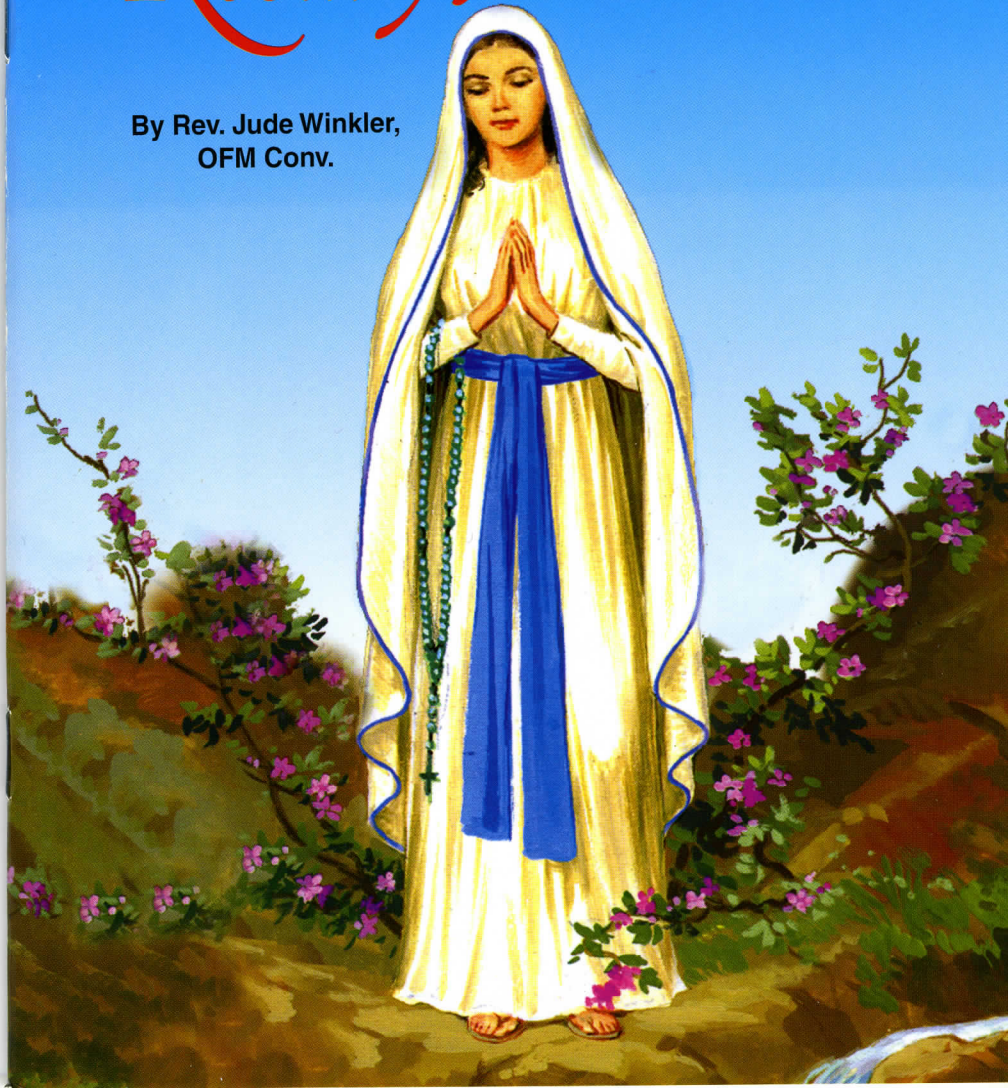


# Scriptural Rosary for Children

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## How the Rosary Began

**T**here are a number of different stories about how the Holy Rosary began. Two of the oldest stories tell us why people needed the Rosary and who helped spread its use throughout the world.

In the early days of the Church, people wanted to make their daily lives more holy. When they would ask spiritual leaders how they could do this, the leaders would tell them that they should meditate on the Mysteries of God's love. They asked these spiritual guides how long they should meditate on these Mysteries (for they had no clocks or watches). The answer was that they should meditate for as long as it would take to pray one Our Father and ten Hail Marys.

Even if this is how the Rosary began, it was St. Dominic, the founder of the Dominicans, who spread the practice of praying it every day. He preached at the beginning of the thirteenth century, a time when many people had turned away from God. Dominic devoted himself to preaching the Word of God to those who had lost their Faith.

There is a legend that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Dominic and gave him a Rosary, telling him to pray it so that sinners would be converted.

## How to Pray the Rosary

One can pray the Rosary with a group of people or alone. One can pray this devotion in church, at home, or anywhere.

