

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

You will need

- 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.

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.]*

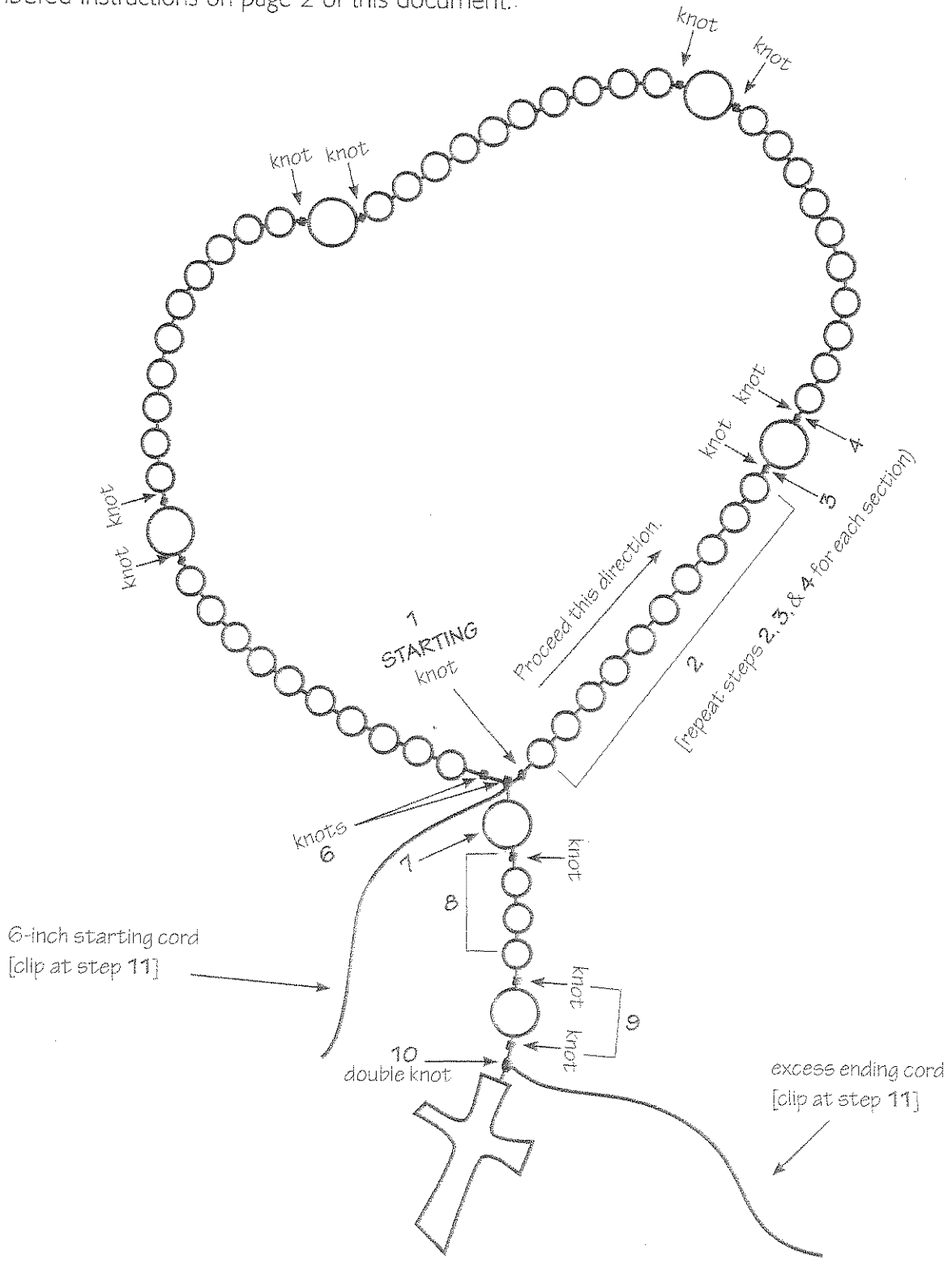
Steps

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.

