

The Rosary,
A Gift From Heaven



Revelation 12:1

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the Sun, the Moon beneath her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head

Our Lady of Fatima to Lucia

Continue to pray the rosary every day

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The Rosary

The Rosary has grown to become a powerful prayer as it has been credited with many healings, conversions, and other miracles of faith.

The Rosary is a Scripture-based prayer and form of meditation that reflects on the lives of Jesus and Mary. St. John XXIII called the holy Rosary “*A summary of the entire Gospel.*”

Derived from *rosarium* in Latin, Rosary means “*Crown of Roses*”. It is a bouquet of fifty roses offered to the Heart of our Heavenly Queen.

It begins with the *Apostles' Creed*, which summarizes the great mysteries of the Catholic faith. It is followed with the *Our Father*, which is the Lord's Prayer and a summation of the whole Gospel. Jesus gave us the *Our Father* prayer as a model. The first part of the *Hail Mary* is the angel's words announcing Christ's birth and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary. St. Pius V officially added the second part of the Hail Mary.

Today's complete Rosary is made up of five decades of the *Hail Mary*, separated by an *Our Father*, a *Glory Be*, and the *Fatima prayer*.

There are four sets of Mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and—added by Saint John Paul II in 2002—the Luminous. Each set is prayed on designated days of the week.

The repetition in the Rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayer related to each Mystery. The gentle recurrence of the words helps us to enter the silence of our hearts, in which Christ's spirit dwells.

The Rosary can be said privately or with a group.



The Blessed Virgin Mary

In Genesis 3:15, God promised a savior, born of the woman, who will conquer Satan.

The Angel Gabriel tells Mary, a Jewish virgin, of the Lord's plan for her to conceive the Son of God as her Son, and Mary freely and humbly gives her consent. Through her faithful assent to cooperate in God's saving plan, Mary becomes truly the Mother of God.

Jesus is conceived of the Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. Mary gives Jesus his human nature.

Mary visits Elizabeth, whose son John leaps in his mother's womb when Mary greets her. Mary sings a canticle of joy and gratitude to God (the Magnificat).

At his death, Jesus gives her to us as our Mother in the person of the beloved disciple. Mary is Mother of the Church and our spiritual Mother.

She is the model of what the Church is called to become, spotless, without stain or blemish. Mary is our Mother in the order of grace and is our model for faith, obedience, and holiness.

As Queen of heaven and earth, Mother Mary participates in the mediation of her Son's grace, intercedes for us, and always leads us to her Son, so that we can pray to her.

As Jesus is the New Adam who undid the disobedience of the first Adam, making Mary with her obedient response of faith, the new Eve.

She is the new Ark of the Covenant, who carries within her the Lawgiver, the bread of Life, and the eternal High Priest.

In Revelation 11:19 a 12:17, the Ark of the Covenant is seen; a woman clothed with the sun appears pregnant with a child who will rule the world; threatened by Satan, she is protected by God. Satan then wars on her other children, the faithful followers of Jesus.

Mary is the most perfect example of the obedience of faith and our model in faith. Immaculate Conception. Mary was conceived without original sin. From the moment of her conception, God preserved Mary from personal sin for her entire life.

Mary remained a virgin, before, during, and after the conception and birth of Jesus. Mary perpetual virginity flows from her espousal to the divine will through the Holy Spirit's overshadowing her, an act that sanctified her womb.

Jesus' *brothers and sisters* are other close relations, as the Gospels demonstrates.

The dogma does not address whether Mary died. Mary's assumption is the participation in her Son's Resurrection and anticipates our own.

All Christians are her children. As Mother of God, Mother of the Church, and our own Mother, we love and give her honor and devotion.

We pray with, and to, Mary, especially in the Hail Mary, the Rosary, and numerous hymns and prayers.

Opening Thought

“Here is your son... Here is your mother” (John 19:27). These were the last words that Jesus Christ addressed to any creature before his death; they are his last will. By them he entrusted all his disciples to his own beloved Mother as her spiritual children, and gave her to all his disciples as their spiritual Mother. Mary has by grace been exalted above all angels and men to a place second only to her Son, as the most holy Mother of God who was involved in the mysteries of Christ: she is rightly honored by a special cult in the Church” (Vatican Council II, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church)



Quotations

St. Louis de Montfort

The holy rosary is a gift come down from heaven; a great present that God gives to His most faithful servants. God is the Author of the prayers of which it is composed and of the mysteries it contains

Pope Pius XII

There is no surer means of calling down God's blessings upon the family... than the daily recitation of the rosary

Maisie Ward

"The Rosary is a very intellectual, very civilized, form of prayer. Once understood, it fascinates".

St. John Mary Vianney

The heart of our good mother Mary is all love and mercy. She desires nothing else but our happiness. We need only have recourse to her and we will be heard.

Most Reverend Fulton J Sheen

If you wish to convert anyone to the fullness of our Lord and of His Mystical Body, then teach him the rosary. One of two things will happen. Either he will stop saying the rosary or he will get the gift of faith.

A colleague of the late **Fr. Amorth** (the chief exorcist of Rome), overheard the devil.

"Every Hail Mary is like a blow to my head. If Christians knew how powerful the Rosary was, it would be my end".

St. Fulgentius

"Mary is the ladder of heaven; for by Mary, God descended from heaven into the world, that by her, men might ascend from Earth to heaven"

St. Thomas Aquinas

"As mariners are guided into port by the shining of a star, so Christians are guided to heaven by Mary"

Sister Lucia, the lone surviving seer of Fatima, speaking to Fr. Fuentes on December 26, 1957

"Look, Father, the Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given new efficacy in the recitation of the Holy Rosary. She has given this efficacy to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families, of the families in the world, or of the religious communities, or even of the life of peoples and nations that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot solve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary. With the Holy Rosary, we will save ourselves. We will sanctify ourselves. We will console our Lord and obtain the salvation of many souls."

St. Maximilian Kolbe

Modern times are dominated by Satan and will be more so in the future. The conflict with hell cannot be won by men, even the most clever. The Immaculate alone has from God the promise of victory over Satan. However, now that she is assumed into heaven, the Modern of God requires our cooperation. She seeks souls who will consecrate themselves entirely to her, who will become in her hands powerful instruments for the defeat of Satan and the extension of the Kingdom of God.

St. John Paul II

*Mother of the Redeemer;
with great joy we call you blessed.
In order to carry out His plan of salvation,
God the Father chose you before the creation of the world.
You believed in His love and obeyed His word.
The Son of God desired you for His Mother
when He became man to save the human race.
You received Him with ready obedience and undivided heart.
The Holy Spirit loved you as His mystical spouse
and filled you with singular gifts.
You allowed yourself to be led
by His hidden powerful action.
On the eve of the third Christian Millennium,
we entrust to you the Church
which acknowledges you and invokes you as Mother.
To you, Mother of human family and of the nations,
we confidently entrust the whole humanity,
with its hopes and fears.
Do not let it lack the light of true wisdom.
Guide its steps in the ways of peace.
Enable all to meet Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
sustain us, O Virgin Mary, on our journey of faith
and obtain for us the grace of eternal salvation.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Mother of God
and our Mother, Mary!*



History of the Rosary

The Hail Mary owes its origin to the Rosary.

