



Number Smart
(Logical/Mathematical)

People Smart
(Interpersonal)

Music Smart
(Musical)

Body Smart
(Bodily-Kinesthetic)

Word Smart
(Linguistic)

Picture Smart
(Spatial/Visual)

Nature Smart
(Naturalist)

Self Smart
(Intrapersonal)

Using a Multiple Intelligence Approach to Religious Education

Kids learn in lots of different ways and are gifted with different strengths. How can we build on these strengths in our Religious Education Classrooms? Here is a look at how one topic (the Rosary) can be taught in eight different ways. This is not to say that each topic you cover needs to be taught eight times, but that your students will benefit from variations in activities and a chance for them to shine where their talents lie. Let us strive to help all students to grow in their knowledge of Christ and His Church.



Picture Smart
(Spatial/Visual)

Picture Smart kids are very visual. They learn best by seeing, not just talking and listening about a topic.

Try using visual props like posters while teaching and creating **lap books** with lots of pictures, games, etc. To aid in learning the Rosary, use models labeled with the prayers as well as pictures of the mysteries. Use those pictures to find visual clues to help them memorize the main ideas of the stories.



Word Smart
(Linguistic)

Word Smart kids can use language in powerful ways. They are great communicators, through either oral or written expression, or sometimes both. Try **word games** with these kids. For example, have the kids sit in a circle and try to recite a prayer they are learning, like The Apostles' Creed, one word at a time- Sarah says "I", Jake says "believe", Amanda says, "in",...and start over if a mistake is made until you have completed the prayer.



Body Smart
(Bodily-Kinesthetic)

Body Smart kids learn best through movement and action.

Come up with activities that get them out of their seat. Act out the mysteries of the Rosary like plays, use sign language to teach prayers, or play games that involve **movement**. Teach the history of the Rosary using rocks, Easter eggs and yarn. Get them up, pass out rocks (prayers), put rocks in eggs (our hope in Christ), and create a spider web using yarn (our connection as Christians).



People Smart
(Interpersonal)

People Smart kids are always in tune with the needs and feelings of others. Help your students **organize a Holy Hour** where they can lead the Rosary for the needs of a specific intention that they choose- a sick parishioner, a community disaster, kids in impoverished countries, etc. Let the kids brainstorm how they can pray for these needs and maybe even organize some kind of fundraiser/food drive/outreach for the intention they have on their hearts.



Music Smart
(Musical)

Music Smart kids love anything with a tune or a beat, so use that to your advantage when teaching them something new. Find CDs with the prayers of the Rosary or meditations **put to music**. Come up with rhymes or statements said to a beat to help them memorize. This works especially well with tunes that they are already familiar with- use those secular songs and make them holy!



Self Smart
(Intrapersonal)

Self Smart kids are very in touch with self knowledge and emotions. They will be able to remember and apply new things when they have a chance to **create connections** to themselves. When teaching the Rosary, encourage these kids to picture themselves being present during the different mysteries. What did they see? What were they thinking? What did they feel? Have them **journal or draw visualizations** about these meditations.



Nature Smart
(Naturalist)

Nature Smart kids love the world around them. Get these kids outside as much as possible. Go **on Rosary walks** so that you can pray for the community around your church. Have these students help you plan and create a **Mary Garden** as a place of beauty and prayer. They will love seeing and growing all of the plants and flowers named in honor of Mary, whether you create a shrine, prayer labyrinth, or Stations of the Cross.



Number Smart
(Logical/Mathematical)

Number Smart kids are all about numbers. They are good with math and tend to think in a very logical and organized fashion. Let them be the "math whiz"- figure out how many years it has been since St. Dominic was given the Rosary, how many Hail Marys are said in a Complete Rosary, etc. Let them help you plan out how many beads, length of cord, etc. you would need for a **make-your-own Rosary** activity.

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;
there are different workings

but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.

To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."

-1 Corinthians 12: 4-7