosary but they took it out! So go off).

+Three Small Beads: Ave Maria / Hail Mary (one recitation on each bead)

Hail Mary
Full of Grace
The Lord is with thee
Blessed art thou among women
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus
Holy Mary mother of God
Pray for us sinners
Now and in the hour of our death
Amen

+On the chain (between the three small beads and the second large bead): Doxology/Glory Be and The Fatima Prayer

Glory Be:

Glory be to the Father
To the Son
And to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning
Is now
And ever shall be
World without end
Amen

Fatima Prayer

Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins
Save us from the fires of Hell
And lead all souls to Heaven
Especially those most in need of thy Mercy
Amen.

+Second large bead: Pater Noster / The Lord's Prayer

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
Lead us not into temptation
And deliver us from evil
Amen

+If meditating on the Mysteries: announce the mystery and recite the appropriate scripture as relevant+

+First Decade: Ave Maria / Hail Mary

Hail Mary
Full of Grace
The Lord is with thee
Blessed art thou among women

And blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus Holy Mary mother of God Pray for us sinners Now and in the hour of our death Amen

(Recite once for each bead, preferably aloud, synchronising with your breath, and mediating on the mystery if doing so)

+On the Chain at the end of the decade: Glory Be, Fatima

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father
To the Son
And to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning
Is now
And ever shall be
World without end
Amen

Fatima Prayer

Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins
Save us from the fires of Hell
And lead all souls to Heaven
Especially those most in need of thy Mercy
Amen.

+On the large bead: Pater Noster / The Lord's Prayer

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
Lead us not into temptation
And deliver us from evil
Amen

+Then, repeat this pattern though the remaining decades: 10 Hail Mary's, Glory Be, Fatima, Lord's Prayer.

+Closing Prayers, holding the medallion: Glory Be, Fatima, Salve Regina / Hail Holy Queen, Memorare.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father
To the Son
And to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning
Is now
And ever shall be
World without end
Amen

Fatima Prayer

Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins Save us from the fires of Hell And lead all souls to Heaven Especially those most in need of thy Mercy

Salve Regina / Hail Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen Mother of Mercy Our life Our sweetness And our hope

To you we cry
Poor banished children of Eve
To you we send up our sighs
Mourning and weeping
In this valley of tears

Turn, then, most gracious advocate
Your eyes of mercy towards us
And after this our exile
Show unto us the blessed fruit
Of your womb Jesus
O clement
O loving
O sweet Virgin Mary
Pray for us
O Holy Mother of God
That we may be worthy
Of the promises of Christ.

+Optional: the Litany of Loreto

It is sufficient to finish on the Salve Regina, however the Litany of Loreto is a beautiful Marian prayer that may be added here. It is typically a call and response prayer when recited in a group, with one congregant leading the chant with the first line, and the others responding with the second.

+The Litany of Loreto

Call: Lord, have mercy.

Response: Christ have mercy.

Call: Lord have mercy. Christ hear us.

Response: Christ graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.

Holy Mother of God, pray for us.

Holy Virgin of virgins, pray for us.

Mother of Christ, pray for us.

Mother of the Church, pray for us.

Mother of Mercy, pray for us.

Mother of divine grace, pray for us.

Mother of Hope, pray for us.

Mother most pure, pray for us.

Mother most chaste, pray for us.

Mother inviolate, pray for us.

Mother undefiled, pray for us.

Mother most amiable, pray for us.

Mother admirable, pray for us.

Mother of good counsel, pray for us.

Mother of our Creator, pray for us.

Mother of our Savior, pray for us.

Virgin most prudent, pray for us.

Virgin most venerable, pray for us.

Virgin most renowned, pray for us.

Virgin most powerful, pray for us.

Virgin most merciful, pray for us.

Virgin most faithful, pray for us.

Mirror of justice, pray for us.

Seat of wisdom, pray for us.

Cause of our joy, pray for us.

Spiritual vessel, pray for us.

Vessel of honor, pray for us.

Singular vessel of devotion, pray for us.

Mystical rose, pray for us.

Tower of David, pray for us.

Tower of ivory, pray for us.

House of gold, pray for us.

Ark of the covenant, pray for us.

Gate of heaven, pray for us.

Morning star, pray for us.

Health of the sick, pray for us.

Refuge of sinners, pray for us.

Solace of Migrants, pray for us.

Comfort of the afflicted, pray for us.

Help of Christians, pray for us.

Queen of Angels, pray for us.

Queen of Patriarchs, pray for us.

