Rosarium

Let us pray
O God, who by the Resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, granted joy to the whole world: grant we beg Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may lay hold of the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Rosarium

The Rosary is perhaps the most popular non-liturgical prayer in the Latin Rite. It has appealed to people of all stations in the Church, rich or poor, educated or uneducated, religious or laity. It has been recommended by recent Popes from Leo XIII to John Paul II, and by saints, such as St. Peter Canisius (1521-1597), St. Louis Marie de Montfort (1673-1716), and St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787). Aside from its spiritual benefits, its appeal no doubt lies with its ease of recitation, its soothing repetitiveness, and its intimate connection with Scripture and the life of Christ.

The standard Rosary with which most people are familiar is known as the Dominican Rosary. It is composed of 15 decades broken into three sets of 5 decades each. This is by no means the only Rosary around. There are numerous other Rosaries, such as the Franciscan Rosary, the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows, and the Brigittine Rosary. Each has its own unique construction and emphasis. For example, the Franciscan Rosary is composed of seven decades in honor of the Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Furthermore, Rosaries are not restricted to devotions to the Blessed Virgin alone. There are rosaries in honor of the Sacred Heart, the Holy Name, the Holy Spirit, the Angels, Saint Joseph, Saint Patrick and many other saints. The one considered here is the standard Dominican Rosary.

The origins of the Dominican Rosary are obscure. There is a popular tradition that the Rosary originated with St. Dominic (c 1170-1221). This legend, however, is unsupported by historical documentation. Critical scholarship, including much research carried out by Dominicans themselves, indicates that St. Dominic had little, if anything, to do with the Rosary. St. Dominic certainly had a deep and abiding devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, but there is no mention of his authorship of the Rosary in any of his writings, nor is there any mention by any of his contemporaries or his biographers of his involvement. Given the silence of the historical record of his time, it is difficult to see how St. Dominic could have been its author. Instead the origin of the legend of St. Dominic’s involvement appears to have been due to the writings of Alan de la Roche (Alanus de Rupe) c
1428-1475. It is in his writings that we see the legend of St. Dominic’s authorship of the Rosary appear for the first time. Alan de la Roche did much to promote the Rosary, and it is no doubt due to him that the notion of St. Dominic as the author of the Rosary became fixed in people’s minds. Eventually what was originally a pious story turned into hallowed history.

Prayer beads themselves are of very ancient usage in the Church, probably originating with the monastics of the early Church. Desert monastics were in the habit of reciting a specified number of prayers daily and such a method of keeping track of them is natural. In the life of the Egyptian Abbot Paul (d. A.D. 341), we read that he used to collect three hundred pebbles every day and throw away each one as he finished the corresponding prayer he was accustomed to recite (Palladius, Hist. Laus., xx; Butler, II, 63). It is easy to see how one can start with pebbles and progress onto a string of pebbles or beads of some sort. The Countess Godiva of Coventry (c. 1075) specified in her will that “the circlet of precious stones which she had threaded on a cord in order that by fingering them one after another she might count her prayers exactly” were to be placed on a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Malmesbury, “Gesta Pont.”, Rolls Series 311). Fragments of prayer beads have been found in the tomb of the holy abbess Gertrude of Nivelles (d. 659) and in the tombs of St. Norbert and of St. Rosalia, both of the twelfth century. It is thus easy to see that prayer beads are not by any means a recent development.

The earliest known prayer form associated with prayer beads was not the Hail Mary. While the Hail Mary had been used since ancient times as an antiphon to our Lady, it really was not used as a prayer form in and of itself until sometime around the 12th or 13th centuries, nor did it take its present day form until the 15th century. Instead the prayer most often associated with these early prayer beads in the Middle Ages was the Our Father. The beads had such a close association with the Our Father that they were commonly known as Paternoster beads, “Pater noster” being the first two words of the Our Father in Latin. Many pious customs of reciting Paternosters existed in the Middle Ages. For example, the monks at Cluny were urged to recite 50 Paternosters at the death of one of their people, that we, who believe her to be truly the Mother of God, may be helped by her intercession with Thee. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

**Tempore Nativitatis:**

V. Post partum, Virgo, inviolata permansisti,
R. Dei Genetrix, intercede pro nobis.

Oremus

Deus, qui salutis aeternae, beatae Mariae virginitate fecunda, humano generi praemia praestitisti: tribue, quaesumus; ut ipsam pro nobis intercedere sentiamus, per quam meruimus Filium tuum auctorem vitae suscipere. Qui tecum vivit et regnat in saecula saeculorum.

