



THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. ... Contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial.

—Pope Francis



*Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis
to the Faithful for the Month of May 2020*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

*Rome, St. John Lateran, 25 April 2020
Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist*

SIGN OF THE CROSS

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

APOSTLES' CREED

All: I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow at the following two lines)

*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,*

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified,
died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day
he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come 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.

MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Prayed on Mondays and Saturdays

1. The Annunciation of the Lord
2. The Visitation of Mary
3. The Nativity of the Lord
4. The Presentation of the Lord
in the Temple
5. The Finding of the Lord
in the Temple

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

Prayed on Thursdays

1. The Baptism of the Lord
in the Jordan
2. The Manifestation of the Lord
at the Wedding of Cana
3. The Proclamation of the
Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration of the Lord
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

Prayed on Tuesdays and Fridays

1. The Agony of the Lord
in the Garden
2. The Scourging of the Lord
at the Pillar
3. The Crowning of the Lord
with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion of the Lord

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

Prayed on Sundays and Wednesdays

1. The Resurrection of the Lord
2. The Ascension of the Lord
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
on the Apostles
4. The Assumption of Mary
into Heaven
5. The Coronation of Mary as
Queen of the Angels and the Saints



LORD'S PRAYER

Leader:

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

All:

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

Leader:

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.

All:

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.

FATIMA PRAYER

O my Jesus,

Forgive us our sins,
save us from the fires of hell;
lead all souls to Heaven,
especially those who have most
need of your mercy.



SALVE REGINA

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope!

To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.

To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy 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. Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, whose only begotten Son, by his life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech thee, that meditating on these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS PROPOSED BY POPE FRANCIS

O Mary,
you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,
you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,
the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,
O Holy Mother of God.
In our needs, despise not our petitions,
but deliver us always from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis

“We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God.” In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

VIRGIN MARY, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

MOTHER OF GOD AND OUR MOTHER, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust. Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health. Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

BLESSED VIRGIN, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus. Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

MARY MOST HOLY, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

BELOVED MOTHER, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

MARY, CONSOLATION OF THE AFFLICTED, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, *O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.*



(CNS photo/Andreas Solano, Reuters pool)