

CELEBRATION OF THE LIVING ROSARY (JOYFUL MYSTERIES)

Virtue Links: Faith, Hope, Love, Fortitude
Catholic Character Themes: Community, Discipleship, Reverence

INTRODUCTION:

Good (morning/afternoon) and welcome to our celebration of the Living Rosary. We are now in the month of May/October. May/October is the month when Catholics honour Mary the mother of Jesus and our mother, in a special way. And so, we turn to Mary today by praying the Rosary, knowing that she listens to all her children's prayers.

When we were baptized, we became one with Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary. With Jesus, we look to Mary as our Mother, and God as our Father. We ask Mary to teach us and help us by her prayers to live as God's children.

As we pray the Rosary today, we greet Mary our Mother with the words of the angel Gabriel saying "Hail Mary..." As Mary's sons and daughters, we ask her to pray for us "now, and at the hour of our death," that we might be good followers of Jesus, and share in his gift of eternal life.

OPENING BLESSING:

Let us begin this wonderful prayer with the sign of our faith:

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

Amen

THE APOSTLES' CREED, OUR FATHER, 3 HAIL MARYS, GLORY BE

The Apostles' Creed

LEADER:

We begin the Rosary with The Apostles' Creed, saying "I believe." When we say these words, we tell everyone that we believe the Good News of Jesus that comes to us from the apostles. Let us begin:

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
The Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(*all bow*) *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.

ALL:

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Holy Catholic Church
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.
Amen.

Our Father

LEADER:

Our Father, who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy Kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth, as it is in heaven.

ALL:

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.

Three Hail Marys

LEADER: Now we pray three Hail Marys. We ask Mary to pray that God will strengthen the gifts of Faith, Hope and Charity we received at Baptism.

LEADER:

Hail Mary,
Full of grace
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit
Of thy womb, Jesus.

ALL:

Holy Mary,
Mother of God
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Two more Hail Marys

Glory Be:

LEADER:

Glory be to the Father
And to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit.

ALL:

As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen.

JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Joy is a sign of God's presence. Joy begins to overflow in our words and actions whenever the Holy Spirit is at work in us. In the joyful mysteries, we join with Mary to ponder the joyful events surrounding Jesus' coming into our world: Mary's "yes" to God's plan, her visit to Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, the birth of Jesus, the presentation of Jesus, and finally, His being found in the Temple. We pray that we, like Mary will be open to the mystery of God coming into our lives, to fill us with the never-ending joy of her Son.

FIRST JOYFUL MYSTERY

The Annunciation

In this first mystery, we remember with Mary her "yes" to the message of God's plan, brought to her by the angel Gabriel. Mary answers, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word." We ask Mary our Mother to help us to be open to the wonderful things God is doing in our hearts, to serve Him in love for one another.

- Our Father
- Ten Hail Marys
- Glory Be
- O My Jesus

SECOND JOYFUL MYSTERY

The Visitation

In this mystery, we remember with Mary how she journeyed from her home to stay with her older cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth's husband was told by the angel Gabriel that his wife would have a child in a year's time. They would call him John, and he would prepare the way for Jesus. John jumped for joy in Elizabeth's womb as Mary, pregnant with the Holy Child Jesus drew near and called out Elizabeth's name. We ask Mary our Mother to help us bring God's blessing to one another through our friendship and kindness.

- Our Father
- Ten Hail Marys
- Glory Be
- O My Jesus

THIRD JOYFUL MYSTERY

The Birth of Jesus

In this mystery, we remember with Mary how she and Joseph journeyed from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Jesus was born in a stable there because there were no other places for them to stay. They laid Jesus in a bed of straw, wrapped in bands of cloth. God's angels appeared to poor shepherds with news of the Saviour's birth. Noble travellers came to lay down gifts for the newborn King of all creation. We ask Mary our Mother to help us to honour Jesus in the poor, the homeless and hungry.

- Our Father
- Ten Hail Marys
- Glory Be
- O My Jesus

FOURTH JOYFUL MYSTERY

The Presentation of Jesus

In this mystery, we remember with Mary how she and Joseph went to the Temple in Jerusalem to present Mary's firstborn Son, Jesus to God. They brought two turtledoves – a sacrifice offered by the poor who could not afford a lamb or a young bull. They met the elderly Simeon and Anna, who told them about the wonders Jesus would do and the suffering Mary would face as Jesus carried out his mission. Mary and Joseph were amazed at what they said. They returned home to Galilee, and Jesus grew in strength, wisdom and God's favour. We ask Mary our Mother to help us believe that God has a plan for each of us, and to keep us close to her Son.

- Our Father
- Ten Hail Marys
- Glory Be
- O My Jesus

FIFTH JOYFUL MYSTERY

The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

In this fifth joyful mystery, we remember with Mary how she and Joseph became separated from Jesus on their way home from Jerusalem. They found him after three days, still in the Temple, listening to the elders and asking them questions, with great wisdom. Mary and Joseph asked him why He had done this. He told them He had to be in His Father's house. They did not understand, but accepted in faith what had happened, and Mary treasured the mystery of all these things in her heart. Jesus went home with them in obedient love. He grew in wisdom, age and in the favour of God and neighbour.

- Our Father
- Ten Hail Marys
- Glory Be
- O My Jesus

CLOSING PRAYER:

HAIL, HOLY QUEEN

(This prayer is traditionally recited at the end of the Rosary)

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, 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!

LEADER: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

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

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen