

Promote True Compassion.



Say No on Question 2.

Help stop assisted suicide in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Rosary Novena

October 3, 2012 – October 11, 2012

Special Broadcast Times of the Novena Rosaries on CatholicTV & CatholicTV.com

- October 3: 9pm
- October 4-11: 3:00am, 10:00am, 12:00 noon, 6:30pm and 10:00pm

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Notes:

For more information about the Rosary, please visit www.FamilyRosary.org.

(Note: Many of the included materials come from Holy Cross Family Ministries of Easton, MA (www.HCFM.org) and their website: www.FamilyRosary.org).

Rosary Prayers

The following prayers are used while praying The Rosary:

The Sign Of The Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

Our Father

Our Father who is in heaven, holy be your name. Your Kingdom come. Your 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.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your 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.

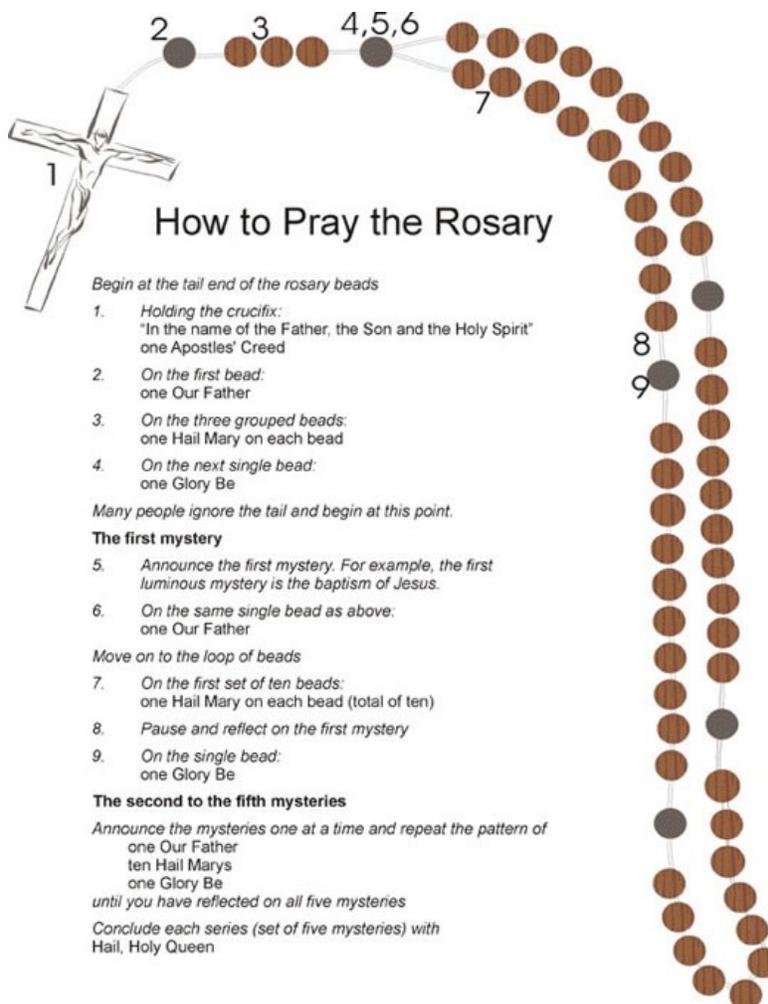
Hail Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you do we cry poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, O most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of your 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.

How to Pray the Rosary

The Basics:

- The Rosary is prayed using a string of beads called Rosary Beads. **Starting at the crucifix**, each bead is held in your fingers and a standard prayer is said, such as **Apostles Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father and the Hail Holy Queen**.
- To pray, you **follow the beads counter-clockwise around the string**, praying on each bead, to eventually return to the crucifix. (try our **Interactive Rosary** to see this in action)
- The beads are **divided into five decades (or sections)**; each decade represents an event from the life of Christ. These five events are grouped into a “**mystery**”, that is a “truth” from the life of Christ.
- There are **four of these “mysteries” of five events each**...each focused on important part of the life of Christ. When praying the Rosary, each day of the week is assigned a mystery to pray for that day.



The Mysteries

What Are The Mysteries?

The Rosary prayer focuses on the life of Christ from the Scriptures...it is partly a **history lesson**. To that end, the beads of the Rosary are **divided into five decades (or sections); each decade represents an event from the life of Christ. These five events are grouped into a “mystery”,** that is a “truth” from the life of Christ. There are four of these “mysteries” of five events each...each focused on important part of the life of Christ. When praying the Rosary, each day of the week is assigned a mystery to pray for that day.

Reflections of Cardinal Seán Special Rosary Novena

- For Catholics throughout the world, the month of October is set aside as a special time to rediscover the beauty of the Holy Rosary, a devotion which is a summary of the whole Gospel. In the Rosary we meditate on the principal events of salvation that were accomplished in Christ: from the virgin conception to the final moments of the Passion and the glorification of the Mother of God.
- It's a simple prayer but at the same time theologically rich in Biblical references; for this reason we Catholics love the Rosary. In the Rosary we will pray tonight and throughout this novena of prayer, I invite you to join with me and with Catholics throughout the world for a greater respect for the gift of human life, especially for the elderly and the terminally ill. As the Archbishop of Boston, I am asking people throughout the state of Massachusetts to join us in praying specifically for the defeat of Physician-Assisted Suicide, which will appear on our ballots on voting day as Question Number 2.
- As followers of Jesus Christ, we look to the example of Jesus' loving ministry to the sick and suffering. He called people by name; He healed them in body and spirit. As Christians we are opposed to physician-assisted suicide, because it makes us view the sick and suffering as a burden on society.
- It is important that we provide the loving care our dying brothers and sisters need. Mother Teresa began her special vocation to God's poor by aiding the dying people in the gutters of Calcutta. She took them on her back or in a wheelbarrow to an old abandoned Hindu temple where she cleaned them and fed them and did whatever possible so that they could die surrounded by God's love. She called this, “doing something beautiful for God.”
- As Christians, we're all called to “do something beautiful for God.” When we care for our sick and elderly, we are not only following the example of Christ and the saints, but we ourselves are doing it because we see God hidden in those who are most vulnerable, those most in need.

The Five Joyful Mysteries

From Cardinal Seán O'Malley: I invite you now to join me as we meditate upon the joyful mysteries of the Holy Rosary. They invite us to ponder the mysteries of Christ's incarnation, of God taking upon himself our human flesh. In the incarnation of the Eternal Word, the Son of the Father, God takes upon himself our flesh, with its weakness and frailty – and he lifts it up to heaven. In our suffering and pain, God is present; He brings us comfort and healing, and he thus invites us to be agents of healing and comfort to those in need.



1. The Annunciation

Mary is troubled by the angel's greeting, yet rejoices to do God's will. Let us pray that those who are troubled by illness or disease may have the grace to trust in God's will.



2. The Visitation

John the Baptist leapt for joy in his mother's womb. Let us pray for the grace to recognize the presence of God in our brothers and sisters, especially in those who are poor, weak and suffering.



3. The Nativity

God Himself was born as a child. The greatness of a person does not depend on size or strength, for the newborn King is very small and very weak. Let us pray during this decade to respect all people and to see their dignity and worth as something that comes from God, regardless of their strengths or abilities.



4. The Presentation

The Child is presented in the Temple because the Child belongs to God. Each of us belongs to God, we are not the property of our families or of the government. We belong to God, He brings us into this world, and He himself calls us by name when He calls us out of this world to rest with him eternally in Heaven. Let us pray for the grace to understand our adoption as God's children, and let us pray that the law of the land will recognize this fundamental dignity and Divine right we have as God's children.



5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

The boy Jesus was filled with wisdom, because He is God. As God's children, you and I are invited to be filled with that same wisdom, which we often glimpse when we sit and listen to an elderly parent or friend, who has experience carrying the crosses of life. Let us pray for the gift of wisdom, and for our dear friends who are elderly and experiencing illness, that we may have strength to carry our crosses with love and trust in God.

The Sorrowful Mysteries

From Cardinal Seán O'Malley: I invite you now to join me as we meditate upon the joyful mysteries of the Holy Rosary. They invite us to ponder the mysteries of Christ's incarnation, of God taking upon himself our human flesh. In the incarnation of the Eternal Word, the Son of the Father, God takes upon himself our flesh, with its weakness and frailty – and he lifts it up to heaven. In our suffering and pain, God is present; He brings us comfort and healing, and he thus invites us to be agents of healing and comfort to those in need.



1. The Agony in the Garden

In His Passion, Christ invites his disciples to stay with him, to pray with him. We accompany Jesus in His Passion whenever we sit by the bedside of a loved one who is sick or dying. We pray for those who are in agony, and those whose illnesses fill their lives with constant pain and suffering. We ask God to grant us the love and compassion we need to accompany those who are in agony, and we pray for all doctors and nurses, and other health professionals who provide end-of-life care: that they may do everything in their power to ease the pain and to bring true compassionate care to those who are suffering in body and spirit, not by ending their lives, but by providing for their medical needs, assisting them in the last moments of their lives.



