

What is the “Poor Man’s Psalter”?

(The Rosary is sometimes called this. Why?)

Owning books was not prevalent until after the first printing press appeared in Western Europe (halfway through the 15th century). Before that, every book was extremely valuable property and only the very wealthy could afford one. So, obviously, most people couldn’t read, which meant that the only Scriptures they had access to were the readings they heard at Mass and the psalms in the daily prayers. Many people wanted to pray with the monks and nuns but being illiterate and not owning a “psalter”—a book of the 150 psalms—they instead prayed an “Our Father” or “Hail Mary” in the place of every psalm. To keep track of how many psalms they had prayed, they began stringing beads together or knotting ropes into the proper number. Eventually, these 150 beads or knots became the Rosary as we know it today.

❖ Why is October 7th the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary?

What happened at the Battle of Lepanto?

At the time when the battle of Lepanto was fought, the Ottoman Empire had not lost a major battle since the previous century. Pope St. Pius V realized that the *Holy League* needed great spiritual assistance, so he asked the Holy League, as well as all of the faithful, to pray the Rosary, asking Our Lady’s intercession for a victory in the upcoming battle. The evening before the famous battle, the sailors prayed the Rosary on their knees.

On October 7, 1571, the Christian fleet went into battle carrying a banner blessed by the Pope. Some evidence also suggests they carried a painting sent to the King of Spain from Mexico depicting the miraculous image known as **Our Lady of Guadalupe**.

The Holy League encountered the Ottoman warships **deployed in the shape of a crescent, the symbol of Islam**. **The Holy League’s ships took the shape of a cross**. Between the two forces, there were more than 400 warships, making this one of the largest naval battles in history. **After five hours of battle, the Holy League won**.

Who fought in the Battle of Lepanto? The Holy League, a coalition of Catholic maritime states promoted by Pope St. Pius V, fought against the Ottomans, an Islamic empire centered in Istanbul. The “Turks” were trying to extend their influence beyond Southeast Europe. A Turkish victory might have permitted the expansion of Islam deep into Europe.

Where did the Battle of Lepanto take place?

The battle took place in the Gulf of Patras, on the western coast of the Greek peninsula.

What was the significance of the Battle of Lepanto?

Due to the Holy League’s defeat of the Ottoman Empire in the Battle of Lepanto, the Turks did not advance into Europe. *Many historians have said that this was one of the most significant battles in history*. As a result of this great victory, the Feast of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary was introduced by Pope St. Pius V (1504-1572), and in 1573, Pope Gregory XIII changed the name of the feast to Feast of the Holy Rosary, to be celebrated on the first Sunday of October.

Notable Rosary Facts:

Catholic tradition holds that St. Dominic (1214) developed the rosary as we know it today.

Miracles of the Rosary:

Fatima Miracle of the Sun

In 1917, Blessed Mother appeared to three shepherd children – St. Jacinta, St. Francisco and Lucia – in Fatima, Portugal, following visits from an angel who appeared after the children said the Rosary. ***Between May 13 and October 13 of that year, Blessed Mother appeared to the children six times.*** Not only did she ask them to pray the Rosary every day to bring peace to the world and to end World War I, but she also identified herself as **Our Lady of the Rosary**, and she held a radiant Rosary in her hands.

On October 13, 1917 – because Blessed Mother had promised Lucia that she would perform a miracle so great that nobody could doubt the apparitions – **around 70,000 people had gathered to witness what is now known as the Miracle of the Sun.** The crowd watched as the sun burst through the clouds – looking like a silver sphere that spun or danced in the sky. Its rays illuminated areas in brilliant colors. Then, it seemed to hurl itself toward the crowd, completely drying all the mud and rain-soaked clothing, before zipping back up into the sky. Some people were cured of diseases. Many others converted.