R. Amen.

**Tempore Paschali:**

V. Gaude et laetare, Virgo Maria, alleluia.
R. Quia surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia.

**Christmas Season**

V. After giving birth, O Virgin, thou remained a virgin.
R. Mother of God, intercede for us.

Let us pray

O God, by the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary, Thou hast bestowed upon the human race the rewards of eternal salvation; grant, we beseech Thee, that we may feel the power of her intercession, through whom we have been made worthy to receive the Author of life, Thy Son. Who with Thee lives and reigns forever.

R. Amen.

**Easter Season**

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
R. Because the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi.
R. miserere nobis.

V. Ora pro nobis, Sancta Dei Genetrix,
R. Ut digni efficiamur promisesionibus Christi.

Oremus
Concede nos famulos tuos, quaesumus, Domine Deus, perpetua mentis et corporis sanitate gaudere: et gloriae beatæ Mariae semper Virginis intercessione, a praesenti liberari tristitia, et aeterna perfrui laetitia. Per Christum Dominum nostrum.
R. Amen.

Tempore Adventus:

V. Angelus Domini nuntiavit
R. Et concepit de Spiritu Sancto.

Oremus
Deus, qui de beatae Mariae Virginis utero Verbum tuum, Angelum nuntiant, carnet suscipere voluisti: praesta supplicibus tuis; ut, qui vere eam Gen-

Rosarium

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
R. have mercy on us.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray
Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord God, that we Thy servants, may enjoy lasting health of mind and body, and by the glorious intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, be delivered from present sorrow and enter into the joy of eternal happiness. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Advent Season

V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary;
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray
O God, Thou hast willed that at the message of an angel Thy Word should take flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary; grant to Thy suppliant fellow monks (Udalric, 1096). The Knights Templar, from a rule dating from about 1128, were required to say the Lord’s Prayer 57 times if they could not attend choir, and on the death of any of their brethren they had to say the Pater Noster a hundred times a day for a week.

The Dominican Rosary as we know it today grew out of a combination of many factors, a complete history of which would be far too long to present here. Briefly, the basic origins of the Rosary lie in the monastic practice of reciting all 150 Psalms in one week. In the desire to give the laity a common form of prayer that had ties to the monastic community, the laity were encouraged to recite 150 Paternosters in imitation. Parallel to this practice were those who had a Marian devotion. They used the Angelic salutation (the opening line of the Hail Mary) instead. These prayers were grouped in sets of 50, 100, or 150 Aves, as are the psalms.

Numerous forms of these Ave devotions were recited by religious and laity alike over the centuries, some very lengthy and elaborate. We are told of St. Albert (d. 1140) by his contemporary biographer that “A hundred times a day he bent his knees, and fifty times he prostrated himself raising his body again by his fingers and toes, while he repeated at every genuflection: ‘Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb’.” A set of 150 short Marian Psalms with an intervening Ave Maria appears in Migne’s collection of the works of St. Anselm (ca 1033-1109). It should be noted that by this we can conclude that the recitation of 50, 100, or 150 Aves actually preceded the good St. Dominic by at least 50 years, if not more. Another example can be found in the Hortulus Animae, a popular prayer book whose first known edition was printed at Strasbourg by William Schaffener of Rappeltsweiler in 1498. In it we see a set of 50 Aves grouped into 5 decades. After each decade, the Our Father and the Creed are recited. Each Ave is associated with an event in Christ’s life, starting with His conception and culminating with His Resurrection and Judgment Day, making a total of 50 mysteries. This form of the Rosary was quite popular in the 14th - 16th centuries and may be said to be an early example of Scriptural Rosaries, where each Hail Mary has a Scriptural passage relating to the decade’s mystery associated with it.
The Rosary as we know it today started to take its final shape in the fifteenth century. In 1483, a Dominican composed a Rosary booklet called Our Dear Lady’s Psalter. It had a Rosary of 15 decades with 15 mysteries, all of which except the last two are what we have today. In 1569, Pope Pius V officially approved the 15 decade form of the Rosary we have today, and in 1573 the same Pope instituted the Feast of the Rosary in thanksgiving for the victory at the battle of Lepanto by Christians over Moslem invaders in which the Rosary played an important part.