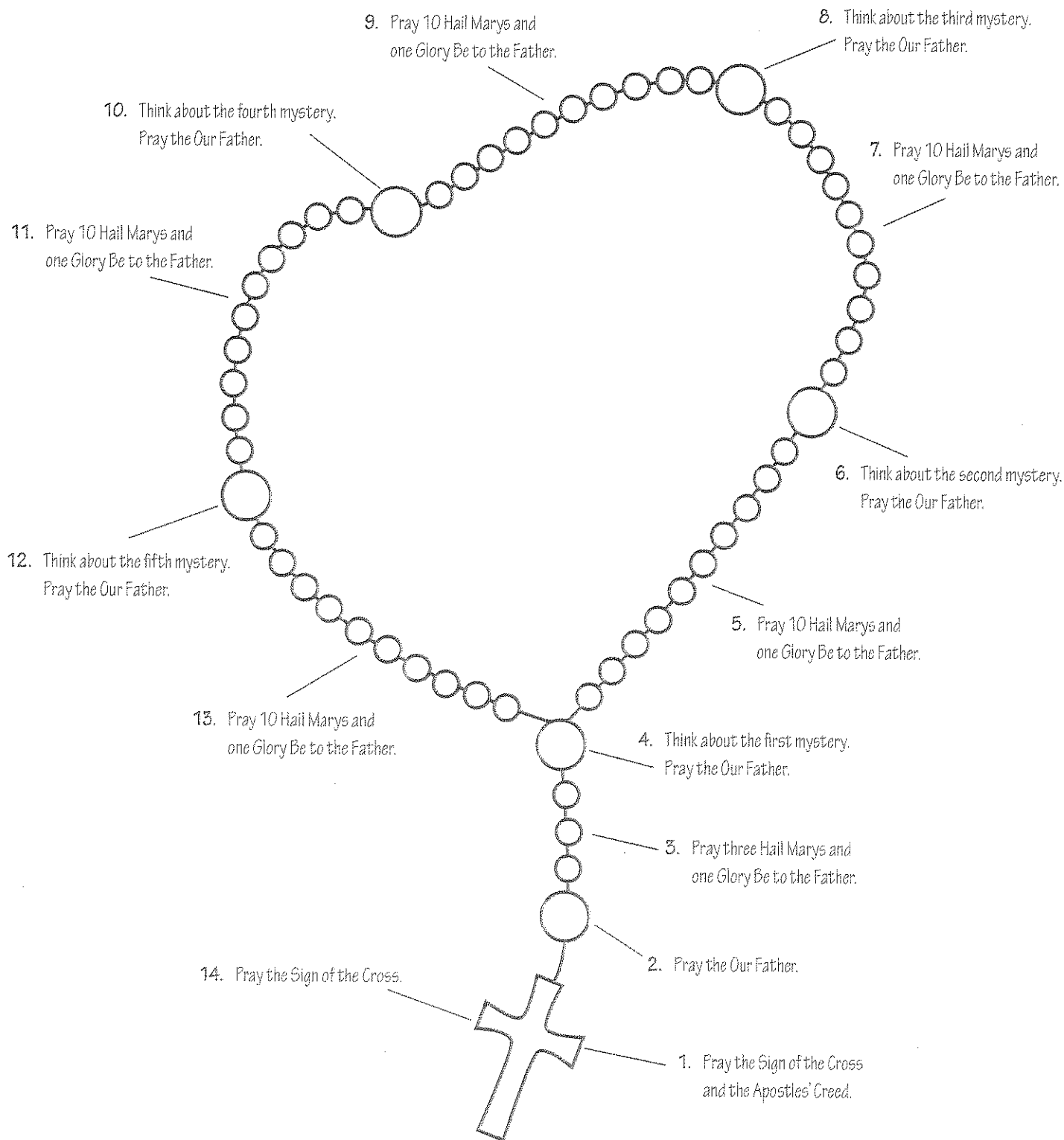
String Your Own Rosary *continued*

Use this diagram with the instruction sheet to make a family rosary. The numbers on this diagram refer to the numbered instructions on page 2 of this document.