Safety From Nuclear Blast in Hiroshima

In 1945, during WWII, eight Jesuit priests were living in a parish house **less than one mile from where the atomic bomb was dropped on the town of Hiroshima in Japan.** While the church next to the parish house was completely destroyed and thousands of people were killed and thousands of people suffered tremendously from radiation exposure, **the house remained standing, and the eight missionary priests miraculously survived. It was also miraculous and inexplicable that none of the eight Jesuits suffered from radiation exposure.**

In the years following the blast, they were examined many times, and they lived for many years after it. When the priests were interviewed, they repeatedly said why they believed they survived and why they had not suffered from radiation exposure as was expected. **They attributed their survival to the fact that they were living the message of Fatima. They said that they had prayed the Rosary faithfully in that house every day.**

Freed from armed men

Father Valentine Ezeagu was driving through Imo state in Nigeria on December 15, 2020, on the way to his father's funeral when he was ambushed by four armed men. The priest was unexpectedly freed thirty-six hours later. Reporting his release to his religious superior, Father Ezeagu said the abductors had let him go after seeing him pray the Rosary. Speaking to Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), Father George Okorie, Superior General of the Congregation of the Sons of Mary, Mother of Mercy, said: "When I spoke to Father Valentine, he told me that seeing him praying the Rosary made his abductors confused... They started having a guilty conscience. It made them realize that, since he was wearing a cassock, they had not got the right person, so they gave him some food and released him."

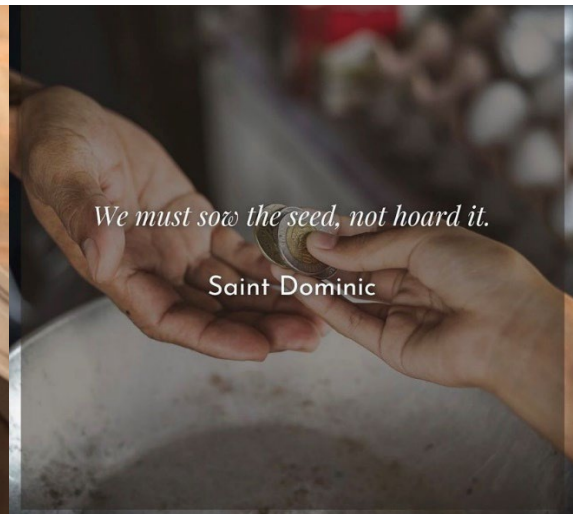
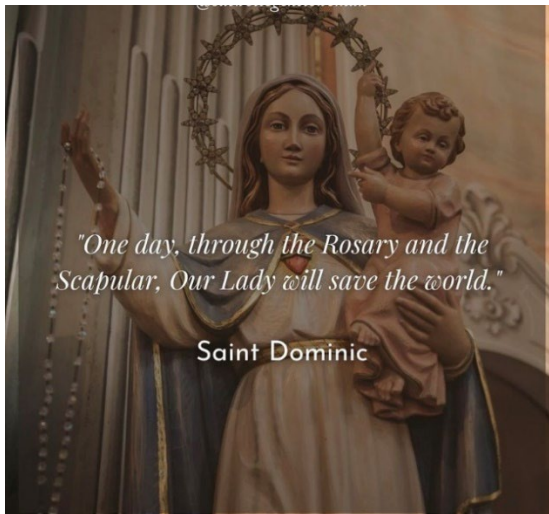
Miraculous cure

Praying the Rosary led to a miraculous cure for Father Patrick Peyton, the famous “Rosary Priest”. In 1938, after he had emigrated to the United States from Ireland, he became very ill and was diagnosed with advanced tuberculosis, an incurable condition at the time. His sister suggested that he turn to Our Lady. The future Father Peyton consecrated himself to Mary and began devoutly reciting the Rosary. To the astonishment of his doctors, he was completely and miraculously cured. In gratitude, he promised Mary that he would spend his life promoting the Rosary. On becoming a priest, he coined the phrase, “the family that prays together stays together.” He was one of the pioneering television evangelists who used the medium to promote the Rosary. In 1992, he died peacefully with Rosary beads in his hands. His cause for canonization is underway.

How the Rosary Saved an Entire Squadron in WWII

Story recounted to Dominican priest Fr Gabriel Harty by a non-Catholic devotee of the Rosary from Canada.

