

FOURTH GRADE: THE MYSTERIES OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Praying and focusing on the key events of Jesus' life throughout the entire year will allow the children and you to develop a deeper friendship with Jesus and come to recognize more and more how much He loves each person. The following resources are meant to foster this process. Please consider implementing one simple aspect regarding the Mysteries of the Rosary every day and at each session.

JOYFUL MYSTERIES

- 1) Luke 1:28-35, 38 The Annunciation - The angel Gabriel announces the Incarnation to Mary.
- 2) Luke 1:39-45 The Visitation - Mary visits Elizabeth in her time of need.
- 3) Luke 2:6-12 The Nativity - Jesus is born in Bethlehem.
- 4) Luke 2:25-32 The Presentation - Mary and Joseph present Jesus in the Temple.
- 5) Luke 2:41-4 The Finding in the Temple – Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple.

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

1. Matthew 3:13-17 The Baptism of the Lord – Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan River.
2. John 2:1-11 The Wedding Feast at Cana – Christ changes water into wine at Mary's request.
3. Mark 1:15, 2:3-12 The Proclamation of the Kingdom – Jesus announces the coming of the Kingdom and the forgiveness of sins.
4. Matthew 17:1-8 The Transfiguration – Jesus is transfigured, dazzling white, on Mount Tabor.
5. Matthew 26:26-32 The Institution of the Eucharist – At the Last Supper, Christ changes bread and wine into His Body and Blood.

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

1. Luke 22:39-46 The Agony in the Garden – Jesus prays in Gethsemane on the night before His death.
2. Mark 15:6-15 The Scourging at the Pillar – Christ is scourged by the soldiers at Pilate's command.
3. John 19:1-8 The Crowning with Thorns – Soldiers weave a crown of thorns and shove it in to Christ's head.
4. John 19:16-22 The Carrying of the Cross – Jesus struggles up Calvary with His own cross on His shoulders.
5. John 19:25-30 The Crucifixion – Jesus is nailed to the cross and dies.

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

1. Matthew 28:1-8 The Resurrection – Jesus rises from the dead on the third day after his Crucifixion.
2. Acts 1:8-11 The Ascension – Forty days after rising from the dead, Christ ascends into Heaven.
3. Acts 2:1-6, 38-41 The Descent of the Holy Spirit on Mary and the Apostles.
4. Revelation 12:1-3, 13-18 The Assumption – At the end of her life, Mary is taken body and soul into Heaven.
5. Revelation 12:1-5 The Coronation – Mary is crowned Queen of Heaven and earth.



Jesus' love for us

In reflecting on the major events of Jesus' life each day, we will come to recognize more and more how much Jesus loves each one of us personally. We will also be guided by the Holy Spirit to make connections between each Mystery and our own life. Let us ask Him to help us see how this Mystery applies and gives guidance to our life right now.

Why focus on a Mystery of Christ's Life and pray one decade of the Rosary each day?

- 1) To study the lives of Jesus and Mary as recalled in Scripture on a daily basis.
- 2) To develop / deepen our relationship with Jesus and Mary.
- 3) To learn how to make the connection between the Mystery and our personal life.
- 4) To grow in our awareness of how much Jesus and Mary love us.

Learning the Mysteries

- Pray a Decade of the Rosary every day in the home, at every session and every appropriate opportunity. Focusing on one of the 20 Mysteries each day or each week will teach the major events of Jesus' life. Students will encounter Jesus and develop a true friendship with Him through making a connection between the Mystery and their own life.
- Have the children look up the Scripture verses in their Bible for each Mystery and follow along as it is read. See page 1 for the Scriptures.
- Encourage parents to pray a decade of the Rosary each day with their children at home: announce the Mystery, read the Scripture for that Mystery, and pray a decade of the Rosary (one *Our Father*, 10 Hail Marys and one *Glory Be*) at mealtime or bedtime, helping their child to be committed to daily prayer.
- Suggested Schedule:
 - Joyful Mysteries** – the first 12 years of Jesus' life (September/October & Advent: Dec./Jan)
 - Luminous Mysteries** – Jesus' public ministry (November / mid January / Feb.)
 - Sorrowful Mysteries** – the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross (Lent)
 - Glorious Mysteries** – the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead to the Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth (after Easter: April / May)
- Summer challenge: Seek to pray a decade of the Rosary each day, taking about 5 min.

Learning the Principles of adoration to the Blessed Trinity and our special devotion to Mary

- Jesus gave Mary to John the Apostle as his Spiritual Mother when He was dying on the Cross. (John 19: 25-27) It has always been believed that John represented each one of us. It is therefore appropriate for us to pray to Mary, asking her for help in all of our needs.
- Mary is our Spiritual Mother and our sign of comfort and hope. **The Blessed Mother's basic task is always to draw people into deeper friendship with her Son.**
- The Rosary is a prayer in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which repeats the privileged Marian prayer *Hail Mary*, in "decades" of ten prayers, which is preceded by the *Our Father* and concluded by the *Glory Be to the Father*, accompanied by meditation on the mysteries of Christ's life. (*Catechism*, Glossary, p. 897)

- “Adoration” is the worship that is deserved and rightly offered to God, the Creator, alone. The adoration of our Heavenly Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit is firmly rooted and grounded within the heart of the Church before any secondary veneration of Mary is progressively inspired and evoked by the Holy Spirit. However, “the Church’s devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship.” **Veneration”, that is, the special honor, devotion, reverence, and recognition of excellence we give to Mary**, God’s creature, deepens and points us toward a more perfect homage of God Himself. In appreciating and honoring Mary, the masterpiece, we give greater honor and glory to God, the Divine Artist. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* hereafter CCC paragraph 971)
- **Mary is our Spiritual Mother.** In the spiritual order, Mary became the mother to us in the order of grace as she fully cooperated with Christ in restoring supernatural life to souls.
- **Mary is our model of faith and charity.** We need to study the Faith, in an ongoing manner, and be committed to daily prayer in order to deepen our friendship with Jesus Christ. Further, we are to live out our faith by showing compassion and love toward others on a daily basis, especially those in need. We do this out of love for God. We follow Mary’s example as she served Elizabeth in her old age.
- “Prayer is a vital necessity. Prayer and Christian life are inseparable” (CCC 2744-2745).

Activities for Learning the Mysteries

- Explain each Mystery for better understanding. After reading the short Scripture passage, ask the children how it relates to their life.
- Draw a picture for each Mystery during the month that a specific set of Mysteries are being prayed. Allow the children to make a booklet of the pictures.
- After students become familiar with the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary* and *Glory Be*, and learn to pray the prayers with their heart, it is most important for them to hear and ponder the Scriptural story of each Mystery and then to make a connection to their own life.
For example: after reading the Bible passage about the Annunciation – the angel announcing to Mary that she would be the Mother of the Savior and how she gave her “yes” to God, then explain how we want to say “yes” to God in what He is asking of us. At this time in our lives, He might be asking us to befriend someone, help our parents in some way, pray for a neighbor who is sick etc.
- Gradually place a timeline on the wall with a picture for each Mystery as they are studied so that students can see Jesus’ whole life.
- Have the girls and boys write out the words of the *Our Father*, the *Hail Mary* and the *Glory Be* in a flip book. Check for accuracy and laminate if possible. Students can use the sheet for reference of the words of the prayer.
- Put a puzzle together of the Mysteries of Jesus’ life
- Divide children into two small groups on separate sides of the room. When praying the *Our Father*, *Hail Marys* and *Glory Be*, allow one group to lead and the other group to respond by praying the second half of the prayer.



The institution of the Holy Eucharist

- Children may each have a Rosary to pray a decade. Or, have a large Rosary with a leader moving their fingers to the next prayer.
- Provide the Scripture for each of the Joyful Mysteries and have students fill in the blank of the Mysteries. Repeat with Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries.
- When teaching about the life of Jesus and Mary, include Sacred Art, for each Mystery. Google a specific Mystery of the Rosary and then click Images. Or use posters of each Mystery. <http://www.wjhirten.com/mysteries-of-the-rosary-poster-5530.html> Talk about the picture and what is happening. “A sacred image can express much more than what can be said in words, and be an extremely effective and dynamic way of communicating the Gospel message.” (Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger – Benedict XVI, Pope Emeritus, *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, p. xvii)
- Teach the young people how to pray from their heart, not just rattling words. “Prayer is internalized to the extent that we become aware of Him ‘to whom we speak.’” In the case of the *Hail Mary*, we are speaking with the person of Our Blessed Mother. In the *Our Father*, we are addressing our Heavenly Father. In the *Glory Be*, we are speaking with and praising the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (*Catechism* 2700, 2704)



