

String Your Own Rosary

Make this treasured prayer even more precious by praying it on a rosary that you and your family have made with your own hands and hearts.

Supplies:

- 53 beads of one color for each Hail Mary
- 6 beads of a different color for each Our Father
- one crucifix
- one toothpick
- clear nail polish or craft glue (not Superglue)
- 3 feet of cord, with a dot marked at 6 inches from one end
- a needle, if your cord is not stiff enough to thread

Supply Tips:

Be sure the holes of all beads are of the same size and wide enough for your cord. The beads should fit easily, but not loosely, on the cord.

You can purchase your beads online or at a craft or specialty store. If purchasing online, type “beads” or “beading supplies” into a search engine. If you are new to beading, you may wish to go to a craft or specialty store to purchase your beads. That way, you can see and compare all of the possible varieties of beads, and you will be able to ask advice from the people who work there.

The most common type of cord available in craft or specialty stores is made of waxed polyester thread. This type of cord is durable and inexpensive, but is not available in many colors other than black. If you would like another color, you may wish to purchase silk cord, which is also sturdy but more expensive than the polyester cord. Whichever variety of cord you choose, it should fit cleanly but snugly through the bead.

Silk cord usually comes with a needle-like wire attached to it. The polyester cord usually does not. Before buying polyester or other bulk cord, try threading it through one of the beads you have chosen to see if it will thread through the hole without a needle. If it does not, you may need wires or needles to thread the beads.

Most religious supply stores, and even many craft stores, will carry crucifixes and crosses suitable for rosary making. Different stores will call them by different names, so knowing some commonly used terms will help your search considerably. Religious suppliers tend to call them “crucifix medals,” but other suppliers will call them “crucifix charms,” “rosary crosses,” or “cross charms.”

Note: Beads can be a choking hazard for young children.

PRAYING YOUR ROSARY:

The prayers and mysteries of the Rosary can be found in the Prayers and Practices of Our Faith section of Finding God or the What Catholics Should Know section of Christ Our Life.

Instructions:

Begin by sorting the Hail Mary beads into five groups of 10 and one group of three. Put the six Our Father beads together. Stretch out the piece of cord, straightening out any kinks. **[Refer to the diagram on page 3 when following the numbered steps below.]**

Steps:

1. Find the dot on the cord and tie a knot there. **[See tip below.]**
2. String 10 Hail Mary beads onto the long end of the cord. Slide them down so that they line up above the knot.
3. Tie another knot above the 10 beads, leaving a little space for them to slide.
4. Add an Our Father bead and tie another knot.
5. Continue the three previous steps until you have five sets of 10 beads, but don't add the fifth Our Father bead yet.
6. Tie a knot at the end. Then, tie both ends together, forming a circle of beads. Pull that knot tight. Dab a little adhesive or clear nail polish on the knot to secure it.
7. Add one Our Father bead to the longer piece of cord.
8. Tie a knot, and then add three Hail Mary beads.
9. Tie a knot, add the last Our Father bead, and tie another knot.
10. Secure the crucifix by tying a double knot. Pull the knot tight and dab a little adhesive or clear nail polish on it.
11. Once the adhesive or nail polish is dry, clip off the excess cords, hold your rosary, and say a prayer for your family.
12. You may wish to have your rosary blessed by a priest.

How to Tie Knots:

First, determine where you want the knot to be. Second, make a loose knot near that point. Take the tip of a toothpick and, threading through the loose knot, press down on the spot on the cord where you want to place the knot. Then gently slide the loose knot and tighten it around the point of the toothpick.