The Catholic Church adopted the Rosary in the 13th century.

St Dominic de Guzman, born in Caleruega, Burgos, Spain in 1170, had a vision of Our Lady in 1214. During a period of prayer at the abbey in Prouille, a convent near Toulouse, in southern France, the Virgin Mary gave the Rosary to him, telling him to pray and teach it.

When people said the Rosary in the twelfth century, Gabrielle's greeting "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee" was often said along with the Our Father. Later, Elizabeth's greeting "blessed are you among women" was added. In the sixteenth century, the words "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death" were added.

In the fifteenth century, the Rosary was divided into fifteen brackets (or decades), and a Dominican monk assigned mysteries to each of the decades. These mysteries were events in the life of Jesus as

written in the Gospels. By meditating on these events, even the illiterate could know the stories in the Bible.

The Glory Be to the Father is thought to have taken form in the fourth century, but it did not become part of the Rosary until the sixteenth century.

The Apostles Creed dates back to the early days of Christianity, to the Apostles themselves on Pentecost. It began in its present form in the seventh century but was not added to the Rosary until the late 16th or early 17th century.

On February 11, 1858, a simple 14-year-old peasant girl of no significant educational experience called Bernadette Soubirous reported a vision of Our Lady of Lourdes near the Grotto of Massabielle, near the Pyrenees mountains in the south of France. Our Lady had a yellow rose on each foot, the same color as the chain of her Rosary; the beads of the Rosary were white. She smiled, said “Que soy era Immaculada Concepciou” (I am the Immaculate Conception) and invited Soubirous to pray the Rosary with her.

Our Lady appeared in Fatima, Portugal, six times beginning on May 13, 1917, when three shepherd children (ages 7, 9, and 10) encountered the Virgin Mary on their way home.

The oldest girl, Lucia, was the only one to speak to her, and Mary told the children that she would reappear to them on the thirteenth day of the next six months.

On Oct. 13, 1917, it was Mary's final appearance to the children, identifying herself as 'Our Lady of the Rosary'. Her message was simple: pray the Rosary every day, do penance, and have devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

Everyone experienced for 10 minutes what is known as a 'sun miracle'—silvery disc had emerged from behind the clouds, the sun danced or zoomed toward Earth, along with brilliant colors spinning out of the sun. The Fatima prayer was then added to the Rosary.

On October 16, 2002, Pope John Paul II, declared that the following year would be the “Year of the Rosary”. The Pope added five new mysteries that concerned events in the public life of Jesus. These new mysteries were called the “Luminous Mysteries” or “Mysteries of Light”



Saint Dominic

In 1214, Saint Dominic received the Rosary from the Blessed Virgin as a powerful means of converting the Albigensians and other sinners.

The well-known book “De Dignitate Psalterii” by Blessed Alan de la Roche, explains how he received it.

Saint Dominic, seeing that the gravity of people’s sins was hindering the conversion of the Albigensians, withdrew into a forest near Toulouse where he prayed unceasingly for three days and three nights.

During this time he did nothing but weep and do harsh penances in order to appease the anger of Almighty God. He used his discipline so much that his body was lacerated, and finally he fell into a coma.

At this point, Our Lady appeared to him, accompanied by three angels, and said:
“Dear Dominic, do you know which weapon the Blessed Trinity wants to use to reform the world?”

“Oh, my Lady,” answered Saint Dominic, *“you know far better than I do because next to your Son, Jesus Christ, you have always been the chief instrument of our salvation.”*

Then Our Lady replied:

"I want you to know that in this kind of warfare, the battering ram has always been the Angelic Psalter, which is the foundation stone of the New Testament. Therefore, if you want to reach these hardened souls and win them over to God, preach my Psalter."

So he arose, comforted, and burning with zeal for the conversion of the people in that district, and he made his way straight to the Cathedral. At once unseen angels rang the bells to gather the people together and Saint Dominic began to preach.

At the very beginning of his sermon, an appalling storm broke out, the earth shook, the sun has darkened, and there was so much thunder and lightning, that everyone was very much afraid. Even greater was their fear when looking at a picture of Our Lady, exposed in a prominent place, they saw her raise her arms to heaven three times to call down God's vengeance upon them if they failed to be converted, to amend their lives, and seek the protection of the Holy Mother of God.

God wished, by means of these supernatural phenomena, to spread the new devotion of the Holy Rosary and make it more widely known.

At last, at the prayer of Saint Dominic, the storm came to an end, and he went on preaching. So fervently and compellingly did he explain the importance and value of the Holy Rosary that almost all the people of Toulouse embraced it and renounced their false beliefs.

In a very short time a great improvement was seen in the town; people began leading Christian lives and gave up their former bad habits.



Stories of the Rosary

Our Lady blesses not only those who preach her Rosary, but she highly rewards all those who get others to say it by their example.

Blessed Thomas of Saint John's Rosary Apostolate

Blessed Thomas of Saint John was well known for his sermons on the Most Holy Rosary, and the devil—jealous of the success he had with souls, tortured him so much that he fell ill and was sick so long that the doctors gave him up. One night when he really thought that he was dying, the devil appeared to him in the most horrible form imaginable.

There was a picture of Our Lady near his bed; he looked at it and cried with all his heart and soul and strength: “Help me, save me, my sweet, sweet Mother!” No sooner than he had said this, that the picture seemed to come alive and Our Lady put out her hand, took him by the arm and said:

“Do not be afraid, Thomas my son, here I am and I am going to save you: get up now and go on preaching my Rosary as you used to do. I promise to shield you from your enemies.”

When Our Lady said this the devil fled and Blessed Thomas got up, finding that he was in perfect health. He then thanked the Blessed Mother with tears of joy. He resumed his Rosary apostolate and his sermons were marvelously successful.

Alfonso IX's Devotion to the Holy Rosary

Alfonso IX, King of Leon and Galicia, used to hang a large rosary on his belt and always wore it. His wearing encouraged his servants to say the Rosary devoutly. However, King Alphonso never pray it himself.

One day the King fell seriously ill, and was given up for dead. He had a vision whereby he found himself before the judgement seat of Our Lord. Many devils were there accusing him of all the sins he had committed and Our Lord was just about to condemn him to hell. Suddenly, he saw Our Lady with some scales. She put all his sins on one side, and on the other were all of the Rosaries that had been said because of his example. It was found that the Rosaries outweighed his sins.

Looking at him with great kindness Our Lady said: *"As a reward for this little honor that you paid me in wearing my Rosary, I have obtained a great grace for you from my Son. Your life will be spared for a few more years. See that you spend these years wisely and do penance."*

When the King regained consciousness he cried out: *"Blessed be the Rosary of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, by which I have been delivered from eternal damnation!"*

After he had recovered his health, he spent the rest of his life in spreading devotion to the Holy Rosary and said it faithfully every day.

Propagating the Rosary saved the King from eternal damnation.



Battle of Lepanto

In 1571, Christianity was saved at the Battle of Lepanto, after many European Catholics, including combat soldiers, implored the help of the Virgin Mary by praying the Rosary.

The victory at Lepanto against the Muslim forces is one of the most significant events in the Church's history.

This is the historical context.