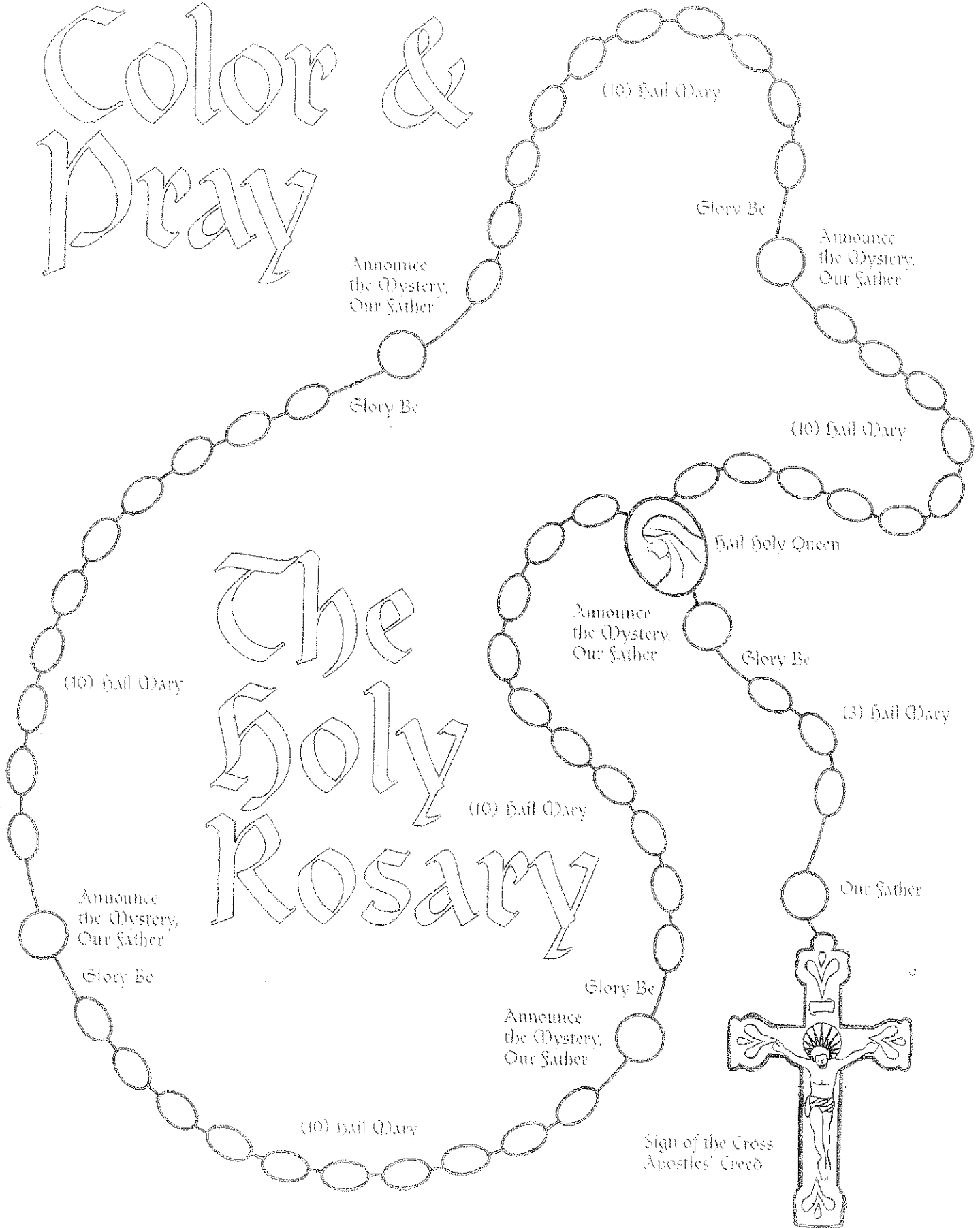


Praying Your Rosary

The Rosary is a prayer that engages both the hands and the heart. The feel of the rosary beads and the repetition of the prayers soothe us and prepare us to open our hearts to God. Each mystery tells a story from the lives of Jesus and Mary. Praying the Rosary helps us share in their experiences. The prayers and mysteries can be found on www.FindingGod.org.



Color & Pray



Prayers of the Rosary

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

IN the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I BELIEVE in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified; died, and was buried. He descended into hell, the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, sitteth 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 communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

THE OUR FATHER

OUR 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.