‘It was May, 1940, and we joined the Air Force in late September. We were grouped into squadrons. About thirty to fifty men made up a squadron, along with the squadron leader who gave all the orders and kept us functioning in unity. They told us that we were going overseas and would be in action right away. We eagerly awaited our new squadron leader. As an officer he would, we believed, go straight to the officers’ quarters. However, this squadron leader, Stan Fulton, in full uniform, headed for our bunk house, where he settled in with the rest of us. He threw his bag on an upper bunk. Our squadron leader, an officer, sleeping here with us! We liked him at once and our liking and our admiration grew each day. That first night he knelt on the floor and prayed his Rosary in silence. Astounded, we were struck dumb. When he finished, he looked at us with his friendly smile and said, “I hope you guys don’t mind a fellow saying some prayers because where we’re going, we’re going to need them.” Next night, he repeated his prayer session. Although our group had been together for six months at least, I had never seen anyone kneel in prayer, and had no idea that any of our group was Catholic. The third night three of our companions joined Fulton in saying the Rosary. The rest of us did not understand, but we kept a respectful silence. We weren’t slow however on the pick-up. Soon we were all answering the Hail Mary’s and Our Fathers. So, we ended each day in prayer. Shortly enough we were to begin a series of night raids from England over Germany. The evening before, Fulton gave each of us a Rosary. “We shall be in some tight situations, but if you agree to keep the Rosary with you and to say it, I promise you that Our Lady will bring you all back safe.” “Sure thing” we replied, little thinking we would be in action for four years, often in dreadful danger. At such times, Fulton’s voice would ring through each plane, “Hail Mary...” and we would devoutly respond! We must have said hundreds of Rosaries in the skies. Ours was the only squadron that had not lost a plane or a single life. We said nothing, but we treasured our secret weapon. We did survive, too. All returned to Canada in 1945, fully convinced that Our Lady had taken care of us. So, I never forget to keep my Rosary with me and say it every day although I am not a Catholic. When I change my trousers, the first thing I transfer, even before my wallet, is my Rosary.



Is the Rosary Biblical?

The Hail Mary

The principal prayer of the Rosary is the “Hail Mary,” a quotation from the Gospel of Luke.

“Hail [Mary], full of grace, the Lord is with you!” (Luke 1:28). “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” (Luke 1:42).

The Our Father

In between the decades of the Rosary is the “Our Father,” a prayer from Jesus himself. (Matthew 6:9-13).

The Glory Be – *Philippians 4:20*.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, "The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description."

Historically, the rosary was intended by the Roman Catholic Church as a cheap way to teach and recite prayers. During medieval times, many could not afford a Psalter (written collection of Psalms) or were illiterate. Traveling priests would use strings of beads to help people memorize and recite Scripture. It grew to include prayers associated with the life of Jesus.

First, the Rosary is not a prayer to Mary. It is a meditation on the life of Christ. Each mystery of the rosary is focused on the very Biblical events of the Gospels. To say that the Rosary is not biblical is not accurate at all.

When you look closer and breakdown the Rosary, you'll see 1) that every part of the Rosary is biblical in nature and 2) each part has a deep meaning – which is the opposite of what naysayers claim, that it is “mindless pagan babbling” or “vain repetition”.

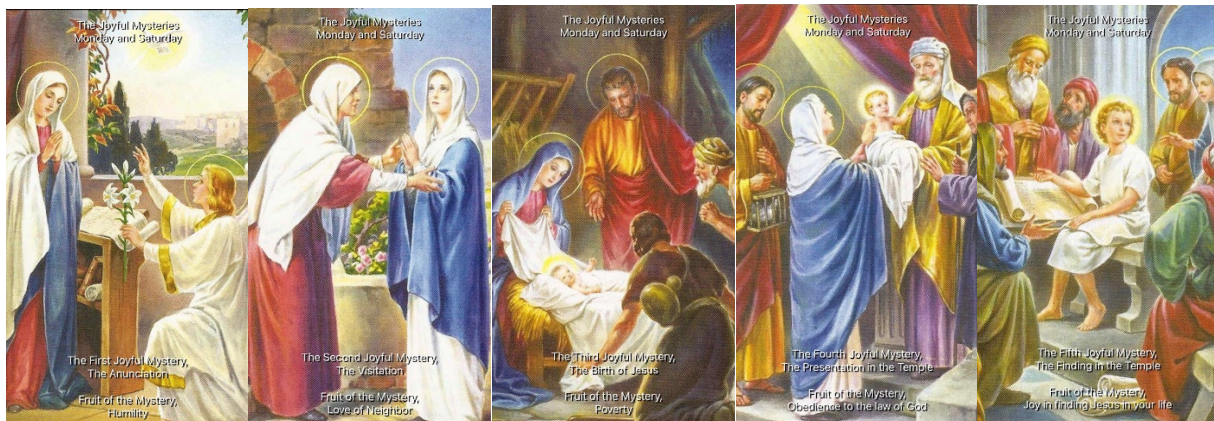
When we pray the “Hail, Mary”, we are not praying to Mary **but are asking for her prayers of intercession for us**, in the same way that you may ask friends, family, or your clergy to pray for you. Only her intercessory prayers are more powerful because she is the Mother of our Lord and sits at His side in Heaven.

