

# PRAYING THE ROSARY AS A FAMILY



Many families find the prospect of praying the Rosary together a little daunting. With small children challenged by concentrating on the prayers and older teens who may be pushing back on family activities at all, fitting in 50 Hail Mary's can feel like one more task among all the other items on our busy plates!

Parents needn't find the Rosary so exhausting, and we

shouldn't expect immediate perfection. It's more important to be consistent than to be lengthy in your prayer. Families just starting out are encouraged to begin with a single decade of the Rosary and grow from there.

Small children can be given their own wooden or twine rosaries to play with. This both encourages the tactile nature of the prayer while also giving them something to "fidget" with.

of the Rosary. This will help them make the prayer their own and accept their vital role in sharing the faith with others.

As your family grows more comfortable with the Rosary, add additional decades. Once you're praying a full set of mysteries on a regular basis you might consider adding readings from the Gospels to accompany the announcement of each mystery or making your prayer intentions more explicit by sharing them before starting. You'll be drawing closer to Jesus and building your own family traditions around the Rosary!

"WHEN JESUS SAW HIS MOTHER AND THE DISCIPLE THERE WHOM HE LOVED, HE SAID TO HIS MOTHER, 'WOMAN, BEHOLD, YOUR SON.' THEN HE SAID TO THE DISCIPLE, 'BEHOLD, YOUR MOTHER.'"

:: John 19:26-27

Older children can assist younger ones and should be encouraged to lead some or even all of the prayers



Watch the video:

[youtu.be/VtHjwLiws0](https://youtu.be/VtHjwLiws0)



## Family Discussion Questions

1. What obstacles keep you and your family from praying together regularly?
2. Jesus has given us Mary to be our spiritual mother. How has your relationship with Mary changed and grown over the years? How does she draw you closer to Christ?
3. What intentions can your family bring to prayer — especially through the Rosary — this week?

## Family Challenge

Make a plan for a weekly family Rosary. Invite all members of the family to help plan the best time and place, and what you can do to best eliminate challenges or obstacles particular to your family. Then: put it on your calendar so you won't forget!

## Additional Videos

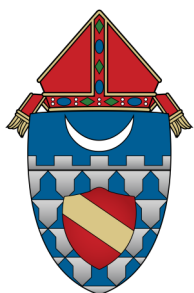
- Inside the Domestic Church: [youtu.be/d4aPfMzY1hs](https://youtu.be/d4aPfMzY1hs)

## Other Resources

- *The Catholics Next Door: Adventures in Imperfect Living* by Greg and Jennifer Willits (St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2012)

“A SIMILAR NEED FOR COMMITMENT AND PRAYER ARISES IN RELATION TO ANOTHER CRITICAL CONTEMPORARY ISSUE: *THE FAMILY*, THE PRIMARY CELL OF SOCIETY, INCREASINGLY MENACED BY FORCES OF DISINTEGRATION ON BOTH THE IDEOLOGICAL AND PRACTICAL PLANE... THE REVIVAL OF THE ROSARY IN CHRISTIAN FAMILIES, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A BROADER PASTORAL MINISTRY TO THE FAMILY, WILL BE AN EFFECTIVE AID TO COUNTERING THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF THIS CRISIS TYPICAL OF OUR AGE. ”

:: Pope St. John Paul II, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, no. 6



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