In 1453, the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople, the center of Christianity in the Eastern world.

After Constantinople, in the 16th century, the Turks turned toward the western Mediterranean and Europe, conquering areas in the Balkans, Greece, Ukraine, North Africa and the Middle East, threatening all Christianity. The Turkish military was well led and organized; their navy was growing into one of the most feared among all nations. In the spoils of war, they committed widespread atrocities, especially against Christians.

In early 1571, the populace of Famagusta, Cyprus, which was under Venetian rule, was held out for months against a siege by the Turks. When food supplies were exhausted, the city negotiated a ceasefire, and the Turks agreed to the safety of the citizens. However, when the Christian leaders were brought before the Turkish military, some were beheaded, some tortured; atrocities were committed against the populace and many became slaves.

The Ottoman empire was a growing menace. A strong and aggressive Muslim force was poised to conquer the European continent and wipe out Christianity, placing “a crescent on top of St. Peter's and a turban on the pope's head.”

Meanwhile, the Christian world was in chaos. In Germany the Protestant Reformation was on fire, in France the Huguenots were fighting Christians, and England was rejecting Catholicism. The Council of Trent (1545-63) was recently completed, and the pope was confronted to act on and implement the many decisions of the ecumenical council, including a revised Roman Missal, a breviary, and a catechism.

In the Church of Rome, an unlikely leader surfaced in the person of Michele Cardinal Ghislieri, who in 1566 became Pope Pius V –and who in 1712 would become St. Pius V, after being canonized by Pope Clement XI. He didn't want the job as the Holy Father and upon installation reportedly said: *“With God's help, I will try to govern so that the public's grief at my death will be even greater than their grief at my election.”*

Pius V recognized the Ottoman Turks as the biggest concern of the time. As his reign begun, he organized a Holy League, a crusade of European nations against the Muslim force.

Many countries wanted to remain neutral; only Spain, the Papal States and Venice offered serious resources, while other states provided limited support. All combined, the Holy League consisted of 208 ships and 68,000 soldiers, sailors and oarsmen. It was commanded by twenty-two years old Don Juan of Austria, Philip II of Spain's half-brother. The Muslim force, strong and well-trained, had 282 ships and 87,000 men including oarsmen; the majority of their oarsmen were Christian slaves. It was the greatest enemy the Christendom had ever faced.

In September 1571, Pope Pius V appealed to all of Christendom, and especially to the convents and religious houses around Rome, to double their prayers in order that the Holy League would stop their Eastern foe.

As the sea battle between the Christians and Turks loomed, Pope Pius V ordered the churches of Rome open for prayer day and night, encouraging to petition the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary through the recitation of the Rosary for a Christian victory.

The pope also ordered churches to conduct continuous periods of Eucharistic adoration. He prompted the Rosary Confraternities in Rome to hold processions during which the Rosary was prayed. Christians throughout Europe were all fervently praying at the same time to save Christianity.

The pope gave every ship a small piece of the True Cross, and the Papal Nuncio blessed each ship as it sailed by.

While they waited for the battle to begin, Don Juan heeded the pope's suggestion and enforced a strict code-of-conduct on his men - no women were allowed on board, and Don Juan and all his officers and crew fasted for three days.

Every last one of his 81,000 men, (officers, crew and even galley slaves) also went to confession and received the Eucharist.

Teams of Jesuits, Franciscans, Capuchins and Dominican priests worked around the clock for days to accomplish this mammoth task. The galley slaves, many of whom were considered the scum of the earth, were unshackled and taken to the nearby Jesuit College so they too could receive the sacraments.

Immediately before the battle, Don Juan, with a crucifix raised aloft, circled his fleet to offer a final sign of encouragement.

On the eve, every soldier and sailor aboard the Christian vessels knelt and prayed the Rosary before a perceived to be losing battle.

It was a Rosary crusade.

The naval Battle of Lepanto finally took place on October 7th, 1571.

The Christian naval forces (Holy League) of Spain, Venice and the papacy fought in an intense

battle with the fleet of the Ottoman Empire. The battle took place in Lepanto, in the Gulf of Patras located in western Greece. The battle lasted some five hours with the ships fighting in close proximity and ended with the defeat of the Turkish fleet. Christianity was saved.

People were jubilant, Church bells rang and joyful praise was given to the Blessed Mother for her intercession.

When the battle was over, the Turks had lost 25,000 men and 224 ships. The Christian losses were less than 8,000 men and only a few vessels; 10,000 slaves were freed.

This victory would severely curtail attempts by the Ottoman Empire to control the Mediterranean, impacting the course of history.

Many attributed the Catholic's resounding victory to the behavior of the men and the intercession of our Blessed Mother and Her Holy Rosary.

Pope Pius V himself (later Saint Pius V) interpreted the event as the movement of Providence in favor of the Church and European civilization. He asserted that the intercession of the Mother of God moved the "Holy League" to victory.

Pope Leo XIII said of Our Lady's intercession: "Since Mary's greatest joy is to grant her help and assessment to those who call upon her, there is no reason to doubt not only that she wishes to answer the prayers of the universal Church but also that she is eager to do so."

To commemorate the event, Pope Pius V designated October 7th Feast of Our Lady of Victory. Pope Pius' successor, Gregory XIII would change the name of this day to "The Feast of the Holy Rosary."

The victory at Lepanto and the impact of the Rosary would be perpetuated in Catholic memory.



Hiroshima's Survivors

August 6, 1945 was a fateful day in world history: the first nuclear bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in Japan. On that day, a Monday, at 8:15 in the morning, the American B-29 aircraft Enola Gay dropped its atomic bomb "Little Boy". It exploded at a height of about 1,900 feet above the city, with a bright flash, creating a giant fireball, which vaporized everything and everyone within a radius of about a mile of the denotation point. Over 80,000 people were killed instantly by the blast, and 130,000 more died months later due to injuries and effects of radiation. Two thirds of the city's buildings were completely destroyed. Everything had been devastated.

However, a community of eight Jesuit priests living at the rectory of the church of Our Lady of the Assumption, situated less than a mile away from the epicenter of the bomb blast, survived miraculously the catastrophe, escaping unscathed from the effects of the bomb.

Their rectory remained standing, while those all around were killed and the buildings were flattened.

Father Hubert Schiffer, a German Jesuit, 30 years-old at the time of the explosion, lived to the age of 63 in good health.

In 1976 he attended the Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia and told his story. "Suddenly, a terrifying explosion filled the air with one bursting thunderstruck. An invisible force lifted me from the chair, hurled me through the air, shook me, battered me [and] whirled me round and round like a leaf in a gust of autumn wind."

The next thing he remembered was that he opened his eyes and was lying on the ground. He looked around and there was nothing in any direction: the railroad station and buildings in all directions were leveled to the ground.

He had a few quite minor injuries, a few pieces of glass in the back of his neck. He was examined, along with the other fellow priests, by 200 American scientists and doctors. Neither he nor his companions suffered ill-effects, lesions or premature death from radiation. To the doctors' amazement, no trace of the radiation was found in their bodies.

Fr. Schiffer and his companions believed *"that we survived because we were living the message of Fatima."* *"We prayed the rosary daily in that home,"* said Schiffer.

