

How to say the Rosary



1. At the cross, make the *Sign of the Cross*, then pray the *Apostles' Creed*.
2. On the first bead, pray the *Our Father*.
3. Pray 1 *Hail Mary* on each of the next 3 beads.
4. On the next bead, pray the *Glory Be*. Announce: "The first *Joyful* (or *Luminous*, *Sorrowful*, or *Glorious*) Mystery, The Annunciation." Read the vocations intention, then pray the *Our Father*.
5. Pray 1 *Hail Mary* on each of the next 10 beads.
6. On the next, isolated bead, pray the *Glory be* and the *Decade Prayer*. Announce the second mystery, pray the *Our Father*, and repeat steps 5 and 6. Then do the same with the remaining 3 decades.
7. When all 5 decades are finished, conclude by praying the *Hail Holy Queen* and the final prayer (*Let us pray*).

*(The asterisks * in the prayers denote the split between the leader's part and that of the others when praying in groups.)*

The Apostles' 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; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will 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.

The Our Father:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. * Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

The Hail Mary:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with 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 Glory Be (The Doxology):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; * as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Decade Prayer (always said in unison):

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

The Hail Holy Queen (The Salve Regina):

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 valley of tears. Turn, then, O most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. **V.** Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. **R.** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

(all) 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 while meditating on 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 Mysteries

1st Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation.

Mary answers "Yes" to God's call. Even though it was unexpected and the Archangel gives her only the details she needs to know at that moment, she responds generously. Let us offer this decade for those who are being called to the priesthood or religious life that they, like Mary, may have the grace to respond whole-heartedly.

2nd Joyful Mystery: The Visitation.

Mary wastes no time in acting upon the grace of her vocation. Through her cooperation the plan of salvation is already unfolding. Let us offer this decade for those who have been called but are hesitating, that God's grace might hurry them forward to answer the call and thus begin to labor for the harvest.

3rd Joyful Mystery: The Nativity.

Our Savior comes to us in the midst of a family. How crucial is the role of the family! Let us offer this decade for all parents, that they may provide an atmosphere of love and faith in the home to help foster their children's vocations.

4th Joyful Mystery: The Presentation.

Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the Temple and dedicated Him to Almighty God. They knew their Son was a gift from God to be given back to Him. Let us offer this decade for the grace parents need to recognize the gift of their children, and to offer them to the divine plan of God that His will might determine every moment of their lives.

5th Joyful Mystery: The Finding of Jesus in the Temple.

This mystery tells of a very unplanned event in the life of Joseph and Mary. For days their hearts ached with sorrow until they found their Son. Let us offer this decade for those parents who find it difficult to understand and support their child's vocation as a priest or religious, that they may be graced with the faith to support God's will for their children and, like Joseph and Mary, to hold the mysterious ways of God in their hearts.

Rosary *for* Vocations



Reflections *on each*
Mystery *of the* Rosary

Luminous Mysteries

1st Luminous Mystery: The Baptism of Jesus.

The mystery of our Lord's Baptism is the mystery of Jesus taking upon Himself the mission of the Messiah and beginning His public ministry. Let us offer this decade for those who are called to the priesthood and religious life, but are afraid to answer because of what others may say or think, that they might find the courage to accept the mission God is giving them.

2nd Luminous Mystery: The Wedding Feast of Cana.

Through the intercession of Mary, Jesus transforms ordinary water into extraordinary wine. What incredible things God's grace can do in our lives! Let us offer this decade for those who are being called, but doubt that they have much to offer, that they might trust in the power of God to bring all things to completion when they say "yes" to His call.

3rd Luminous Mystery: The Proclamation of the Kingdom.

Our Lord begins His public ministry by announcing the arrival of the Kingdom of God. What joyous news this is for all humanity to hear! Let us offer this decade for an increase in vocations, that there might be many more priests and religious who will proclaim this truth and bear witness to it with their lives.

4th Luminous Mystery: The Transfiguration.

Jesus strengthened the faith of His Apostles by allowing His divinity to be momentarily perceived. He wished them to gain a supernatural perspective on His forthcoming Passion and Death. Let us offer this decade for all those who are being called as priests and religious, that they may have the grace to recognize God's call in the midst of life and courageously accept the carrying of the Cross.

5th Luminous Mystery: The Institution of the Holy Eucharist.

