

# ROSARY PRAYER BOOK



FRANCISCAN  
MISSION ASSOCIATES

Dear Friend,

The rosary is such a powerful prayer. In celebrating the mysteries of the Lord's birth and early life, his ministry, his suffering and death, and his glory in heaven, we are empowered to enter into the very life of God, along with, and through the intercession of, His Blessed Mother.

This traditional prayer engages the whole person. Our fingers move on the beads, our lips recite the prayers, our minds reflect on the mysteries, and our hearts and souls respond to its message. The repetition of the prayers reinforces our love for Our Lord and Our Lady, as each Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be are like the words "I love you" spoken over and over again.

This rosary booklet is meant to aid you in making the mysteries of the Rosary part of your life. As you reflect on the mysteries, the joy, sorrow, glory and light of your own life can come shining through. As you pray, please remember the Franciscan missionaries and those whom they serve. May God bless you,

*The Franciscan Friary*

# HOW TO USE YOUR ROSARY BOOKLET

We pray the Rosary with our fingers and our lips. However, we will pray it more fruitfully when we also learn to pray with our minds and hearts. The Bible tells us, *Pray with the spirit and you will pray with understanding.* (1 Corinthians)

## THE MYSTERIES

Beginning on page 5, you will find each of the 20 mysteries of the Rosary with its traditional title and a brief rephrasing of its meaning. After that, you will see the fruit of the mystery that should be prayed for.

This is followed by a short reflection on the event in the life of Our Lord or Our Lady that is being meditated on. Since every event in salvation history calls for a response from us, a suggestion is then given by which we may personalize the mystery. You may choose this one, or any insight given by the Spirit.

Saint John Paul II suggested, with the addition of the Mysteries of Light, that the Joyful Mysteries be recited on Monday and Saturday, the Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesday and Friday, the Glorious Mysteries on Wednesday and Sunday and the new Mysteries of Light on Thursday.



## **GOD STILL SPEAKS**

All prayer is a dialogue. The Rosary is no different. We listen to God as well as speak to Him. For each mystery, Christ speaks to us in the short quote from Scripture. If you are able, you may wish to go deeper by reading the longer Bible readings that are listed.

Inspired by these words, you will pray the beads of each mystery with greater understanding and love as you accustom yourself to imitate what the mysteries contain.



## **THE BEAD PRAYERS**

The chart on page 25 indicates the prayers to be said on each of the beads. The text of the prayers is given beginning on page 26.

**1<sup>ST</sup> JOYFUL MYSTERY:**  
**THE ANNUNCIATION**  
(or how the good news first came to Mary)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: HUMILITY

**EVENT**

God's people waited thousands of years for the Redeemer to come. The good news was first made known to a humble virgin in a poor village. God asked for her cooperation.

**OUR RESPONSE**

Through Sacred Scripture, our prayer and the words of others, we can hear what God's will for us is. We must be humble enough to listen and follow it.

**GOD'S WORD**

*Let it be done to me as you have said*

Luke 1:38

**READINGS**

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38

Now recite the decade.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> JOYFUL MYSTERY: THE VISITATION

(or how the good news was given to others)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

### EVENT

Having believed God's word, Mary traveled to help her relative Elizabeth who, though old, was expecting a child. Mary stayed with her until St. John the Baptist was born.

### OUR RESPONSE

Our love for others, placing them before ourselves, is not always easy. When we do, however, we are blessed like Mary.

### GOD'S WORD

*Nothing is impossible to God.*

Luke 1:37

### READING

Luke 1:39-58

Now recite the decade.

# 3<sup>RD</sup> JOYFUL MYSTERY: THE NATIVITY

(or the way Christ chose to come among us)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: POVERTY OF SPIRIT

## EVENT

The Son of God assumed a human nature and was born in a humble stable. Poor shepherds and wealthy magi both came to worship Him.

## OUR RESPONSE

Jesus, though God, chose to be born poor and humble. If we choose humility and poverty of spirit, He will lead us toward eternal life.

## GOD'S WORD

*Do not be afraid. Behold,  
I bring you news of great joy.*

Luke 2:10

## READINGS

Matthew 2:1-23; Luke 2:1-20

Now recite the decade.

**4<sup>TH</sup> JOYFUL MYSTERY:**  
**THE PRESENTATION**  
(or the Messiah's first visit to God's temple)

**FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: OBEDIENCE**

**EVENT**

Jesus is God, so there was no need for Him to undergo Jewish ritual. But Mary and Joseph remained obedient to the law and brought Him to the Temple, where Simeon and Anna recognized Him as the Messiah.

**OUR RESPONSE**

Obedience to God's law will make us a sign of contradiction to the world, just like Jesus. Although we may be rejected, we are called to obey God's law.