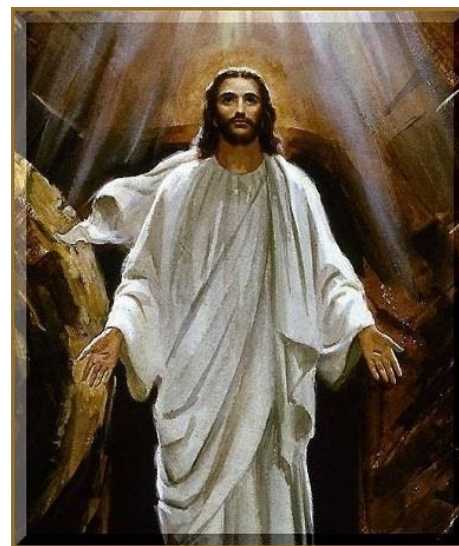
- Place the one-page prayer commitment into a plastic sleeve and tie a small loop of yarn to the top loop. Parents may place the prayer commitment on the child’s bedroom doorknob in order to use it for prayer times (so it won’t be misplaced). Prayer commitments at the beginning of the academic year, and during Advent and Lent are especially welcomed. A gift, such as a medal and chain or a small statue could be given for incentive to be faithful each day during a period such as Advent. This incentive helps children to develop a daily habit of prayer.
- Encourage children to make a request of Our Blessed Mother for a specific need before praying a *Hail Mary* or a decade of the Rosary. The parents and teacher need to give an example from their own life, such as help on a test, for a sick grandmother, rain for the farmers, safe travel in a storm. When a prayer is answered, it makes faith come alive for them and will help the children to develop a relationship with Mary. At a time when young people have a specific prayer that was answered, it is most helpful for them to share it with the family and/or class. We don’t want to just ask for good things from Mary with no desire to speak with her and develop a friendship with her. Jesus honored His Mother. We are also called to honor her with a special devotion. (CCC 971)

Spiritual Comprehension – Do they understand?

- Ask questions to ensure that children understand the meaning of the mysteries.
- Discuss how praying the Rosary is affecting their lives.
- **The prayers and mysteries of the Rosary should be known by heart and with good understanding as this will become a deep part of their spiritual lives.** (See CCC 2708, 2679) Continue teaching the other prayers as listed in the Diocesan Religion Curriculum for Fourth Grade that are to be introduced and reviewed at this age level.

Encountering Jesus and/or Mary in Prayer

- Read the Scripture for each Mystery and ask the children to take notice of a word or phrase that stood out for them. Allow some time of silence for them to think about why the word or phrase stood out for them.
Allowing the children quiet time to reflect on the Mystery of the Rosary takes it to the next level of a deep personal encounter. As a further progression, provide silence so that students may have a “heart-to-Heart” conversation with Jesus or Mary.
- Ask the children to make a personal application between what is taking place in the Scripture passage and their own life. For example: in the first Joyful Mystery, Mary gives her “yes” to the Angel Gabriel to be the Mother of Jesus. Do we say “yes” to what God is asking of us? Another example: In the first Glorious Mystery, Jesus rose from the dead. When we die to sin and selfishness, we rise to new life with Him.



The Resurrection of Jesus from the Dead

Scriptural Foundation of the Our Father and Hail Mary

- Jesus taught the Apostles the *Our Father* (Matthew 6:5-13; Luke 11:1-13)
- **“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you.”**
The Catholic Church added Mary’s name to the prayer. This is the greeting of the Angel Gabriel to Mary in **Luke 1:28**.
- **“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” Luke 1:41, 42**
Mary traveled in haste into the hill country to serve her cousin Elizabeth because Elizabeth was with child even though she was much older. The angel Gabriel had told Mary this when he announced to her that she would be the Mother of Jesus. The bolded words are what Elizabeth said to Mary when she arrived at Elizabeth’s house. The Church added Jesus’ name to the prayer.
- **Holy Mary, Mother of God. (Luke 1:43)** Elizabeth said to Mary, “But who am I that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?” The words “Mother of my Lord” refer to Mary being the Mother of God.
- **Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.** By asking Mary to pray for us, we acknowledge ourselves to be her spiritual children who are in need of God’s help to avoid sin and break habits of sin. We address ourselves to the “Mother of Mercy” as she is the Mother of Jesus.

Resources

- Let’s Pray (Not Just Say) The Rosary by Richard Rooney, SJ. Liguori Publications <http://www.liguori.org/catalogsearch/result/?cat=0&q=The+Rosary> (\$2.50)
- Brother Frances presents The Rosary, A Special Way to Pray DVD \$12.99 Liguori
- Praying the Rosary with Your Child, Sr. Mary Terese Donze, A.S.C. \$1.50 Liguori
- Praying the Rosary with the Family .25 cents www.catholiccompany.com