They never doubted that they had been blessed with protection by the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This coincides with the bombing of Nagasaki, three days later, where St. Maximilian Kolbe had established a Franciscan Friary, which was also unharmed because of special protection from the Blessed Mother, as the brothers, too, prayed the daily Rosary and also had no effects from the bomb.

Father Hubert Schiffer died on March 27, 1982, 37 years after that fateful day. At the time, all eight members of the Jesuit community from Hiroshima were still alive.



The Errors of Communism

In 1846, Our Lady appeared in La Salette, France, to two children, Maximin Giraud and Mélanie Calvat. The Blessed Virgin made many prophecies about the future, including, *“devils would be lost from hell in 1864”*.

That year, the First International meeting took place. Communists, socialists, and anarchists from around the world gathered in London. Twenty years later, the revolutionary activity begun.

During an interview, in July 1946, Sr. Lucia told author William Thomas Walsh, “What Our Lady wants is that the Pope and all the bishops in the world shall consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart on one special day. If this is done, she will convert Russia and there will be peace. If it is not done, the errors of Russia will spread through every country in the world.” Walsh asked, “Does this mean, in your opinion, that every country, without exception, will be overcome by Communism?”

“Yes.”

To understand the errors spread by communism, let's examine his founder, Karl Marx and his Satanic ideas. Some of his poems were revealing. He once boasted he would be the man who would drag God down from heaven.

In his poem “Human Pride”, Marx admits that his aim is not to improve the world, reform or revolutionize it, but simply to ruin it and enjoy it being ruined. “Then I wander godlike through the ruins of the world... I will feel equal to God.”

In *Pale Maiden* he wrote, “Thus heaven I have forfeited it, I know it full well, my soul once true to God, is chosen for hell.”

When people went to Russia and train to be Communists, much time was spent studying evolution, the central component of all Communist theory, and a total denial of God – since we just evolved from cells and we are not made His image.

Also, communism advocates the redefinition of the traditional concept of family, limiting the authority of parents, and promoting sexual freedom at all levels –making promiscuity and pornography normalized.

It also encourages situational ethics, indifferentism, and relativism.

Family dysfunction emerges when the society does not revere the sacramental and permanent bond of marriage and understands that family provides the best outcomes in regard to raising happy and well-adjusted children.

If a society does not value life from conception to natural death, and if people believe there are no consequences for sin, then any behavior is acceptable.

As Sr. Lucia warned, every country has indeed been overcome by the errors of Communism.



How to Pray the Rosary

To pray the Rosary, pass your fingers over each bead and say a prayer.

Each decade is a set of ten Hail Marys that represents an event in the life of Jesus and his mother. Picture and meditate upon these mysteries.

Monday: “Joyful Mysteries”

Tuesday: “Sorrowful Mysteries”

Wednesday: “Glorious Mysteries”

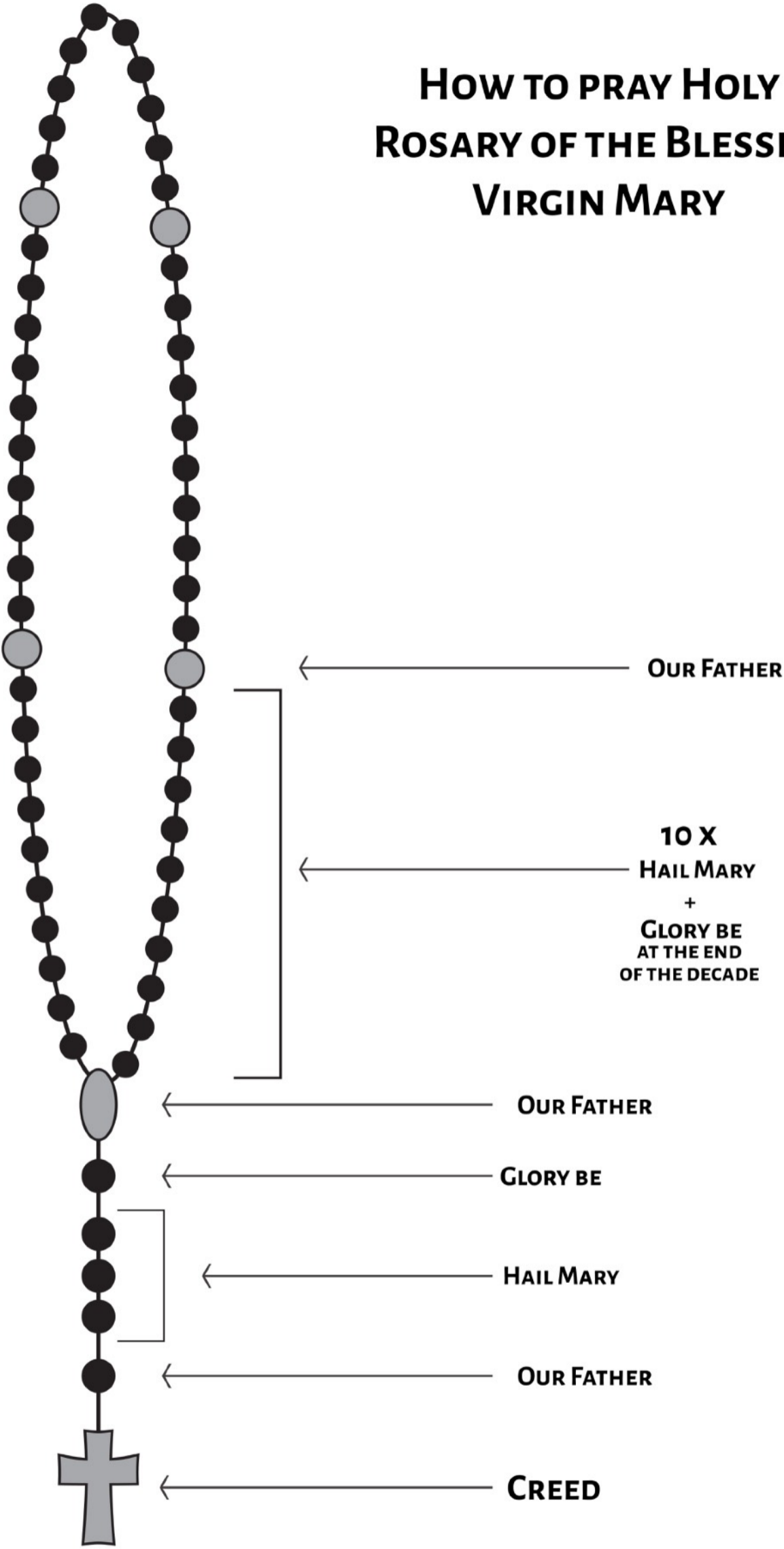
Thursday: “Luminous Mysteries”

Friday: “Sorrowful Mysteries”

Saturday: “Joyful Mysteries”

Sunday: “Glorious Mysteries”

**HOW TO PRAY HOLY
ROSARY OF THE BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY**





The Prayers

The sign of the Cross

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

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.

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 at the hour of death. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. (1,3,5 Mysteries)
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come 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 life everlasting. Amen.

Fatima Prayer

O 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.

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail! Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send our signs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, O most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward 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 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.