**GOD'S WORD**

*And a sword will pierce your  
own soul, too.*

Luke 2:35

**READING**

Luke 2:22-38

Now recite the decade.

**5<sup>TH</sup> JOYFUL MYSTERY:**  
**THE FINDING IN**  
**THE TEMPLE**  
(or where to look for Christ)

**FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: JOY IN FINDING JESUS**

**EVENT**

Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem after Passover. Three days later, Mary and Joseph found Him in the Temple talking to the teachers of the law. They were both surprised and joyful to find Him.

**OUR RESPONSE**

Our spiritual lives are founded on searching for Jesus. We find Him through prayer and the practice of our faith. When we find Him, we are filled with joy.

**GOD'S WORD**

*His mother stored up all these things in her heart.*

Luke 2:52

**READING**

Luke 2:41-52

Now recite the decade.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> MYSTERY OF LIGHT:

# BAPTISM OF JESUS CHRIST

(or how important is our Baptism)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: OPENNESS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

### EVENT

Jesus asked his cousin, John, to baptize Him. As Jesus rose from the waters of the Jordan River, the sky opened, the Spirit of God descended as a dove, and God said: "This is my beloved Son. With whom I am well pleased."

### OUR RESPONSE

When we were baptized, the Holy Trinity came to dwell in our souls. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, will move our hearts and minds toward God if we stay open to His grace.

### GOD'S WORD

*I am baptizing you with water, for repentance; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

Matthew 3:11

### READINGS

Matthew 3:11-17

Now recite the decade.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> MYSTERY OF LIGHT: THE FIRST MIRACLE AT CANA

(or how to leave all things up to Jesus)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

### EVENT

Jesus came to a wedding at Cana. At the banquet Mary said: "They have no more wine." She then left her son and told the manager, "Do whatever He tells you."

Jesus then changed water into excellent wine.

### OUR RESPONSE

As Mary told the servants to do what Jesus asked, we must be prepared to do everything Jesus asks of us in our daily lives.

### GOD'S WORD

*In Cana in Galilee  
Jesus revealed his glory.*

John 2:11

### READINGS

John 2:1-12

Now recite the decade.

**3<sup>RD</sup> MYSTERY OF LIGHT:  
PROCLAIMING  
THE KINGDOM**  
(or the necessity of turning to God)

**FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: REPENTANCE AND TRUST IN GOD**

**EVENT**

After the killing of John the Baptist, Jesus continued to announce the good news of God. He first went about alone, but later with others, proclaiming the kingdom of God, calling everyone to convert to God their heavenly Father.

**OUR RESPONSE**

Jesus worked extraordinarily hard to preach the message of repentance. Turning toward God and away from sin in the key to our spiritual lives.

**GOD'S WORD**

*The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel.*

Mark 1:15

**READINGS**

Mark 2:3-13; Luke 7:47-48

Now recite the decade.

# 4<sup>TH</sup> MYSTERY OF LIGHT: THE TRANSFIGURATION

(or Jesus shows us that He is God)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: DESIRE FOR HOLINESS

## EVENT

Jesus took Peter, James and John to a mountain to pray. While praying, his face began to shine and his clothes became dazzlingly white. Moses and Elijah were with Jesus. God the Father said: "This is my chosen Son; listen to him."

## OUR RESPONSE

The transfiguration highlights the holiness of Jesus. When we desire to be holy and pray for God's will, we too will be transfigured.

## GOD'S WORD

*When the voice fell silent, Jesus was there alone. The disciples kept quiet, telling nothing of what they had seen at that time to anyone.*

Luke 9:36

## READINGS

Luke 9:28-37

Now recite the decade.

# 5<sup>TH</sup> MYSTERY OF LIGHT: INSTITUTION OF THE EUCCHARIST

(or Jesus makes us a gift of his Body and Blood)

## FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: ADORATION

### EVENT

At the Last Supper, Jesus offered his Body and Blood as food for all his followers. He asked that we recall what he did and do it in his memory. We do this at every Mass.

### OUR RESPONSE

Remembering his magnificent gift, we should receive Holy Communion often, visit the Blessed Sacrament regularly and attend Benediction whenever possible.

### GOD'S WORD

*This is my body, which will be given for you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.*

Luke 22:19-20

### READINGS

John 13:1; Luke 22:14-20; 2 Corinthians 5:21

Now recite the decade.

**1<sup>ST</sup> SORROWFUL MYSTERY:**  
**THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN**

(or how Christ suffered mentally)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: SORROW FOR SIN

**EVENT**

As He experienced fear and anguish in Gethsemane, Jesus asked the Father to spare Him. However, He followed that by saying, “Your will, not mine, be done.”

**OUR RESPONSE**

Jesus endured what He did so that our sins could be forgiven. We whose sins are forgiven must have true contrition for what we have done.