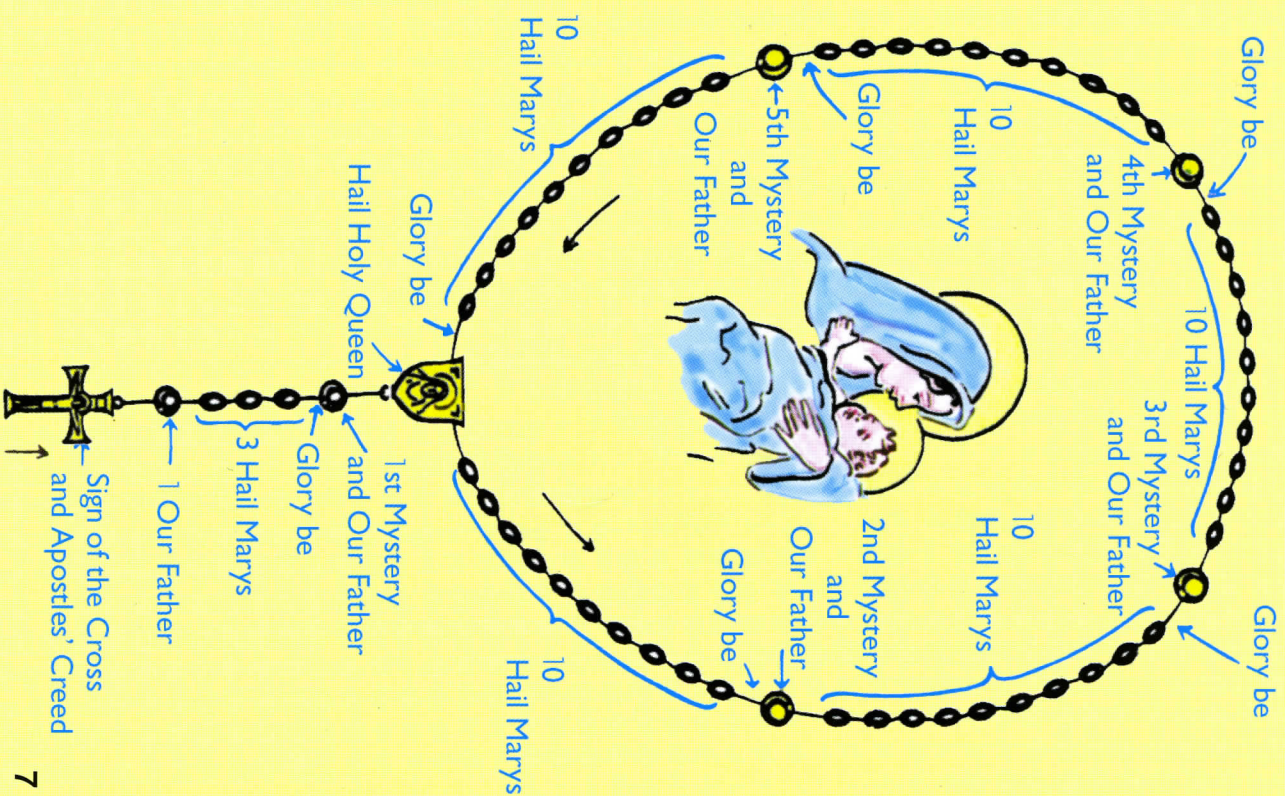
We begin the Rosary with the Sign of the Cross (for this is the way that we begin all of our prayers).

After this, we pray the Apostles' Creed. This is a very ancient prayer that proclaims the important truths of our Faith.

After the Apostles' Creed, we pray one Our Father, three Hail Marys, and one Glory be.

We now come to the most important reason why we pray the Rosary: to meditate on the Mysteries of our Faith. We proclaim each of the five Mysteries, followed by one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, and one Glory be.

Remember, the reason for praying the Rosary is not to tally how many prayers we can say. It is to meditate on God's love as shown in the lives of Jesus and Mary. This is why we hold the Rosary while we pray, so that we can keep track of the number of prayers we have said without having to count them.



## The Joyful Mysteries

These are the Mysteries that we pray on Mondays and Saturdays, the Sundays of Advent, and Sundays from Epiphany until Lent:

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Birth of Jesus
4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

To help us meditate upon them, we will read some verses from the Bible that tell us what happened. If there is no such passage from Scripture, we will read some thoughts that help us reflect on the Mystery.



### The First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation

*Luke 1:26-28, 30-31, 38*

In the sixth month, the Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a Virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The Virgin's name was Mary.

The Angel came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." The Angel also said, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you will name Him Jesus." Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word."



### The Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation

*Luke 1:39-43*

**M**ary set out and journeyed in haste to a town of Judah where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth, her cousin who was with child. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb.

Then Elizabeth exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb. And why am I so greatly favored that the Mother of my Lord should visit me?"



### The Third Joyful Mystery: The Birth of Jesus

*Luke 2:1, 4, 6-7*

**I**n those days, a decree was issued by Caesar Augustus that a census should be taken throughout the entire world. Joseph therefore went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David.