Rosary in a group. A leader recites the first half of the prayer, while the other members recite the rest. The second part of the Our Father begins with "Give us this day"; the one of the Hail Mary begins with "Holy Mary"; and the one of the Glory Be with "As it was in the beginning"

The first, third, and fifth mysteries are recited by the leader, while the other members of the group say the second part. The second and fourth mysteries are recited by the members by saying the first part and the leader says the second part of the prayer.



Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful Mysteries

- **The Annunciation to Mary.** *The angel Gabriel tells Mary that God wishes her to become the Mother of Jesus, and Mary humbly accepts.*
- **The Visitation.** *Mary visits and assists her cousin Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, in her time of need. Elizabeth greets Mary: "Blessed art Thou among women and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb!"*
- **The Nativity of Jesus.** *The Virgin Mary gives birth to the Redeemer of the World.*
- **The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple.** *The Blessed Mother presents the Child Jesus in the Temple.*
- **The Finding of Jesus in the Temple.** *On the third day they came upon Him in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.*

Sorrowful Mysteries

- **The Agony in the Garden.** *Our Lord prayed for strength to drink the cup of suffering, to suffer, die and rise for us.*
- **The Scourging at the Pillar.** *Our Lord was cruelly scourged. He accepted pain so we would never have to suffer too much.*
- **The Crowning of Jesus with Thorns.** *Jesus accepted being crowned with thorns so we would not be afraid to be laughed at.*
- **The Carrying of the Cross.** *Jesus carried His Cross willingly to make it easier for us to carry our crosses.*
- **The Crucifixion and Death of our Lord Jesus.** *After three hours and much agony, Our Lord died on the Cross for us. This is how much He loved us.*

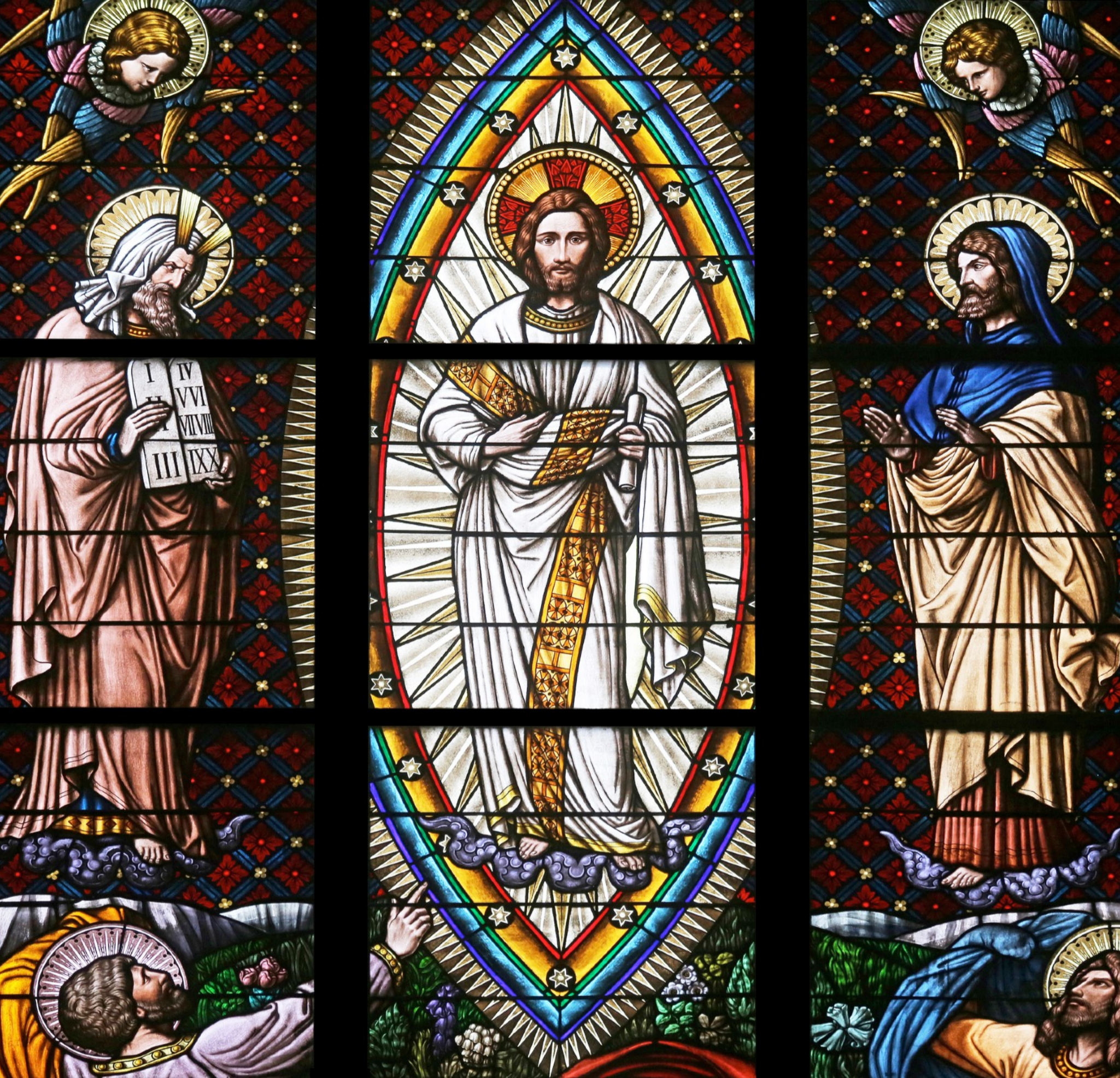
Glorious Mysteries

- **The Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus.** *You need not be amazed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, the one who was crucified. He has been raised up.*
- **The Ascension of Our Lord Jesus into Heaven.** *Then, after speaking to them, the Lord Jesus was taken up into Heaven and took His seat at God's right hand.*
- **The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.** *All were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to express themselves in foreign tongues and make bold proclamation as the Spirit prompted them.*
- **The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven.** *You are the glory of Jerusalem... you are the splendid boast of our people... God is pleased with what you have wrought. Mary you be blessed by the Lord Almighty forever and ever.*
- **The Coronation of Our Blessed Virgin Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth.** *A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.*

Luminous Mysteries

- **The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan.** *And when Jesus was baptized ... the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him, and lo, a voice from heaven, saying "this is My beloved Son," with whom I am well pleased."*

- **The Wedding at Cana.** *His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.*
- **Jesus' Proclamation of the Kingdom of God.** *Preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without pay, give without pay."*
- **The Transfiguration of Jesus.** *And as He was praying, the appearance of His countenance was altered and His raiment become dazzling white. And a voice came out of the cloud saying, "This is My Son, My chosen; listen to Him!"*
- **The Institution of the Eucharist.** *And He took bread, and when He had given thanks He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you." ... And likewise the cup after supper, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."*



Scriptural Rosary

It isn't unusual to find oneself thinking of mundane matters rather than heavenly mysteries when praying the Rosary. We're all guilty of that. A scriptural rosary can help in meditating the events in the lives of our Lord and our Lady.

The Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation

Luke 1: 26-38

The Visitation

Luke 1:39-53

The Nativity

Luke 2:6-19

Matt. 2:11

The Presentation

Luke 2:25-39

The Finding of Jesus

Luke 2:42-52

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony in the Garden

Matt. 26:36-41

Mark 14:35

Luke 22:42-44

The Scourging at the Pillar

Mark 15:1-2

John 18:36-37

Luke 23:4, 16

John 19:1

Isa. 53:4-8

The Crowning with Thorns

Mark 15:14-15

Matt. 27:29

John 19:4-5

John 19:16

The Carrying of the Cross

Luke 9:23

Luke 23:26-31

John 19:17

Matt. 11:29-30

The Crucifixion

Luke 23:33-34

Matt. 27:44-51

Luke 23:39-46
John 19:26-30

The Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection
John 16:20-22
Luke 24:1-6
Matt. 28:2-8
Mark 16:6
John 11:25-26

The Ascension
Luke 24:50-51
Matt. 28:18-20
Mark 16:16-19

The Descent of the Holy Spirit
Acts 2:1-5
Acts 2:14
Acts 2:38-41
Ps. 103:30

The Assumption
Judith 13:23-31
Judith 15:10
Ps. 44:11-14
Rev. 11:19
Rev. 12:1
Ps. 97:1

The Coronation
Cant. 6:10
Sir. 50:8-9
Sir. 24:24-27
Prov. 8:32-35

The Luminous Mysteries

The Baptism of Our Lord
Matt. 3:1-17

The Wedding Feast at Cana
John 2:1-11

The Proclamation of the Kingdom

Mark 1:14-15
John 3:5
Matt 5:3
Matt 5:10
Matt 5:20
Matt 13:45-46
Matt 18:3
Mark 10:24
Luke 4:43
John 18:36

The Transfiguration
Matt 17:1-7
Luke 9:32
Mark 9:8

The Introduction of the Eucharist
John 6:35
John 6:54-56
Matt 26:27
Luke 22:19
Mark 14:24
1 Cor 11:25-26



The Story of Fatima

During World War I, Pope Benedict XV issued repeated pleas for peace, and finally in May 1917, made a direct appeal to the Blessed Mother to intercede.

In Fatima, a small village about 70 miles north of Lisbon, Portugal, from May to October 1917, Our Lady began to appear to three shepherd children, Lucia dos Santos, 10, and her cousins, Francisco, 9, and Jacinta Marto, 7.

The apparitions culminated in the “Miracle of Sun” on October 13, when 70,000 people saw the sun spin in the sky and change its color successively, before falling to the earth in a terrifying manner. Many of those present thought it was the end of the world, but the sun resumed its place in the sky to great cries of relief. This was the largest miracle witnessed in history.

What follows is an edited and enriched summary of texts written by *The World Apostolate of Fatima, USA*.

The Angel of Peace

However, a year before, in the Spring of 1916, a supernatural event took place as the three children were looking after their sheep. A dazzling young man, made of light, appeared to them encouraging them to pray and make sacrifices. He told them he was the Angel of Peace and the Angel of Portugal. He would appear again later in the Summer and in Autumn. The Angel held a chalice in his hands, above which was suspended a host from which drops of blood were falling into the chalice. The Angel left the chalice suspended in the air and prostrated himself before it in prayer. He taught them a prayer of Eucharistic reparation.

He then gave the host to Lucia and the chalice to Francisco and Jacinta, saying: *“Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, horribly outraged by ungrateful men. Repair their crimes and console your God.”* Then he prostrated himself again in prayer before disappearing. The children did not tell anyone about these visits of the Angel, feeling an interior necessity to keep quiet about these events.

May 13, 1917

On May 13, 1917, the three children were with their flocks in an area known as Cova da Iria (Cove of Peace). After praying the Rosary, they suddenly saw a flash of lighting. In Lucia's words, they looked up to see: *“A lady, clothed in white, brighter than the sun, radiating a light more clear and intense than a crystal cup filled with sparkling water lit by burning sunlight.”*

The children stood there amazed as the Lady smiled and said: *“Do not be afraid, I will not harm you.”*

Lucia, as the oldest, asked her where she came from. The Lady pointed to the sky and said: *“I come from heaven.”*

Lucia then asked her what she wanted. *“I have come to ask you to come here for six months on the 13th day of the month at this same hour. Later, I shall say who I am and what I desire. And I shall return here yet a seventh time.”*

Lucia then asked if they would go to heaven and was told “yes,” she and Jacinta would go to heaven, but Francisco would need to say many rosaries first. The Lady then said: *“Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He wills to send you as an act of reparation for the conversion of sinners?”* Lucia, speaking for all three, readily agreed. *“Then you are going to have much to suffer, but the grace of God will be your comfort.”*

Lucia recounted that at the same moment she said these words the Lady opened her hands and streamed a “light” on the children that allowed them to see themselves in God. The Lady finished with a request: *“Say the Rosary every day to bring peace to the world and the end of the war.”* With that she began to rise into the air, moving towards the east until she disappeared.

The children got together and tried to think of ways they could make sacrifices as the Lady had asked, resolving to go without lunch and to pray the full Rosary. Francisco and Jacinta received

more support from their parents than Lucia, but the attitudes of the local inhabitants ranged from skepticism to utter contempt, and the children thereby suffered many insults. They would have much to suffer, just as the Lady had told them.

June 13, 1917

About 50 people turned up at the Cova da Iria on June 13 as the three children assembled near the holm oak tree where the Lady had appeared. The children then saw a flash of light followed immediately by the apparition of Mary as she spoke to Lucia: *"I want you to come on the 13th of next month, to pray the Rosary every day, and to learn to read. Later, I will tell you what I want."*

Lucia asked Mary to take them to heaven and was reassured in this way: *"I will take Jacinta and Francisco shortly, but you will stay here for some time to come. Jesus wants to use you to make me known and loved. He wishes to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart throughout the world. I promise salvation to whoever embraces it. These souls will be dear to God, like flowers put by me to adorn his throne."* This last sentence is found in a letter written in 1927 by Sister Lucia to her confessor.

Lucia was sad at the first part of this reply and asked: "Am I to stay here alone?" Mary replied: *"No, my daughter. Are you suffering a great deal? Don't lose heart. I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God."*

One of the witnesses to this apparition, Maria Carreira, described how Lucia then cried out and pointed as Mary departed. She herself heard a noise like "a rocket a long way off."

July 13, 1917

On July 13 the three children assembled at the Cova and again saw the indescribably beautiful Lady over the holm oak tree. Lucia asked what she wanted, and Mary replied: *"I want you to come here on the 13th of next month and to continue to pray the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war, because only she can help you."*

Lucia then asked her who she was and for a miracle so everyone would believe: *"Continue to come here every month. In October, I will tell you who I am and what I want, and I will perform a miracle for all to see and believe."*

Lucia made some requests for sick people, to which Mary replied that she would cure some but not others, and that all must say the Rosary to obtain these graces during the year. And she continued: *"Sacrifice yourselves for sinners and say many times, especially when you make some sacrifice: O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."*



The Vision of Hell

As she spoke these words, Mary opened her hands and rays of light from them seemed to penetrate the earth revealing to the children a terrifying vision of hell full of demons and lost souls amid indescribable horrors.