It should be noted that while the decades and mysteries have been standardized since the time of Pope St. Pius V, the beginning and ending prayers vary with time and place. In the US, for example, the Rosary begins with the recitation of the Creed and ends with the Salve Regina and concluding prayer (Deus, cuius Unigenitus). Another form, as practiced in Rome, begins with the “Domine, labia mea aperies”, which is the starting prayer of the Hours, omits the Creed, and ends with the Litany of Loreto. Various other prayers, such as the Sub tuum praesidium have been employed as well. The prayers most often associated with the Rosary have been included here.

The most recent development in the form of Rosary occurred with the publication of Pope John Paul II’s Rosarium Virginis Mariae. In it the Holy Father has added a new set of mysteries, the Luminous Mysteries, which focus on Christ’s public ministry from the time of His Baptism until His Passion. Traditionally the Joyful mysteries are recited on Mondays and Thursdays, the Sorrowful mysteries are recited on Tuesdays and Fridays, and the Glorious Mysteries are recited on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. With the addition of the Luminous Mysteries, Pope John Paul II proposes that the Joyful mysteries be recited on Mondays and Saturdays, the Luminous Mysteries be recited on Thursdays, the Sorrowful mysteries are recited on Tuesdays and Fridays, and the Glorious Mysteries are recited on Wednesdays and Sundays.
Rosarium

Domus aurea,
R. ora pro nobis.

Foederis arca,
R. ora pro nobis.

Ianua caeli,
R. ora pro nobis.

Stella matutina,
R. ora pro nobis.

Salus infirmorum,
R. ora pro nobis.

Refugium peccatorum,
R. ora pro nobis.

Consolatrix afflictorum,
R. ora pro nobis.

Auxilium Christianorum,
R. ora pro nobis.

Regina Angelorum,
R. ora pro nobis.

Regina Patriarcharum,
R. ora pro nobis.

Regina Prophetarum,
R. ora pro nobis.

Regina Apostolorum,
R. ora pro nobis.

House of gold,
R. pray for us.

Ark of the covenant,
R. pray for us.

Gate of heaven,
R. pray for us.

Morning star,
R. pray for us.

Health of the sick,
R. pray for us.

Refuge of sinners,
R. pray for us.

Comforter of the afflicted,
R. pray for us.

Help of Christians,
R. pray for us.

Queen of Angels,
R. pray for us.

Queen of Patriarchs,
R. pray for us.

Queen of Prophets,
R. pray for us.

Queen of Apostles,
R. pray for us.

Initium

Signum Crucis


Beginning

Sign of the Cross

N the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.
Rosarium

Romae:
V. Domine, labia mea aperies,
R. Et os meum annuntiabit laudem tuam.
V. Deus in adiutorium meum intende,
R. Domine ad adivandum me festina.

Ad Crucem:

Symbolum Apostolorum

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 sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the com-

In Rome:
V. Thou, O Lord, wilt open my lips,
R. And my tongue shall announce Thy praise.
V. O God come to my assistance,
R. O Lord, make haste to help me.