A new mystery added...

October 16th 2002, the 24th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's papacy, he published an apostolic letter proposing five new mysteries to the Rosary. He identified five significant moments "Luminous," revealing Christ's divine nature. Three of them are directly related to Sacraments of the Church—**baptism, marriage, and the Eucharist**. Critics remind that the addition goes against the original 150 psalms, as 150 Hail Mary's are recited with the three traditional mysteries of the Rosary. However, in my opinion, the Rosary is the Gospel, it seems strange that Christ's earthly ministry should be left out. Is that not the Gospel too?

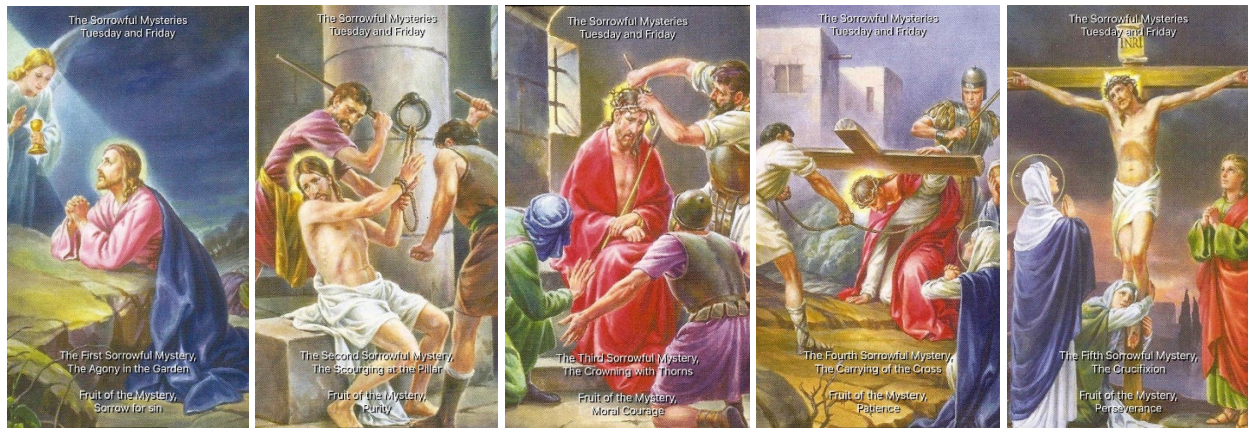
So, what are the mysteries, and how do they relate to Scripture?

The Joyful Mysteries include the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38), the Visitation (Luke 1:40-56), the Birth/Nativity (Luke 2:6-20), the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:21-39), and the Finding of the child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-51).



**These mysteries focus on Jesus prior to his birth to the first 12 years of his life.
Age of Jesus: 0 through 12 years old.**

The Sorrowful Mysteries include the Agony in the Garden (Matthew 26:36-46), the Scourging (Matt. 27:26), the Crowning with Thorns (Matt. 27:29), the Carrying of the Cross (John 19:17), and the Crucifixion (Luke 23:33-46).



These mysteries focus on Jesus prior to his death. Age of Jesus: 33 years old.