2. The Scourging

As Christ's flesh was torn by the instruments of his scourging, he experienced in his own body the most profound physical pain and torment. In our physical sufferings, we can be tempted to believe that we have been abandoned, but Christ's own passion teaches us never to lose faith, for "by His wounds we were healed." We pray for all those who suffer from chronic pain and illness, and for those who care for them: that they may know the consolation and hope that faith brings, and that Christ will bring them the healing and relief they are longing for.



3. The Crowning With Thorns

Jesus suffered the pain of thorns in His head, and the humiliation of mockery and disrespect. Many of our sick brothers and sisters suffer the humiliation of illness and disease, and rely completely on the care and support of their loved ones and of medical professionals to tend to their every need. May they never feel themselves to be a burden on others. May we all give thanks to God for the gift of our sick brothers and sisters, who allow us to serve God through them.



4. The Carrying of the Cross

Jesus was not condemned by the power of wicked people. He was condemned because of the silence of good people. Silence always helps the oppressor, never the victim. Let us pray that we will never be silent about physician assisted suicide or abortion or any of the other evils in our world. Just as Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus to carry His Cross, may we be bold and unafraid to help carry the crosses of those who are most vulnerable and defenseless.



5. The Crucifixion

In His Crucifixion, Jesus breathes his last breaths, and he commends his spirit into the hands of the Father. We pray for those who are approaching their last breaths, that they might have the grace to make the same gift to God, to entrust their lives to God and put themselves in His loving hands. As St. Augustine says, "He has made us for Himself – and our hearts are restless until they rest in Him."

The Glorious Mysteries

From Cardinal Seán O'Malley: I invite you now to join me as we meditate upon the glorious mysteries of the Holy Rosary. They invite us to ponder the mysterious events of the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ - the outpouring of the Holy Spirit - and the Assumption and Coronation of the Mother of God. These mysteries turn our attention toward heaven, where we hope to experience God's peace when our earthly life comes to its natural conclusion.



1. The Resurrection

Christ is Risen! By his Resurrection, He has destroyed the power of death, and has called us to be a People of Life, who are tireless defenders of those who need our voice.



2. The Ascension

By ascending to the Father's throne, Christ takes our human nature, given to us in the womb, to the heights of heaven. He shows us that human beings are made to be raised to heaven, by God who calls us home.



3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Advocate: He pleads our cause, for we cannot save ourselves. The Holy Spirit transforms us from timid followers to committed disciples and apostles of life.



4. The Assumption

The Blessed Virgin Mary was taken body and soul into heaven because she is the Mother of God, and her body was to be kept safe from any taint of human corruption.



5. The Coronation

Mary is the Queen of the Universe. She is obedient to God from the very beginning of her life, and she exists to intercede for us to her Son.

The Luminous Mysteries

From Cardinal Seán O'Malley: I invite you now to join me as we meditate upon the luminous mysteries of the Holy Rosary. Blessed John Paul II introduced the "Mysteries of Light" and these Mysteries remind us that the Rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christ-centered prayer. He brings us light and peace, and He invites us to be light and peace to all those in need.



1. The Baptism in the Jordan

When Jesus is baptized, the Father's voice is heard: "This is my beloved Son." All are called to become adopted sons and daughters of God through baptism. Through the waters of this great sacrament, we belong to God as his most cherished possession. In meditating upon this mystery, we pray for those who are abandoned or alone, the suffering and the sick – that they might hear the voice of God telling them that they are His beloved sons and daughters.



2. The Wedding at Cana

Jesus revealed His glory by the miracle at Cana. When they had run out of wine at the wedding feast, it is Mary who speaks: Do whatever He tells you! Let us pray for the gift of faith, that we may hear what it is that God wants us to do with our lives, and have the courage and strength to be obedient to His will.



3. Christ proclaims the Kingdom of God and Calls All to Conversion

"Repent and believe the Good News." These are the first words of Jesus' public ministry. Physician assisted suicide and euthanasia find support because of strong cultural trends that influence people's attitudes. Let us pray for the grace of conversion, that we might not be conformed to this world and to a culture of death, but that we might be transformed by the power of Christ and be agents of change in our culture, making it a place where every life has value, every life is beautiful.



4. The Transfiguration

Christ is transformed on the mountain, and the disciples see His glory. He does this to prepare them for His Passion and Death. In this mystery of the Transfiguration of our Lord, may we all see that suffering and death are the royal road to God's Glory. Just as the three disciples Peter, James and John were able to glimpse the glory of the Resurrected, Glorified Christ, so may we glimpse the glory of Christ in the suffering and death of our loved ones.



5. Jesus gives us the Eucharist

"This is My Body, given up for you." The Eucharist teaches us how to live and how to love. In this mystery we pray in gratitude for the gift of the Most Holy Eucharist, and we ask God for the grace to love as Christ loves us, by making a gift of ourselves to others, especially those who are dying and in need of God's presence.