While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for her to have her Child. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



**The Fourth Joyful Mystery:  
The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple**

*Luke 2:22, 27-30, 38*

**W**hen the days for their purification were completed according to the Law of Moses, they brought the Child up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit, Simeon came into the Temple. He took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying, "Now, Lord, You may dismiss Your servant in peace, for my eyes have seen Your salvation."

At that moment, Anna came forward and began to praise God, while she spoke about the Child.



**The Fifth Joyful Mystery:  
The Finding of Jesus in the Temple**

*Luke 2:42-43, 46, 49*

**W**hen Jesus was twelve years old, the Holy Family made the journey for the feast of Passover. When the days of the feast were over and they set off for home, the Boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem.

After three days Mary and Joseph found Him in the Temple, where He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Jesus said to Mary and Joseph, "Why were you searching for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?"

## The Sorrowful Mysteries

These are the Mysteries that we pray on Tuesdays and Fridays throughout the year, and daily from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday:

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. Jesus Carries His Cross
5. Jesus Dies on the Cross

To help us meditate upon them, we will read some verses from the Bible that tell us what happened. If there is no such passage from Scripture, we will read some thoughts that help us reflect on the Mystery.



### The First Sorrowful Mystery: The Agony in the Garden

*Mark 14:32-33, 35-36; Luke 22:43*

Jesus and the disciples went to a place that was called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with Him Peter and James and John, and He began to suffer distress.

Moving on a little farther, He threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by, saying, "Abba, Father, for You all things are possible. Take this cup from Me. Yet not My will but Yours be done." Then an Angel from heaven appeared to Him and gave Him strength.



**The Second Sorrowful Mystery:  
The Scourging at the Pillar**

*Matthew 27:24-26; 1 Peter 2:23*

**W**hen Pilate saw that a riot was about to occur, he took some water and washed his hands in full view of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's Blood." He then released Barabbas to them, and had Jesus scourged.

When Jesus was abused, He did not retaliate. When He suffered, He made no threats, but He placed His trust in the One Who judges justly.



**The Third Sorrowful Mystery:  
The Crowning with Thorns**

*Matthew 27:27-30*

**T**he governor's soldiers took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they placed it on His head and put a reed in His right hand.

Bending the knee before Him, they mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" The soldiers spat upon Jesus, and taking a reed, used it to strike Him on the head.





**The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery:  
Jesus Carries His Cross**

*Luke 23:26-27, 32*

**A**s they led Jesus away, they seized a man from Cyrene named Simon, who was returning from the country. They put the Cross on his back and forced him to carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed Jesus, among them many women who were mourning and lamenting over Him.

There were also two others, both criminals, who were led away to be executed with Him.



**The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery:  
Jesus Dies on the Cross**

*Mark 15:25, 29, 33-34, 37*

**I**t was around nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified Him. Those people who passed by jeered at Him, shaking their heads.

Beginning at midday, there was darkness over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Then Jesus cried out in a loud voice and breathed His last.

## The Glorious Mysteries

These are the Mysteries that we pray on Wednesdays and Sundays from Easter until Advent:

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary

To help us meditate upon them, we will read some verses from the Bible that tell us what happened. If there is no such passage from Scripture, we will read some thoughts that help us reflect on the Mystery.



### The First Glorious Mystery: The Resurrection

*Luke 24:1-6*

**A**t daybreak on the first day of the week, the women came to the tomb with spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went inside, they did not find the Body of the Lord Jesus.

Suddenly two men in dazzling clothes appeared at their side. They said to the women, "Why do you look among the dead for One Who is alive? Jesus is not here. He has been raised."



### **The Second Glorious Mystery: The Ascension**

*Acts 1:9-11*

**J**esus was lifted up as the disciples looked on, and a cloud took Him from their sight.

While He was departing as they gazed upward toward the sky, suddenly two men dressed in white robes stood beside them, and they said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking up into the sky? This Jesus Who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way you have seen Him going into heaven.”

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### **The Third Glorious Mystery: The Descent of the Holy Spirit**

*Acts 2:1-4*

**W**hen the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all assembled together in one place. Suddenly, there came from heaven a sound similar to that of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were sitting.

There appeared tongues of fire, which separated and came to rest on each one of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in different languages, as the Spirit enabled them to do.

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**The Fourth Glorious Mystery:  
The Assumption**

*Luke 1:46-54*

**M**ary said, “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For He has looked with favor on the lowliness of His servant; henceforth, all generations will call me blessed.

“The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His Name. His mercy is shown from age to age to those who fear Him. . . . He has come to the aid of Israel His servant, ever mindful of His merciful love.”



**The Fifth Glorious Mystery:  
The Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

*Romans 8:14-15, 17, 30*

**T**hose who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. You did not receive a spirit of slavery leading to fear; rather, you received the Spirit of adoption. . . . If we are children of God, then we are heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

Those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified.