

## THE ROSARY

### Definition:

The word Rosary means a garland or bouquet of roses. The name “Our Lady's Psalter”, Corona or chaplet suggests the same idea as rosarium.

The Rosary is a certain form of prayer wherein we say fifteen decades or tens of Hail Marys (spiritual rose) with an Our Father between each ten, while at each of these fifteen decades we recall successively in pious meditation one of the mysteries of our Redemption (Roman Breviary).

### History:

Whenever any prayer has to be repeated a large number of times, recourse is likely to be had to some mechanical apparatus less troublesome than counting upon the fingers. Prayer-counters or Rosary beads are universal. As other early Christians, Paul the Hermit, in the fourth century, had imposed upon himself the task of repeating three hundred prayers, according to a set form, every day. To do this, he gathered up three hundred pebbles and threw one away as each prayer was finished. Among the Knights Templar, whose rule dates from about 1128, the knights who could not attend choir were required to say the Lord's Prayer 57 times in all, and on the death of any of the brethren they had to say the Our Father a hundred times a day for a week.

Since the recitation of the 150 Psalms, divided into fifties, was the favorite form of devotion for religious and learned persons, so those who were simple or much occupied, loved by the repetition of fifty, a hundred, or a hundred and fifty to give salutations of Our Lady.

In the course of the twelfth century and before the birth of St. Dominic, the practice of reciting 50 or 150 Ave Marias had become generally familiar. St. Dominic was instructed by our Lady to preach the Rosary among the people as an antidote to error in the Faith and sin.

### Pray the Rosary:

The Rosary is a salute to our Lady who offers to one who prays it the presence and dwelling of the Most Holy Trinity.

The Rosary is pre-eminently the prayer of the people adapted alike for the use of simple and learned. It is by the daily experience of all who are familiar with it. The objection so often made against its “vain repetitions” is felt by none but those who have failed to realize how entirely the spirit of the exercise lies in the meditation upon the fundamental mysteries of our faith. To the initiated the words of the angelical salutation form only a sort of half-conscious accompaniment, which we may liken to the “Holy, Holy, Holy” of the heavenly choirs and surely not in itself meaningless.

The Holy Rosary is considered a perfect prayer because within it lies the awesome story of our salvation. With the Rosary, we meditate the mysteries of joy, of sorrow and the glory of Jesus and Mary.

### The Fifteen Promises of Mary to Christians Who Recite the Rosary:

(Given to St. Dominic and Blessed Alan)

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall receive signal graces.
2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.
3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
4. It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the heart of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
5. The soul which recommend itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall not perish.
6. Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall

not die an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of eternal life.

7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
8. Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the light of God and the plenitude of His graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.
9. I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.
10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.
11. You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary.
12. All those who propagate the holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.
14. All who recite the Rosary are my son, and brothers of my only son Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion of my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

How to pray the Rosary:

1. Make the Sign of the Cross and say the "Apostles' Creed."
2. Say the "Our Father."
3. Say three "Hail Marys."
4. Say the "Glory be to the Father."
5. Announce the First Mystery; then say the "Our Father."
6. Say ten "Hail Marys," while meditating on the Mystery.
7. Say the "Glory be to the Father."
8. After each decade 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."
9. Announce the Second Mystery; then say the "Our Father." Repeat 6 and 7 and continue with Third, Fourth and Fifth Mysteries in the same manner.

HAIL, HOLY QUEEN, Mother of Mercy, 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!

Ÿ. 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 meditating upon 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.

Joyful Mystery of the Rosary

*Monday & Thursday*

The Annunciation to Mary

The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

The Presentation of our Lord  
Finding Jesus in the Temple

Sorrowful Mystery of the Rosary

*Tuesday & Friday*

The Agony of Jesus in the Garden

The Scourging at the Pillar

Jesus is crowned with Thorns  
Jesus Carried the Cross

The Crucifixion of our Lord

Glorious Mystery of the Rosary

*Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday*

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

The Ascension of Jesus to Heaven

The Descent of the Holy Ghost

The Assumption of Mary

Mary is crowned as Queen of Heaven and Earth