

# The Rosary

## Reflections on the Rosary by Pope Saint John Paul II:

1. “From Mary we learn to surrender to God’s Will in all things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God!”
2. “The prayer of the Rosary is a great help to men and women in our time. It brings peace and meditation; it introduces our lives to the Mysteries of God and brings God into our lives. Our thoughts and feelings are little by little freed from anxiety and from the transience of our problems and interests and become more and more open to the action of God.
3. “The words we recite can occupy our whole attention; but they willingly draw back and become an external frame that routs fatigue and distraction, a background melody that resonates in us.”
4. “It would be a great joy for me [Saint John Paul II] if participation in the recitation of the Rosary together with the successor of St Peter became an occasion for you to become seriously involved in this form of meditative prayer. It also represents a good opportunity to experience communion. In times of need it gives strength and clarity to our prayer.”

## Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

*Oh Most Gracious Mother, intercede for us to the Master of the Harvest to send laborers; priests to minister the Sacraments of the Church and consecrated women and men to give profound witness to the Paschal Mystery of your Son for the whole world.*

# The Rosary

## 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 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.

**Before praying the first Our Father, say:  
"For the Holy Father and his intensions..."**

## 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.

**Before the three Hail Marys and one Glory Be at the start, say:  
"For an increase in the virtues of faith, hope and charity..."**

## 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.

## 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.

**Then begin praying the 1st decade, 2nd decade and so on...**

## The Fatima Prayer

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.

# At the Conclusion of the Rosary

## Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, hail 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.

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 by 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.

## Optional Prayers

Saint Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil, may God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do though oh Prince of the Heavenly Hosts, by the power of God thrust down to hell satan, and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen.

May the souls of the faithful departed,  
through the Mercy of God,  
rest in peace.  
Amen.

# Rosary Meditations on Discernment to the Priesthood

## The Joyful Mysteries

- 1. The Annunciation:** Help me emulate you, Mary, by accepting God's will for my vocation, saying "Be it done to me according to your will." Guide me as you guided Christ that I may know my vocation and fulfil it.
- 2. The Visitation:** John the Baptist leapt for joy in Christ's presence. St John, help me to know and joyfully accept the mission God has prepared for me.
- 3. The Nativity:** The shepherds heard the message of the angels; three kings followed a star. All holy saints and angels, guide me to seek Christ and follow His will in my life
- 4. The Presentation in the Temple:** The priest Simeon waited all his life to see the Christ. Help me to desire You above all things. O Christ, and to know whether priesthood is my vocation.
- 5. The Finding in the Temple:** Doing the will of His Father, Christ astounded the elders with His wisdom. Heavenly Father, help me to imitate Your Son, to know and do the work You have prepared for me.

## The Luminous Mysteries

- 1. Baptism of the Lord:** St John, you helped Christ begin his work on earth; you introduced the first apostle to Christ. Help me to know Christ and to fulfil the vocation He has given me.
- 2. The Wedding at Cana:** In founding the Church, O Christ, You raised marriage to a sacrament, working your first miracle for the sake of a wedding. Help me to discern whether marriage is my vocation.
- 3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom:** In founding the Church, O Christ. You instituted the Sacrament of Holy Orders. You called Simon and Andrew to be "fishers of men." Help me to understand if the priesthood is my vocation.
- 4. The Transfiguration:** In founding the Church, O Christ, You created the possibility of religious life, where one might dwell with You "on the mountain." Help me to understand whether religious life is my vocation.
- 5. Institution of the Eucharist:** At the Last Supper, You gave us Yourself in the Eucharist. Keep me close to your Eucharistic Heart where I will learn best what my vocation is and receive the grace to accept it.

# Rosary Meditations on Discernment to the Priesthood

## The Sorrowful Mysteries

**1. The Agony in the Garden:** O Christ, You know what it is to fear aspects of Your vocation. Help me to know and do the will of Our Father and to persevere with Your courage.

**2. The Scourging at the Pillar:** In bearing the lashes and stripes of Your Passion, O Christ, You saved me from sin and freed me to follow You. Help me to follow my vocation whatever the cost.

**3. The Crowning of Thorns:** Those who crowned You with thorns did not believe in Your kingship, yet You still embraced the will of Your Father. Help me to embrace my vocation and to persevere in it.

**4. The Carrying of the Cross:** O Christ, You fell three times carrying Your cross and received the help of Simon of Cyrene. Help me to accept my vocation, knowing that You will send me help along the way.

**5. The Crucifixion:** Whatever crosses may come with my vocation, be with me, O Christ, and strengthen me. Help me to persevere, remembering that if I have died with Christ, I shall also rise with Him.

## The Glorious Mysteries

**1. The Resurrection:** When Christ arose, Thomas doubted. You called him, not because he was perfect, but because You loved him. For me, too, You died, rose, and have prepared a vocation. Help me to follow You.

**2. The Ascension:** You told your Apostles when You ascended, “Behold I am with you all days.” So, too, You are with me, O Christ. Help me to know my vocation and to fulfil it with your help.

**3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit:** O Christ, You promised the Holy Spirit would come to the Apostles. Send forth Your Spirit on me, that I, too, may respond to the vocation you have prepared for me.

**4. The Assumption of Mary:** Mary was taken body and soul to Heaven, a sign of the joy awaiting the Apostles when their work was finished. Mary, help me to accept my vocation and remember the joy that awaits me as well.

**5. The Coronation of Mary:** O Mary, my vocation began when Christ was conceived in your womb; it will be complete in Heaven where you reign as Queen. Help me to follow my vocation and be happy with you forever.