



[If you haven't already, begin your meal with meal prayer, then take turns reading these boxes aloud, following the directions where applicable]

The Rosary

The Rosary is a Scripture-based prayer. It begins with the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the great mysteries of the Catholic faith. The Our Father, which introduces each mystery, is from the Gospels. The first part of the Hail Mary is the angel's words announcing Christ's birth and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary. St. Pius V officially added the second part of the Hail Mary. The Mysteries of the Rosary center on the events of Christ's life. There are four sets of Mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and—added by Saint John Paul II in 2002—the Luminous. The repetition in the Rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayer related to each Mystery. The gentle repetition of the words helps us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells. The Rosary can be said privately or with a group.

<https://www.usccb.org/how-to-pray-the-rosary>

The Month of the Rosary

October is dedicated as the month of the Rosary, and specifically October 7th is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Mary gave us the Rosary as a gift - a way to grow closer to her Son by meditating on His life. She also gave it to us as a weapon to fight the spiritual battle. The earliest form of the rosary helped St. Dominic overcome false teachings about God. The unlikely victory at the battle of Lepanto is attributed to the fact that the Pope asked all men, women and children to pray the rosary before the battle.

Even in Mary's recent appearances, she consistently asks us to pray the Rosary daily as a way to fight against the culture of death that we live in. The daily Rosary is not a task; it is a gift from Our Lady and an opportunity for her help in our families and in our world.

Discussion

[These questions are a spark for conversation, not a strict outline. Allow the Spirit to lead. Try to at least discuss the starred questions each week.]

- What do you know about the Rosary? What is your experience with the Rosary?
- Why do you think Mary asks us to pray the Rosary every day?
- Why do you think the Rosary is such an effective spiritual weapon?
- *What spiritual battles could the Rosary help you fight in your life?
- *When is the best time for our family to pray the Rosary?

Activity & Prayer

[For this activity section, you will need the Rosary Guide sheet - If you don't have a copy, you can download it on our website]

Spend your time tonight praying the Rosary together. Consider this a "trial run" for a habit that you can grow over time in your home.

- One of the printed materials provided by the parish are cards that depict the mysteries of the Rosary - all of the sets of mysteries are provided, but for now, use the Joyful Mysteries.
- Before you begin, decide who will lead each mystery and its following set of prayers. Display the cards as you pray that mystery to help everyone ponder the mystery as you pray.
- Use the Rosary Guide as a how-to guide for the prayers, and/or pray along with Fr. Steffes via our website, using the link below.
- For parents of small children, see the link below for tips on how to pray the Rosary with children.
- You might decide to just do one decade tonight as an introduction - feel free to start small and grow into a habit of daily Rosary prayer.

Extras

Looking for more?

- Pray the Rosary along with Fr. Steffes:
<https://stauginesteward.org/rosaries/139004/>
- Learn more about the Rosary by listening to this talk:
<https://watchformed.org/videos/praying-the-rosary-like-never-before-by-dr-edward-sri>
- Check out these ideas for praying the rosary with kids:
<https://www.catholicism.com/praying-rosary-with-children/>
- Watch this kids' cartoon about the rosary:
<https://watchformed.org/videos/the-rosary-a-special-way-to-pray>

Sacramental Life

If you have picked up your journal for your child who is preparing for First Reconciliation/Communion or Confirmation, please complete this first activity: *The sacraments help us grow our friendship with God. Think about your friendship with God - what words or images describe God and your connection with Him? Use these words and images to decorate the cover of your sacrament prep journal. Be sure to include your name.*

Looking Ahead

For Next Week, Oct 12:

- Guide sheets will be provided in the bulletin and online
- There may be an additional activity sheet for next week, available to pick up at the parishes or download online
- Optional activity pages to keep little ones busy are also available to pick up at the parishes or download online
- The month of October is the month of the Rosary and we will be using rosaries in the next few weeks' activities - rosaries are available for sale in the gathering space of St. Augustine (or ask Father for one)

Upcoming Events:

- Confirmation Students - your whole family should plan to attend on Oct 12 6-8 pm at St Augustine for our first formation night.
- Mark your calendars for our first parish-wide COR gathering on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 - more details to come!