**GOD’S WORD**

*You should be awake, and praying.*

Matthew 26:41

**READINGS**

Matthew 26:36-56; John 18:1-11

Now recite the decade.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE SCOURGING

(or how Christ endured physical pain for us)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: PURITY

### EVENT

Although he knew Jesus was innocent, Pilate ordered Him to be cruelly scourged. With each blow, the scourge of sin was closer to being defeated.

### OUR RESPONSE

We are not called to undergo physical scourging, but rather to purify our bodies and souls by prayer and penance.

### GOD'S WORD

*They hated me for no reason.*

John 15:25

### READINGS

Mark 15:1-15; Luke 23:13-25

Now recite the decade.

### 3<sup>RD</sup> SORROWFUL MYSTERY:

# THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

(or how Christ suffered mockery)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: MORAL COURAGE

#### EVENT

After being whipped, Christ was mocked by the soldiers. They ridiculed Him as “King of the Jews” by dressing Him in royal purple and weaving a crown of thorns, which they placed on His head.

#### OUR RESPONSE

Although He was mocked, Jesus truly was the King of the Jews and the Son of God. We must show courage in standing up for the truth, even when we are ridiculed.

#### GOD'S WORD

*My Kingdom is not of this world.*

John 18:36

#### READINGS

Matthew 27:27-31; Mark 15:16-20

Now recite the decade.

# 4<sup>TH</sup> SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

(or the road Christ walked as an example for us)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: PATIENCE

## EVENT

As He patiently struggled to carry the cross, Jesus met His Mother, Veronica, the women of Jerusalem and Simon of Cyrene, who helped Him. Throughout the ordeal, Jesus suffered with great patience, knowing what lay before Him.

## OUR RESPONSE

Struggles are a part of each person's life. There will be those around us who will help us to bear them, but we are called to show patience in our sufferings, offering them along with Jesus.

## GOD'S WORD

*Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.*

Luke 23:34

## READINGS

Matthew 27:32-36; John 19:17-22

Now recite the decade.

# 5<sup>TH</sup> SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CRUCIFIXION

(or how Christ was obedient to death on a cross)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: PERSEVERANCE

## EVENT

After reaching Calvary, Jesus was nailed to the cross, naked, between two criminals. He endured pain and abuse, praying to the Father and persevering through it all as He gave His life for us.

## OUR RESPONSE

Like Jesus, we are called to be faithful to our call despite suffering. Our perseverance joins our sufferings to Christ's and helps in the redemption of the world.

## GOD'S WORD

*Jesus cried out in a loud voice  
and then gave up His spirit.*

Matthew 27:50

## READINGS

Matthew 27:39-56; Mark 15:29-41

Now recite the decade.

**1<sup>ST</sup> GLORIOUS MYSTERY:**  
**THE RESURRECTION**  
(or how Christ conquered sin and death)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: FAITH

**EVENT**

Because He was a man like us, Christ truly died. Because He was also God, he rose victorious and made it possible for us to share His triumph over sin and death.

**OUR RESPONSE**

When Mary Magdalene, the women, and the Apostles came to the tomb and found it empty, they believed. The resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith. We must pray to believe as they did.

**GOD'S WORD**

*Look at my hands and my feet;  
yes, it is I indeed.*

Luke 24:39

**READINGS**

Matthew 28:1-15; Luke 24:1-49

Now recite the decade.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> GLORIOUS MYSTERY: THE ASCENSION

(or how Christ went to His Father as our advocate)

### FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: HOPE

#### EVENT

For 40 days after His rising from the dead Jesus appeared to His Apostles, instructing them about God's kingdom and preparing them for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Then He left this earth until His final coming.

#### OUR RESPONSE

Although His glorified body is now with the Father, the promise that Jesus gave that He is with us until the end of the world gives us hope that He is present and that we will be with Him forever in heaven.

#### GOD'S WORD

*I am with you always; yes,  
to the end of time.*

Matthew 28:20

#### READINGS

Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-14

Now recite the decade.

**3<sup>RD</sup> GLORIOUS MYSTERY:**  
**THE COMING OF**  
**THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
(or the Spirit's witness)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: LOVE OF GOD

**EVENT**

The Spirit rushed like a violent wind and appeared like fiery tongues over the heads of the Apostles. This turned them from weak, timid, fearful men into courageous witnesses to the teachings of Christ.

**OUR RESPONSE**

The Holy Spirit abides in us and teaches us how to pray. We must always work to stir up the Spirit within us so that we can fearlessly spread the love of God to others.

**GOD'S WORD**

*I will ask the Father and He will give you another Paraclete to be with you always.*

John 15:16

**READINGS**

John 14:12-31; Acts 2:1-41

Now recite the decade.

