

Lesson 4: Mary and the Holy Rosary

Please click twice to watch the video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WN0JCs9B4Gw&t=52s>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjFYu2p_KIU&list=TLPQMTMwNTIwMjDpHn4O-MoFDA&index=2

Mary has a very special place in our Church because she is the Mother of God and our mother, based on what Jesus told St. John the Apostle - and all of us- in his last moments on the Cross: "Behold your mother."

Mary is a lot like us, with one big difference: She was conceived without the original sin we all inherited from Adam and Eve. This is called the **Immaculate Conception** - which is especially an important for us in the United States because Mary is our nation's patroness under this title. We believe that Mary remains so close to Jesus that she can help us as an intercessor between us and God.

Mary also is a model for us as Jesus' first disciple, or follower. She points the way to God for all those who do not understand or believe in Him. She has done that from the day the Angel Gabriel came to tell her, "the Lord is with you." She did what God asked of her: to bear the Son of God and to live her whole life in support of her Son, even up to His death on the Cross.

Why do we pray the rosary?

The rosary prayer has become one of the most popular and recognizable Catholic devotions, but why do we do it? The rosary consists of 15 decades of Hail Mary prayers, each introduced by the Lord's Prayer and concluded with the Glory Be.

Each decade is accompanied by a meditation on some aspect of the life of Jesus or Mary, called a mystery. These mysteries are divided into four categories: the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous and Glorious. In order to more easily remember the prayers, they are counted on a string of beads.

For Catholics, the rosary is a wonderful spiritual tool. Although rosary beads may look like an ordinary string of beads, they should always be treated with respect for the prayers it is used to pray. Its name comes from the Latin word for "rose garden." Since the rose is one of the symbols of the Blessed Virgin, praying the rosary is said to be like offering a spiritual bouquet of roses to her.

A famous legend describes how Mary handed the first rosary to St. Dominic almost 800 years ago and told him that it was a way to call upon her for help.

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

HONORING MARY

CELEBRATING MARY'S LIFE ALL YEAR

JANUARY ★ 1

Mary, Mother of God
We thank God on this feast day for sending Jesus into the world through His mother, Mary.



MARCH 25

Annunciation of the Lord

We remember how the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that God had chosen her to be Jesus' mother.

MAY 31

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Mary visits Elizabeth (St. John the Baptist's mother), the first to see Mary as the Mother of God.

AUGUST ★ 15

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

When Mary died, we believe she was assumed - body and soul - into Heaven.



AUGUST 22

The Queenship of Mary

We celebrate Mary as the Queen of Heaven, crowned with this title after her Assumption.



SEPTEMBER 8

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
We celebrate the gift of Mary's birth on this day.

DECEMBER ★ 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

We remember how Mary was conceived without original sin, preparing her to bear the Son of God.

DECEMBER 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

We celebrate Mary's appearance to St. Juan Diego in Mexico.



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How to Say the Rosary