The Glorious Mysteries include the Resurrection (Luke 24:1-12), the Ascension (Luke 24:50-51), the Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4), the Assumption of Mary into heaven (Rev. 12), and her Coronation (Rev. 12:1).

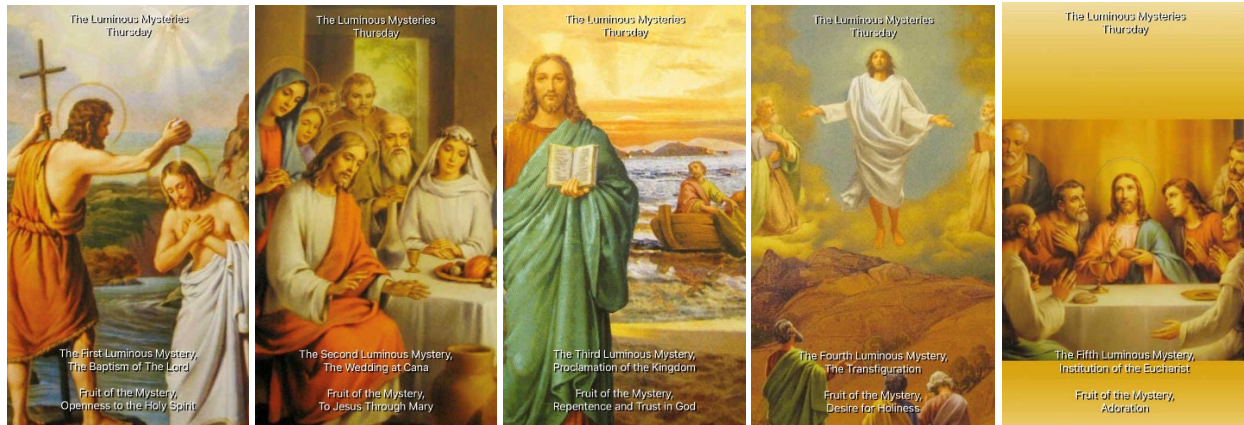


These mysteries focus on Jesus after his death, resurrection. Age of Jesus?

The Luminous Mysteries include the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan (Matthew 3: 13-16), the Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11), Jesus' Proclamation of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14-15), the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8) and the Institution of the Eucharist (Matthew 26: 26-29, Mark 14:22-25, and Luke 22: 14-23).

HOW TO SAVE YOUR CHILDREN THROUGH THE ROSARY

- * Pray the Rosary
- * Everytime you pray the Rosary, say:
"With this Rosary, I bind all my children to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for her guidance and protection."
- * In doing so, Our Lady promised "to see to their souls."



**These mysteries focus on Jesus during his missionary work/life.
Age of Jesus: 30 to 33 years old.**

THE ROSARY
IS THE **BIBLE ON A STRING.**
IT CATECHIZES USING
SCRIPTURE.

IT'S THE CHAIN
THAT BINDS SATAN.
- FR. RONAN MURPHY

BLESSINGS of the ROSARY

St Louis Marie
Grignion De Montfort
(1673-1716)

"The Rosary recited with meditation on the mysteries brings about the following marvellous results:

1. It gradually gives us a perfect knowledge of Jesus Christ;
2. It purifies our souls, washing away sin;
3. It gives us victory over all our enemies;
4. It makes it easy for us to practice virtue;
5. It sets us on fire with love of Our Blessed Lord;
6. It enriches us with graces and merits;
7. It supplies us with what is needed to pay, all our debts to God and to our fellow men

For those who wish to say only 5 decades per day, the Holy Father proposed the following schedule:

Monday: [Joyful](#)
Tuesday: [Sorrowful](#)
Wednesday: [Glorious](#)
Thursday: [Luminous](#)
Friday: [Sorrowful](#)
Saturday: [Joyful](#)
Sunday: [Glorious](#)

For those who prefer to follow the traditional order of the days it is:

Monday: [Joyful](#)

Tuesday: [Sorrowful](#)

Wednesday: [Glorious](#)

Thursday: [Joyful](#)

Friday: [Sorrowful](#)

Saturday: [Glorious](#)

Sunday: [Glorious](#)