# 4<sup>TH</sup> GLORIOUS MYSTERY: THE ASSUMPTION

(or how God rewards Christian faithfulness)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: THE GRACE OF A HAPPY DEATH

## EVENT

By a singular grace, Mary remained sinless throughout her life. Therefore, she was taken to heaven body and soul when her time on earth was finished. Her assumption anticipates the resurrection of our bodies at the end of time.

## OUR RESPONSE

We cannot be sinless as Mary was, but we can work to imitate her patience, humility and prayerfulness. If we do, Christ promises us eternal life.

## GOD'S WORD

*The Almighty has done  
great things for me.*

Luke 1:49

## READINGS

Proverbs 8:1-31; Judith 13:17-20

Now recite the decade.

**5<sup>TH</sup> GLORIOUS MYSTERY:**  
**THE CORONATION OF**  
**OUR LADY**

(or Christ's Mother in glory)

FRUIT OF THE MYSTERY: TRUST IN MARY'S INTERCESSION

**EVENT**

Our Lady, honored as queen in heaven, intercedes for us before God. We are called to trust in her prayers before her Son. She is our most powerful ally.

**OUR RESPONSE**

Let us honor Mary by praying her rosary fervently, and applying the lessons of the mysteries in our own lives.

**GOD'S WORD**

*Now a great sign appeared in heaven:  
a woman with the twelve stars on  
her head for a crown.*

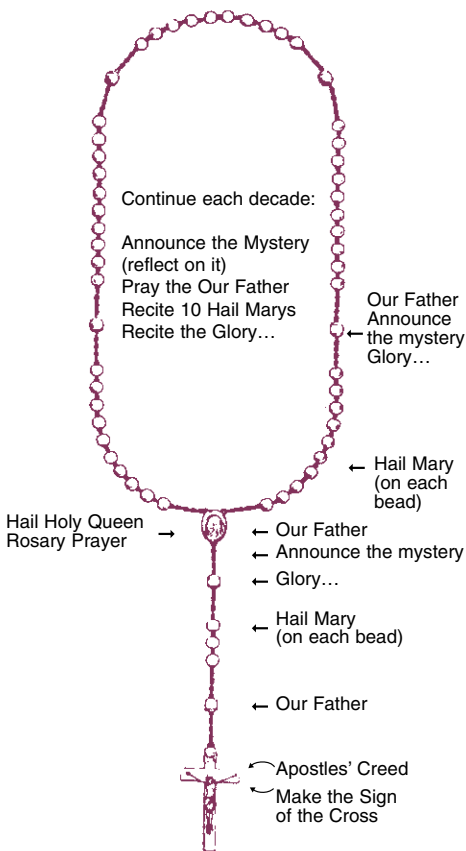
Revelation 12:1

**READINGS**

Luke 1:15; Revelation 12:1-6

Now recite the decade.

# THE BEAD PRAYERS





## 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 you.  
Blessed are you among women  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,  
Jesus.  
Holy Mary,  
Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## **GLORY BE**

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.

## **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 up our sighs,  
mourning and weeping in this vale of  
tears. Turn, then, most gracious Advocate,  
your eyes of mercy towards us; and after  
this our exile show unto us the blessed  
fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement,  
O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us, Holy Mother of God;

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

## **PRAYER**

O God, whose only-begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech You, 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.

## **THE MEMORARE**

Remember, O most gracious 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, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

## **BLESSING OF ST. FRANCIS**

The Lord bless you and  
keep you

May He show His face  
to you and have  
mercy on you

May He turn His  
countenance to you and  
give you peace.

The Lord bless you!

*Numbers 6:24-26*

# THE FRANCISCAN WAY

Franciscan Friars the world over carry the Rosary of Our Lady suspended from the cords they wear around their waists. The Rosary is their constant companion and their spiritual protection as they journey through life.

In the remote sections of the world, where friars still must struggle to reach their people, their journey is shortened by offering the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. Prayer always makes the trip go faster.

The Rosary, centered on the biblical prayers of the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is also a handy aid for friars to teach the truths of our Faith to their people. All over the world both religious and lay people say it daily as their special prayer.

"The Rosary has accompanied me in moments of joy and in moments of difficulty" said Saint John Paul II. "To it I have entrusted any number of concerns; in it I have always found comfort... the Rosary is my favorite prayer. A marvelous prayer! Marvelous in its simplicity and its depth."

We Franciscans count on you for continued help with your prayers, good example and sacrifice. Be assured that God will surely reward you for all you do in His name.



FRANCISCAN  
MISSION ASSOCIATES

274-280 West Lincoln Ave.  
P.O. Box 598  
Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598  
[franciscanmissionassoc.org](http://franciscanmissionassoc.org)