Queen of Prophets, pray for us.

Queen of Apostles, pray for us.

Queen of Martyrs, pray for us.

Queen of Confessors, pray for us.

Queen of Virgins, pray for us.

Queen of all Saints, pray for us.

Queen conceived without original sin, pray for us.

Queen assumed into Heaven, pray for us.

Queen of the most Holy Rosary, pray for us.

Queen of families, pray for us.

Queen of peace. pray for us.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, **Spare us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

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

Let us pray. Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord God, that we thy servants may enjoy perpetual health of mind and body, and by the glorious intercession of blessed Mary, ever Virgin, may be freed from present sorrow, and rejoice in eternal happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Rosary Prayer

Oh 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 Holy Rosary
Of the Blesses Virgin Mary
May we imitate what they contain
And obtain the promises of Christ our Lord
Amen.

+Conclude with the Sign of the Cross+

In the name of the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit Amen.

+ Rosary Prayers in Latin, for the real freaks:

+Signum Crucis

In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

+ Pater Noster / Our Father

PATER noster,

qui es in cælis;

sanctificetur nomen tuum:

Adveniat regnum tuum;

fiat voluntas tua, sicut in cœlo, et in terra.

Panem nostrum cotidianum da nobis hodie:

Et dimitte nobis debita nostra, sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris:

et ne nos inducas in tentationem:

sed libera nos a malo.

+ Ave Maria / Hail Mary

'Ave Maria, gratia plena

Dominus tecum

benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen."

+ Doxolgie Minor / Glory Be

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto sicut erat in principio

et nunc

et semper

et in saecula saeculorum.

Amen.

+Oratio Fatima

Dómine Jesu, dimitte nobis débita nostra,
salva nos ab igne inferni;
perduc in caelum omnes ánimas,
praesertim eas, quae misericórdiae tuae máxime indigent.

Amen

+ Salve Regina / Hail Holy Queen

Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiae,

vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.

ad te clamamus

exsules filii Evae,

ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes

in hac lacrimarum valle.

Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos

misericordes oculos ad nos converte;

et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,

nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.

O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

+ Oratio ad Finem Rosarii Dicenda

Déus, cújus Unigénitus per vítam, mortem, et resurrectiónem Súam

nóbis salútis ætérnæ præmia comparávit: concéde, quæsumus: ut hæc mystéria sacratíssimo beátæ Maríæ Vírginis Rosário recoléntes, et imitémur quod cóntinent, et quod promíttunt, assequámur, per eúndem Chrístum Dóminum nóstrum.

Amen.

+The Mysteries

The Mysteries of the Holy Rosary refer to scriptural episodes in the life of Mary and Jesus that bear fruits of wisdom through their active contemplation. These are: the Joyfyul Mysteries, The Sorrowful Mysteries, the Glorious Mysteries and the Luminous Mysteries.

Each of the four Mysteries is comprised of 5 episodes, with five accompanying scriptural verses. Each of the 5 episodes corresponds to one of the five decades on the Rosary, and they are prayed in that order, with the Mystery and the verse announced at the beginning of each decade, after the Pater Noster / Lord's Prayer.

Observance of each of the 4 Mysteries corresponds to a day of the week.

For a deep dive on each of them, here are four episodes from St Anthony's Tongue podcast:

The Joyful Mysteries

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Glorious Mysteries

The Luminous Mysteries - (there doesn't seem to be an episode on this one- it might be forthcoming).

This is a fairly advanced practice, and possibly overwhelming for beginners- if you are joining the Queer Mysteries Rosary group, we will be focusing mostly on the prayers initially, and opening into the Mysteries at a later date.

+Summary of the scriptural episodes that comprise the Mysteries of the Rosary

+The Joyful Mysteries

Prayed on Monday & Saturday

- The Annunciation of the Lord to Mary Mary is chosen to be the mother of Jesus.
- The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth Elizabeth recognizes Mary as the mother of our Lord.
- The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ Jesus is born and laid in a manger.
- The Presentation of our Lord Jesus is presented in the Temple of Jerusalem.
- Finding Jesus in the Temple at age 12 Jesus is found discussing God's laws in the temple.

+The Sorrowful Mysteries

Prayed on Tuesday & Friday

- The Agony of Jesus in the Garden Jesus prays when confronted with the sins of the world.
- The Scourging at the Pillar Jesus is whipped before His execution.
- Jesus is Crowned with Thorns
 Jesus is mocked with a painful crown of thorns.
- Jesus Carried the Cross
 Jesus carries the weight of our sins to His crucifixion.