The gift of the Most Holy Eucharist is a mystery beyond our ability to fully comprehend. Our Lord's abiding Presence in the Blessed

Sacrament, the saving mystery of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass -- the world would suffer a great loss without these miracles. Jesus gives Himself in the Holy Eucharist through the ministry of His priests. Let us offer this decade for more priests for our diocese, that God would call many more men to share in the Priesthood and that they might respond generously.

Sorrowful Mysteries

1st Sorrowful Mystery: The Agony in the Garden.

Jesus asked His Apostles to pray so that they "might not enter into temptation." Our Lord knew they needed to pray in order to endure what would soon happen. Let us offer this decade for those men and women whom God is calling to be priests and religious, that they might have a deep and abiding life of prayer to give them the strength to respond courageously to God's call.

2nd Sorrowful Mystery: The Scourging at the Pillar.

Our Lord's suffering during the scourging was excruciating. For our sake Jesus offered Himself to obtain our salvation. Let us offer this decade for the grace of courage, that many young people might feel the desire in their hearts to offer themselves to God as priests and religious.

3rd Sorrowful Mystery: The Crowning with Thorns.

Jesus endured the terrible ridicule and mockery of the soldiers, even to the point of accepting the painful crown of thorns. Let us offer this decade for those who have a calling to the priesthood or religious life, but find it difficult to say "yes" because of painful obstacles in their lives, that concern for human respect might never stand in their way of following God's will.

4th Sorrowful Mystery: The Carrying of the Cross.

On the way to Calvary, our Lord found comfort and assistance from a number of people: Simon of Cyrene, the women of Jerusalem, His Mother,

and Veronica. How much those acts of love must have meant to Jesus! Let us offer this decade for the grace to always support, with our prayers and sacrifices, those whom God is calling to become priests and religious, that God might find all of us seriously engaged in this very important apostolate!

5th Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus.

At the foot of the Cross, there came into existence a new type of family. Before Jesus died, He entrusted to the maternal care of Mary all of humanity represented in the person of the "beloved disciple." Through the New Covenant, the notion of family is greatly enlarged and takes on a different dimension. Let us offer this decade for those who are being called, but are hesitant because of fears of not being able to have a family and living a lonely life, that they may see that in serving God as a priest or religious, their desires for family will indeed be completely fulfilled.

Glorious Mysteries

1st Glorious Mystery: The Resurrection.

Our Lord's Resurrection brought tremendous joy to His sorrowful followers. Never were their lives to be the same again. Let us offer this decade for an increase in grace in the hearts of those who are being called to be priests and religious. May they experience the immense joy of giving God their entire lives and saying "yes" to His call, and realize that their unselfish response to God will change their lives forever.

2nd Glorious Mystery: The Ascension.

Jesus ascended into Heaven, not to abandon us, but to be our hope. He continually intercedes for us before the throne of the Father and prepares a place for His faithful followers in the heavenly Kingdom. Let us offer this decade for an increase in the number of priests and religious to help us strive faithfully to attain the heavenly homeland, that these men and women might always recognize the irreplaceable mission they have in God's plan of salvation.

3rd Glorious Mystery: The Descent of the Holy Spirit.

The coming of the Holy Spirit transformed the timid Apostles into bold witnesses for the Gospel. The Church was sent forth with courage and zeal! Let us offer this decade for the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon all He has chosen to labor as priests and religious, that they might respond boldly to the invitation to lay down their lives for Christ and His Church.

4th Glorious Mystery: The Assumption of Mary.

The Second Vatican Council reminded us that Mary's role in salvation history did not end with her Assumption into Heaven. She continually intercedes for all of us, her children, as we journey through life. Let us offer this decade, asking Mary's intercession, that through her prayers the Church may be granted an abundance of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

5th Glorious Mystery: The Coronation of Mary.

This mystery brings before us the beauty of the faithfulness of Mary, the first disciple of the Lord. She who referred to herself as the "handmaid of the Lord" is now exalted far above even the Angels. The one who said "yes" to God in all things is now the Queen of heaven and earth. Let us offer this decade for those who have been called, that they may always have the grace to understand that to serve God is to reign with Him and whatever sacrifices need to be made in order to live the mission God gives us, will pale in comparison to the glory He has reserved for His faithful servants.



**Diocese of Covington
Vocations Office**