Ad Crucem:

Apostles’ Creed

C REDO in Deum Patrem omnipotentem, Creatorem caeli et terrae. Et in Iesum Christum, Filium eius unicum, Dominum nostrum, qui conceptus est de Spiritu Sancto, natus ex Maria Virgine, passus sub Pontio Pilato, crucifixus, mortuus, et sepultus, descendit ad inferos, tertia die resurrectionem a mortuis, ascendit ad caelos, sedet ad dexteram Dei Patris omnipotentis, inde venit ut iudicare vivos et mortuos. Credo in Spiritum Sanctum, sanctam Ecclesiam catholica, sanctorum communionem, remissionem peccatorum, car-

At the Crucifix:

Speculum iustitiae,
R. ora pro nobis.
Sedes sapientiae,
R. ora pro nobis.
Causa nostrae laetitiae,
R. ora pro nobis.
Vas spirituale,
R. ora pro nobis.
Vas honorabile,
R. ora pro nobis.
Vas insigne devotionis,
R. ora pro nobis.
Rosa mystica,
R. ora pro nobis.
Turris Davidica,
R. ora pro nobis.
Turris eburnea,
R. ora pro nobis.

Virgo potens,
R. ora pro nobis.
Virgo clemens,
R. ora pro nobis.
Virgo fidelis,
R. ora pro nobis.
Speculum iustitiae,
R. ora pro nobis.
Sedes sapientiae,
R. ora pro nobis.
Causa nostrae laetitiae,
R. ora pro nobis.
Vas spirituale,
R. ora pro nobis.
Vas honorabile,
R. ora pro nobis.
Vas insigne devotionis,
R. ora pro nobis.
Rosa mystica,
R. ora pro nobis.
Turris Davidica,
R. ora pro nobis.
Turris eburnea,
R. ora pro nobis.

Virgin most powerful,
R. pray for us.
Virgin most merciful,
R. pray for us.
Virgin most faithful,
R. pray for us.
Mirror of justice,
R. pray for us.
Seat of wisdom,
R. pray for us.
Cause of our joy,
R. pray for us.
Spiritual vessel,
R. pray for us.
Vessel of honor,
R. pray for us.
Singular vessel of devotion,
R. pray for us.
Mystical rose,
R. pray for us.
Tower of David,
R. pray for us.
Tower of ivory,
R. pray for us.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rosarium</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R. ora pro nobis.</td>
<td>R. pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mater castissima,</td>
<td>Mother most chaste,</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. ora pro nobis.</td>
<td>R. pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mater inviolata,</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. ora pro nobis.</td>
<td>R. pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mater intemerata,</td>
<td>Mother undefiled,</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. ora pro nobis.</td>
<td>R. pray for us.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mater amabilis,</td>
<td>Mother most amiable,</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. ora pro nobis.</td>
<td>R. pray for us.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mater admirabilis,</td>
<td>Mother most admirable,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. ora pro nobis.</td>
<td>R. pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mater boni Consilii,</td>
<td>Mother of good counsel,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. ora pro nobis.</td>
<td>R. pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mater Creatoris,</td>
<td>Mother of our Creator,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. ora pro nobis.</td>
<td>R. pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mater Salvatoris,</td>
<td>Mother of our Savior,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. ora pro nobis.</td>
<td>R. pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgo prudentissima,</td>
<td>Virgin most prudent,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. ora pro nobis.</td>
<td>R. pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgo veneranda,</td>
<td>Virgin most venerable,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. ora pro nobis.</td>
<td>R. pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgo praedicanda,</td>
<td>Virgin most renowned,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. ora pro nobis.</td>
<td>R. pray for us.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

R. pray for us.

Mater castissima,
Mother most chaste,
R. pray for us.

Mater inviolata,
Mother inviolate,
R. pray for us.

Mater intemerata,
Mother undefiled,
R. pray for us.

Mater amabilis,
Mother most amiable,
R. pray for us.

Mater admirabilis,
Mother most admirable,
R. pray for us.

Mater boni Consilii,
Mother of good counsel,
R. pray for us.

Mater Creatoris,
Mother of our Creator,
R. pray for us.

Mater Salvatoris,
Mother of our Savior,
R. pray for us.

Virgo prudentissima,
Virgin most prudent,
R. pray for us.

Virgo veneranda,
Virgin most venerable,
R. pray for us.

Virgo praedicanda,
Virgin most renowned,
R. pray for us.

Ad grana maiora:

Oratio Dominica


Ad grana minora:

Ave Maria


munion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

On the large beads:

The Lord’s Prayer

UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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.

