

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY: OUR LADY OF PEACE

Objective

The children will learn how to pray the Rosary.

Catechist Notes

The Rosary is the most popular and most loved Marian devotion. When illiterate people could not pray the one hundred and fifty psalms, they prayed one hundred and fifty Our Fathers on beads. After the Hail Mary was composed, they substituted it. A blessed rosary is a sacramental. You might provide rosaries for the children. You could begin a rosary-making project or hold a contest to see which family creates the most unique rosary. Another possibility is a living rosary in which people represent beads and lead the group in prayer. After their prayer, participants place a flower or a vigil light before an image of Mary.

Materials

- A ROSE, REAL OR ARTIFICIAL
- A ROSARY
- COPIES OF ACTIVITY SHEET 23

Activity

- 1 Say *rosary* and ask what flower is heard in the word. (rose) Show the rose. Comment:
 - A rose is beautiful and fragrant. People give them as a sign of love.
 - Each prayer of the Rosary is like a rose presented to Mary to honor her and show her love.
 - How do you feel when someone praises your mother? (happy, pleased) Jesus is glad when we honor his mother by praying the Rosary.
 - When Mary appeared at Lourdes and Fatima, she asked us to pray the Rosary. She said to pray it for peace. After the United States was attacked in 2001, Saint John Paul II told us to pray the Rosary for peace.
 - One of Mary's titles is Our Lady of Peace.

- 2 Show a rosary and explain how to pray it.
 - We keep track of prayers on beads. A century is a hundred years. What is a decade? (ten years) The Hail Mary beads are grouped in tens, so we call these groups decades.
 - Rings with ten knobs and bracelets with ten beads, as well as our ten fingers can also be used to pray decades.
 - Praying the Rosary, we do two things at once. While praying the prayers, we think about an event in the life of Jesus or Mary. These are called mysteries. Can you pat your head and rub your stomach? It takes practice. Praying prayers while thinking of mysteries also takes practice.
 - There are four sets of mysteries: joyful, luminous or light, sorrowful, and glorious. They are prayed on different days of the week.

- 3 Distribute Activity Sheet 23. Read the directions for praying the Rosary.

- 4 Ask the children to read each set of mysteries and tell why the name of each fits. (joyful mysteries—happy occasions; luminous mysteries—events that shed light on who Jesus is; sorrowful mysteries—about the death of Jesus; glorious mysteries—wonderful events)

- 5 Pray a decade with the children. Choose a mystery fitting for the church year or the day. Offer the prayers for peace in a part of the world.

- 6 Encourage the children to suggest to their family that they pray the Rosary together.

Prayer

Mary, Queen of the Rosary, pray for us.

How to Pray the Rosary, the Gospel on Beads

Make the sign of the cross using the crucifix.

Pray the Apostles' Creed on the crucifix.

On the introductory beads: Pray an Our Father, three Hail Marys, and a Glory Be.

For each decade, recall the mystery and pray: an Our Father on the single bead, Hail Marys on the ten beads, the Glory Be.

The Joyful Mysteries (Monday, Saturday)

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Birth of Jesus
4. The Presentation in the Temple
5. Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

The Luminous Mysteries (Thursday)

1. The Baptism in the Jordan River
2. The Wedding at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

The Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday, Friday)

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

The Glorious Mysteries (Wednesday, Sunday)

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension of Our Lord
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven
5. The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