The children looked up to the sad face of the Blessed Virgin, who spoke to them kindly:

“You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end; but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the pontificate of Pius XI. When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that he is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father.

“To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world causing wars and

persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated. In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world."

This concludes the second part of the secret. The third part was not made public until the year 2000 at the beatification ceremonies of Jacinta and Francisco Marto.

Mary specifically told Lucia not to tell anyone about the secret at this stage, apart from Francisco, before continuing: *"When you pray the Rosary, say after each mystery: O my Jesus! Forgive us, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are most in need."* After assuring Lucia that there was nothing more, Mary disappeared off into the distance.

August 19, 1917

As August 13th approached, the story of the apparitions had reached the anti-religious secular press, and while this ensured that the whole country knew about Fatima, it also meant that many biased and negative reports were circulating.

The children were kidnapped on the morning of the 13th by the Mayor of Vila Nova de Ourem, Arturo Santos. They were interrogated about the secret; but despite his threats and promises of money, they refused to divulge it. In the afternoon they were moved to the local prison and threatened with death but determined that they would die rather than reveal the secret.

Late in the afternoon on August 19, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta were together at a place called Valinhos, near Fatima, when they again saw Mary, who spoke to Lucia: *"Go again to the Cova da Iria on the 13th and continue to say the Rosary every day."* Mary also said she would perform a miracle, so all would believe and that if they had not been kidnapped it would have been even greater.

Looking very sad, Mary then said: *"Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and pray for them."* With that she rose into the air and moved towards the east before disappearing.

By now the children had thoroughly absorbed Mary's plea for prayer and penance, and did everything they could to answer it. They prayed for hours while lying prostrate on the ground and went as long as they could without drinking in the burning heat of the Portuguese summer. They also went without food as a sacrifice for sinners to save them from hell, the vision of which had so profoundly affected them. They even knotted some pieces of old rope around their waists as a form of mortification, not removing them day or night.

September 13, 1917

On September 13, very large crowds began to converge on Fatima from all directions. Around noon the children arrived. After the customary flash of light they saw Mary on the holm oak tree. She spoke to Lucia: *"Continue to pray the Rosary in order to obtain the end of the war. In October Our*

Lord will come, as well as Our Lady of Dolours and Our Lady of Carmel. Saint Joseph will appear with the Child Jesus to bless the world. God is pleased with your sacrifices. He does not want you to sleep with the rope on, but only to wear it during the daytime."

Lucia then began to put forward the petitions for cures, to be told: *"Yes, I will cure some, but not others. In October I will perform a miracle so that all may believe."* Then Our Lady began to rise as usual and disappeared.

October 13, 1917

The prediction of a public miracle caused intense speculation throughout Portugal and the journalist, Avelino de Almeida, published a satirical article on the whole business in the anti-religious newspaper *O Seculo*. People from other parts of the country descended by the tens of thousands on the cova despite the terrible storm that lashed the mountain country around Fatima on the eve of the 13th. Many pilgrims walked barefooted, reciting the Rosary as they went, all crowding into the area around the cova. By mid-morning the weather again turned bad and heavy rain began to fall.

The children reached the holm oak around noon and then saw the flash of light as Mary appeared before them. For the last time, Lucia asked what she wanted: *"I want to tell you that a chapel is to be built here in my honor. I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue always to pray the Rosary every day. The war is going to end, and the soldiers will soon return to their homes."*

Again Lucia made requests for cures, conversions and other things. Our Lady's response was: *"Some yes, but not others. They must amend their lives and ask forgiveness for their sins."*

Sister Lucia tells us that at this point Mary grew very sad and said: *"Do not offend the Lord our God any more, because He is already so much offended."* Then, opening her hands, she made them reflect on the sun and, as she ascended, the reflection of her own light continued to be projected on the sun itself. After she disappeared, as the people witnessed the great miracle which had been predicted, the children saw the visions foretold during the September apparition.

The Great Miracle of the Sun

The greatest miracle to occur since the Resurrection is also the only miracle ever precisely predicted as to date, time of day and location. Although it is popularly known as "The Miracle of the Sun" and October 13, 1917 has come to be known as "The Day the Sun Danced," a great deal more took place.

The solar phenomena included the dancing of the sun, its fluctuations in color, its swirling and its descending toward the earth. There was also the stillness in the leaves of the trees in spite of howling winds, the complete drying of the rain-soaked ground and the restoration of clothes all wet and covered with mud so that, as eye-witness Dominic Reis, put it, "They looked as tho they had just come back from the cleaners." Physical cures of the blind and the lame were reported. The

countless unreserved public confessions of sin and commitments to conversion of life attest to the authenticity of what they saw.

The miracle is reported to have been seen from as far as 15-25 miles away, thus ruling out the possibility of any type of collective hallucination or mass hypnotism. Doubters and skeptics had become believers. Even *O Seculo's* chief editor, Avelino de Almeida, now reported affirmatively and stood by his story later on in spite of harsh criticism.

The Deaths of Francisco and Jacinta

An influenza epidemic swept Europe in autumn of 1918 just as the war was finishing, and both Jacinta and Francisco fell ill. Francisco recovered somewhat and there were hopes that he might become well, but he realized that he was destined to die young as Our Lady had foretold, and his condition worsened again. He offered up all his sufferings as a way of consoling God for the sinfulness and ingratitude of mankind and in supplication for the conversion of sinners. He became so weak that eventually he could not even pray. He received his first Holy Communion and on the next day, April 4, 1919, he died.

Jacinta, too, was confined to her bed during the long winter months, and although she recovered, was struck down with bronchial pneumonia, while also developing a painful abscess in her chest. She was moved to the hospital in Ourem in July 1919 where she underwent the painful treatment prescribed for her, but without much effect. She returned home in August with an open wound in her side. It was decided that another attempt should be made to treat her, and so in January 1920 she was taken to Lisbon, where she was diagnosed as having purulent pleurisy and diseased ribs.

Eventually in February, she was admitted into the hospital, where she underwent another painful operation to remove two ribs. This left her with a large wound on her side that had to be dressed daily, causing her great agony. On the evening of February 20, 1920, the local priest was called and heard her confession, but he insisted on waiting till the next day to bring her Holy Communion despite her protests that she felt worse. As Mary had foretold she died that night alone and far from her family. Her body was returned to Fatima and buried with that of Francisco until both were later moved to the Basilica built at the Cova da Iria.

Later Apparitions to Sister Lucia

The new bishop of the restored diocese of Leiria decided that it was best if Lucia was removed from Fatima, both to spare her from the continual questionings she had to endure, and to see what effect her absence would have on the numbers coming as pilgrims. Her mother agreed to her being sent away to school, and she left in May 1921 in great secrecy for Porto, where a school run by the Sisters of St. Dorothy was situated. Later she became a sister in this congregation before joining the Carmelites.

On December 10, 1925, while at the Dorothean Convent in Pontevedra, Spain, Lucia had another apparition of the Blessed Mother, this time with the Child Jesus. She had returned to ask for the Communions of Reparation we now call the First Saturday Devotion, as she said she would during

her July 13 apparition at Fatima. Mary told Lucia to announce that she promised to provide at the hour of death, the graces necessary for salvation to those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, confessed, received Holy Communion, recited five decades of the Rosary and kept her company while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary for 15 minutes, with the purpose of making reparation to her.