On the small beads:

Hail Mary

AIL Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and in the hour of our death. Amen.
Rosarium

Ad finem decadum:

Doxologia Minor

On Good Friday, the following may be used in place of the Gloria Patri

R. Christus factus est pro nobis oboediens usque ad mortem.
V. Mortem autem crucis.

On Holy Saturday, the following may be used in place of the Gloria Patri

R. Christus factus est pro nobis oboediens usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis.
V. Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum: et dedit illi nomen, quod est super omne nomen.

Oratio Fatima
O MI IESU, dimitte nobis debita nostra, libera nos ab igne in-

At the end of the decades:

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 will be forever. Amen.

On Good Friday, the following may be used in place of the Gloria Patri

R. Christ became obedient for us unto death.
V. Even unto death on the Cross.

On Holy Saturday, the following may be used in place of the Gloria Patri

R. Christ became obedient for us unto death, even unto death on the Cross.
V. For which God hath exalted Him and hath given Him a name which is above all names.

Fatima Prayer
O my Jesus, forgive us our sins and save us from the fires of
Rosarium

fructum ventris tui, nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.

O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria. Amen.

V. Ora pro nobis, Sancta Dei Genetrix.

R. Ut digni efficiamur promissionibus Christi.

Oremus


In locis quibusdam:

Litaniae Lauretanae

Kyrie, eleison.
R. Christe, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

Litany of Loreto

Lord, have mercy on us.
R. Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Rosarium

fern, conduc in caelum omnes animas, praeertim illas quae maxime indigent misericordia tua.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray

O GOD, Who by the life, death, and resurrection of Thy only-begotten Son, hath purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation, 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.

Litaniae Lauretanae

Kyrie, eleison.
R. Christe, eleison.

Kyrie, eleison.

In feria secunda et sabbato

I. Mysteria Gaudiosa

1. Quem, Virgo, concepisti. [Mt 1:18, Lc 1:26-38]
2. Quem visitando Elisabeth portasti. [Lc 1:39-45]
3. Quem, Virgo, genuisti. [Lc 2:6-12]
4. Quem in templo praesentasti. [Lc 2:25-32]
5. Quem in templo invenisti. [Lc 2:41-50]

II. Mysteria Luminosa

1. Qui apud Iordanem baptizatus est. [Mt 3:13, Mc 1:9, Jn 1:29]

Hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.

Meditaciones Rosarii

On Mondays and Saturdays

I. Joyous Mysteries

1. Him Whom thou didst conceive. [Mt 1:18, Lk 1:26-38]
2. Him Whom thou didst carry while visiting Elizabeth. [Lk 1:39-45]
3. Him Whom thou didst give birth to. [Lk 2:6-12]
4. Him Whom thou didst present in the temple. [Lk 2:25-32]
5. Him Whom thou didst find in the temple. [Lk 2:41-50]
III. Mysteria dolorosa

3. Qui pro nobis spinis coronatus est. [In 19:1-8]
4. Qui pro nobis crucem baiulavit. [In 19:16-22]
5. Qui pro nobis crucifixus est. [In 19:25-30]

2. He Who revealed Himself at the wedding feast of Cana. [Jn 2:1-11]

4. Qui transfiguratus est. [Mt 17:1-8, Mc 9:2-9]

III. Sorrowful Mysteries

2. He Who was scourged for us. [Mt 27:26, Mc 15:6-15, In 19:1]
3. He Who was crowned with thorns for us. [In 19:1-8]
4. He Who carried the Cross for us. [In 19:16-22]
5. He Who was crucified for us. [In 19:25-30]

IV. Mysteria gloriosa

1. Qui resurrexit a mortuis. [Mc 16:1-7]
2. Qui in caelum ascendit. [Lc 24:46-53]
4. Qui te assumpsit. [Ps 16:10]
5. Qui te in caelis coronavit. [Apoc 12:1]


Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte. Et Iesum, benedictum

On Wednesdays and Sundays

1. He Who arose from the dead. [Mc 16:1-7]
2. He Who ascended into heaven. [Lk 24:46-53]
4. He Who assumed thee into heaven. [Ps 16:10]
5. He Who crowned thee Queen of Heaven. [Rev 12:1]


Prayers at the End of the Rosary

Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us. And after this our exile show