 The Crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ dies to save all mankind.

+The Glorious Mysteries

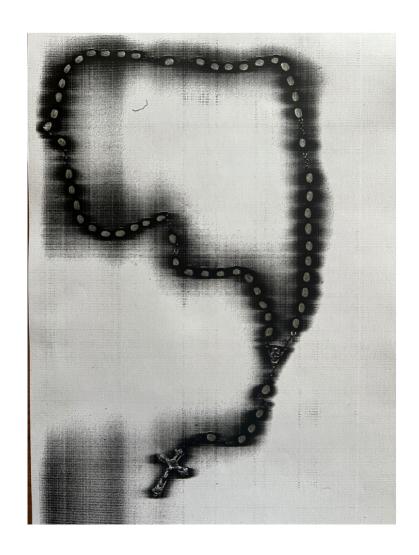
Prayed on Wednesday & Sunday

- The Resurrection of Jesus Christ Jesus rises triumphant over death.
- The Ascension of Jesus to Heaven
 As Jesus ascends, He gives us a special task.
- The Descent of the Holy Ghost At Pentecost the Church is born.
- The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
 The Virgin Mary is gloriously assumed into heaven.
- Mary is Crowned as Queen of Heaven and Earth Mary is honored above all creatures.

+The Luminous Mysteries

Prayed on a Thursday

- The Baptism in the Jordan God proclaims Jesus is His Son.
- The Wedding at Cana
 Jesus performs a surprising miracle at a wedding.
- The Proclamation of the Kingdom Jesus calls us to do something important.
- The Transfiguration
 Jesus is gloriously transformed.
- The Institution of the Eucharist Jesus shares His Body and Blood for our salvation.



+Marian Feast Days of 2024-25

January 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

January 8 Our Lady of Prompt Succour

February 2 Presentation of the Lord

February 11 Our Lady of Lourdes March 25 The Annunciation

May 13 Our Lady of Fatima

May 31 The Visitation

June 27 Our Mother of Perpetual Help

July 16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel

August 15 The Assumption

August 22 Queenship of Mary

September 8 The Birth of Mary

September 12 Most Holy Name of Mary

September 15 Our Lady of Sorrows

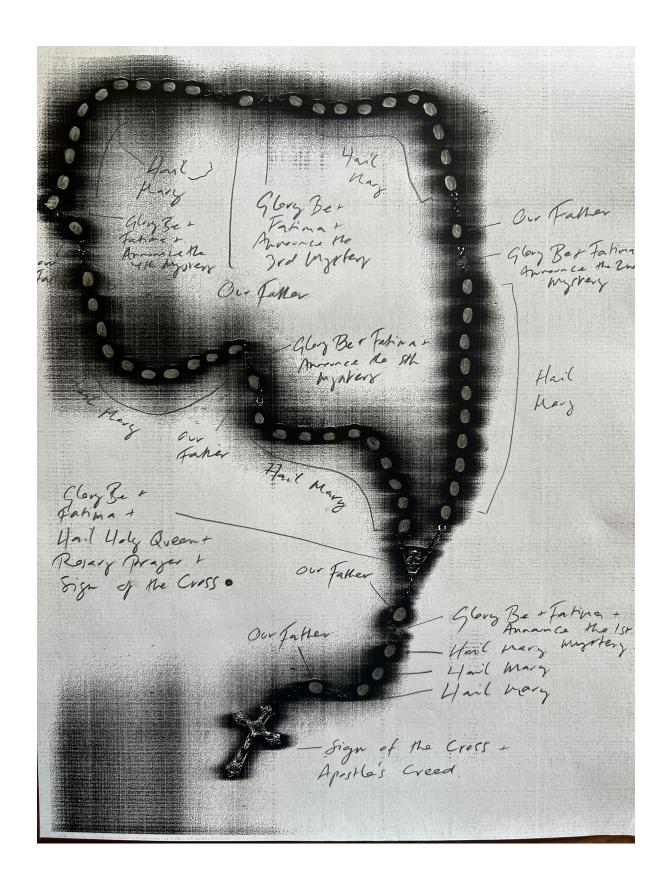
October 7 Our Lady of the Rosary

November 21 The presentation of the Virgin Mary

December 8
The Immaculate Conception

December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe



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Participation in every group is free or by donation. Collections for various solidarity efforts will be platformed in the group.

The intake form for new participants is here.

sjnorman.net/queermysteryschool