On June 13, 1929, Our Lady returned again as Sister Lucia was at prayer in the convent chapel at Tuy, Spain. This time she appeared alongside a representation of the Holy Trinity. Mary spoke to her saying: *"The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father, in union with all the bishops of the world, to make the consecration of Russia, promising to save it by this means..."*

On January 25, 1938, a strange light filled the skies of northern Europe. It was described as a particularly brilliant display of the Aurora Borealis, but Sr. Lucia realized it was the "unknown light," spoken of by Mary during the July 13, 1917 apparition. It meant punishment for the world was close, principally through the Second World War, because it had not turned back to God.

Pope Pius XII consecrated the whole world to Mary's Immaculate Heart in 1942 and carried out a similar consecration of Russia in 1952, but neither of these fulfilled Mary's request at Fatima. This collegial consecration, in union with a "moral totality" of the world's bishops, was finally carried out by Saint John Paul II in 1984. Fatima received further Papal support when on May 13, 1979, the Pope declared Jacinta and Francisco "venerable," the first stage in the process of their possible canonization.

Saint John Paul II further emphasized the importance of Fatima by beatifying Jacinta and Francisco on May 13, 2000 during the Jubilee Year. It was during these beatification ceremonies that all the details of the third part of the Fatima secret were revealed, the third millennium was entrusted to Our Lady of Fatima.

On May 13, 2017, during the 100th anniversary celebration at Fatima, Pope Francis canonized Jacinta and Francisco; they are the youngest non-martyr saints declared in the history of the Church.

The Bishop Approves of Fatima

The Church, meanwhile, had maintained silent about the apparitions during the years from 1917. It wasn't until May 1922 that Bishop Correia da Silva issued a pastoral letter on the subject indicating that he would set up a commission of inquiry. In 1930 he issued another pastoral letter on the apparitions, which after recounting the events at Fatima, contained the following brief but important statement:

"In virtue of considerations made known, and others which for reasons of brevity we omit; humbly invoking the Divine Spirit and placing ourselves under the protection of the most Holy Virgin, and after hearing the opinions of our Rev. Advisers in this diocese, we hereby: 1. Declare worthy of belief, the visions of the shepherd children in the Cova da Iria, parish of Fatima, in this diocese, from the 13th May to 13th October, 1917. 2. Permit officially the cult of Our Lady of Fatima."



The Secrets of Fatima

During the July 13, 1917 apparition, Our Lady gave the three children a three-part secret. The first two parts were revealed in Sister Lucia's letter to her Bishop on August 31, 1941.

The First Part of the Secret: The Vision of Hell

Our Lady told the three seers, "Sacrifice yourselves for sinners and say very often, especially when you make some sacrifice: 'O Jesus, it is for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.'"

In saying these words, she opened her hands as she had during the two previous apparitions.

At the request of the Bishop of Leiria, Lucia described her vision this way:

"The rays of light seemed to penetrate the earth, and we saw as it were a sea of fire. Plunged in this fire were demons and souls in human form, like transparent burning embers, all blackened or burnished bronze, floating about in the conflagration, now raised into the air by the flames that issued from within themselves together with great clouds of smoke, now falling back on every side like sparks in huge fires, without weight or equilibrium, amid shrieks and groans of pain and despair, which horrified us and made us tremble with fear. The demons could be distinguished by their terrifying and repellent likeness to

frightful and unknown animals, black and transparent like burning coals.

Terrified and as if to plead for succor, we looked up at Our Lady who said to us so kindly and so sadly: You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace. The war is going to end; but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the pontificate of Pius XI. When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that He is about to punish the world for its crimes by means of war, famine, and persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father.”

The Second Part of the Secret: Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

“To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, and various nations will be annihilated.

In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world. In Portugal, the dogma of the Faith will always be preserved.”

The Third Part of the Secret

The third part of the secret was requested of Sister Lucia by the Bishop of Leira when she fell seriously ill in mid-1943. The bishop feared she would die and take the secret with her. In obedience, she tried on numerous occasions to write it down without success.

Finally on the night of January 3, 1944, Our Lady came to her and told her, “Do not be afraid, God wanted to prove your obedience, faith and humility. Be at peace and write what they order you, but not what has been given you to understand its meaning. After writing it, place it in an envelope, close and seal it, and write on the outside that this can be opened in 1960 by the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon or by the Bishop of Leira.”

Sister Lucia then wrote down the following:

At the left of Our Lady and a little above, we saw an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire, but they died out in contact with the splendor that Our Lady radiated toward him from her right hand. Pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: ‘Penance, Penance, Penance!’ We saw an immense light that is God, something similar to how people appear in a mirror when they pass in front of it, a bishop dressed in white (we had the impression it was the Holy Father), and other bishops, priests and men and women religious going up a steep mountain, at the top of which there was a big cross of rough-hewn trunks as of a cork tree with the bark. Before reaching there, the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins, and he trembled with a halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he prayed for

the souls of the corpses he met along his way. Having reached the top of the mountain, on his knees at the foot of the big cross he was killed by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows at him, and in the same way there died one after another the other bishops, priests, men and women religious, and various lay people of different ranks and positions. Beneath the two arms of the cross there were two Angels each with a crystal aspersorium in their hand, in which they gathered up the blood of the martyrs and with it sprinkled the souls that were making their way to God.

As the second millennium gave way to the third, Pope John Paul II decided to publish the text of the third part of the “secret of Fatima” on June 26, 2000.

“The decision of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to make public the third part of the “secret” of Fatima brings to an end a period of history marked by tragic human lust for power and evil, yet pervaded by the merciful love of God and the watchful care of the Mother of Jesus and of the Church,” wrote then Tarsicio Bertone, Archbishop Emeritus of Vercelli and Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

“Our Lady, who appeared at Fatima, reminds us that man's future is in God, and that we are active and responsible partners in creating that future,” he noted.

In his theological commentary, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, then Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, explained:

“My Immaculate Heart will triumph. What does this mean? The Heart open to God, purified by contemplation of God, is stronger than guns and weapons of every kind. The fiat of Mary, the word of her heart, has changed the history of the world, because it brought the Saviour into the world—because, thanks to her Yes, God could become man in our world and remains so for all time. The Evil One has power in this world, as we see and experience continually; he has power because our freedom continually lets itself be led away from God. But since God himself took a human heart and has thus steered human freedom towards what is good, the freedom to choose evil no longer has the last word. From that time forth, the word that prevails is this: “In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world” (Jn 16:33). The message of Fatima invites us to trust in this promise.”



Pope John Paul II, on the Most Holy Rosary

"The Church has always attributed particular efficacy to this prayer, entrusting to the Rosary, to its choral recitation and to its constant practice, the most difficult problems. At times when Christianity itself seemed under threat, its deliverance was attributed to the power of this prayer, and Our Lady of the Rosary was acclaimed as the one whose intercession brought salvation. Today I willingly entrust to the power of this prayer... the cause of peace in the world and the cause of the family"

The Memorare

Remember, O most loving 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, we turn to you, O Virgin of virgins, our mother. To you we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, do not despise our petitions, but in your mercy hear us and answer us. Amen