



Our Lady of the Rosary

Teacher info

October is traditionally the month of the rosary. The rosary is a form of both vocal and mental prayer. In the course of the fifteen mysteries of the rosary, we are able to follow Jesus all through his earthly life, from his conception to his ascension. We are also able to follow Mary, our mother, from her call at the annunciation to her crowning as queen of heaven and earth. The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is October 7.

Do You Remember?

In case you have forgotten the fifteen mysteries, here they are in brief:

Joyful: the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity, the Presentation in the Temple, the Finding of Jesus in the Temple.

Sorrowful: the Agony in the Garden, the Scourging at the Pillar, the Crowning with Thorns, the Carrying of the Cross, the Crucifixion.

Glorious: the Resurrection, the Ascension, the Coming of the Holy Spirit, the Assumption, the Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

Have available for this activity a large rosary (or at least a brightly colored one) and five large pieces of newsprint (cut-open brown grocery bags work, too). Beforehand print the Joyful Mysteries on the board or on a poster. Give each child a large piece of paper. If the children are familiar with the rosary, great! If not, introduce them to it. Place your rosary in a conspicuous place and ask them to imitate it by drawing in (using their favorite colors) all of the "Hail Mary's" and "Glory Be's."

Now comes the best part! With great pizzazz put the five pieces of newsprint (or grocery bags) on the floor. That's right, children love to work on the floor! Divide them into five equal groups and assign one of the Joyful Mysteries to each group to illustrate as creatively as they can. Be sure they include the name of the mystery. Invite one child from each group to explain to the class what the group has drawn. Hang this finished work of art in a visible place, perhaps even in your parish church.

Here are a few other ways to introduce children to the mysteries of the rosary:

1) Take your class outdoors and make a huge rosary in the grass, using pebbles for the beads and twigs for the crucifix. Then have the children act out the mysteries in the center of this "rosary," while a short, appropriate scriptural passage is read. Before closing, say a decade of the rosary together.

2) Ask your local appliance store for one of the huge boxes that a TV or washing machine comes in. Have the children draw the mysteries of the rosary on the four sides and top. When you tire of looking at it, turn the box upside down and invite the children to take turns stepping into it for puppet presentations about the mysteries of the rosary (sock or paper bag puppets work fine for this).

3) Go to the shoe store and get fifteen shoe boxes. Have the children make shadow boxes, one for each of the fifteen mysteries. Exhibit these for other students—even for the whole parish.

4) Make a "movie" about the mysteries of the rosary. Use two rolling pins or cardboard rollers and enough newsprint or butcher paper to draw all of the mysteries. Then, have a "meditation" as each mystery unrolls, asking: 1) What does this mystery portray? 2) What can we learn from it? 3) How can we share what we have learned? Helping children to develop a love for the rosary in these ways will never be time wasted.