THE HAIL MARY

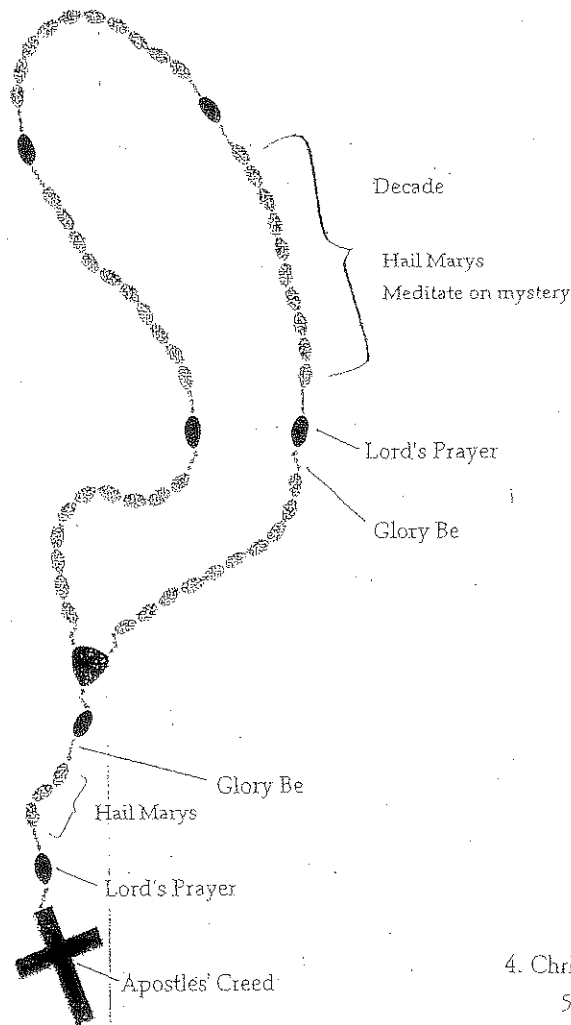
HAIL, MARY, full of grace; the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE HAIL, HOLY QUEEN

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy! Our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in the valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.



The Mysteries of the Rosary

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

1. The Annunciation of God's Plan to Mary
2. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation of the baby Jesus at the temple
5. The Finding of the 12 year old Jesus in the temple

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

1. Agony in the garden at Gethsemane
2. Scourging of Jesus at the pillar
3. Crowning of thorns
4. Carrying of the Cross to Calvary
5. The Crucifixion

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension of Jesus into heaven
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
4. The Assumption of Mary into heaven
5. The Coronation of Mary as queen of heaven

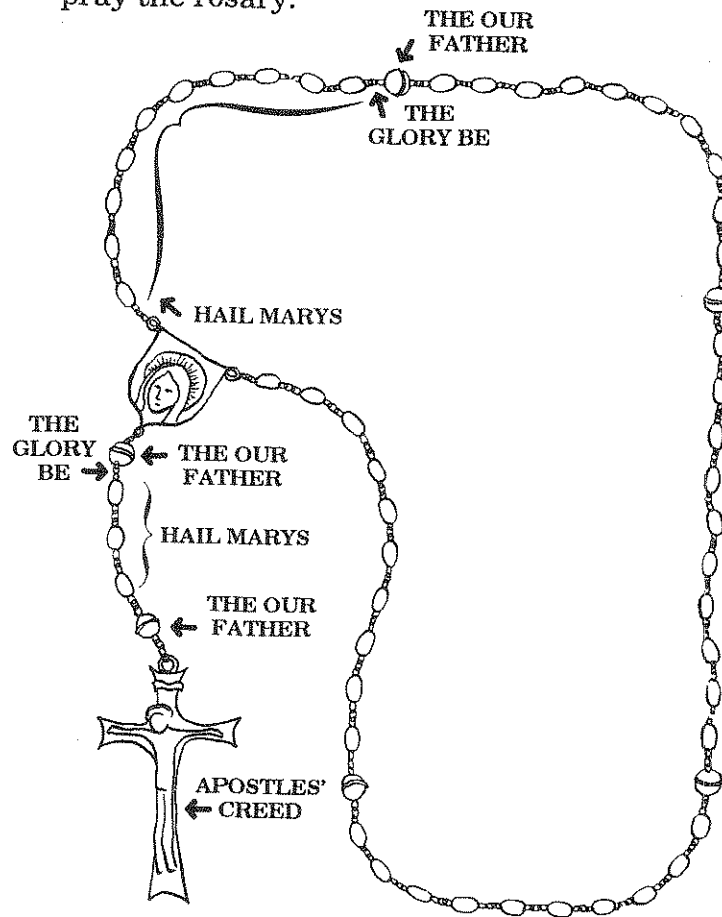
MYSTERIES OF LIGHT

1. Christ's baptism in the Jordan
2. Christ's self-revelation at the marriage of Cana
3. Christ's announcement of the kingdom of God with the invitation to conversion
4. Christ's Transfiguration when he revealed his glory to his Apostles
5. Christ's institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper as sacramental expression of the Paschal mystery

"The Rosary is a powerful prayer for peace, for families, and for contemplating the mysteries of Christ's life."
Pope John Paul II said in a new apostolic letter.

HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY

This is a picture of a rosary. Follow the steps on the next page, and you will learn how to pray the rosary.

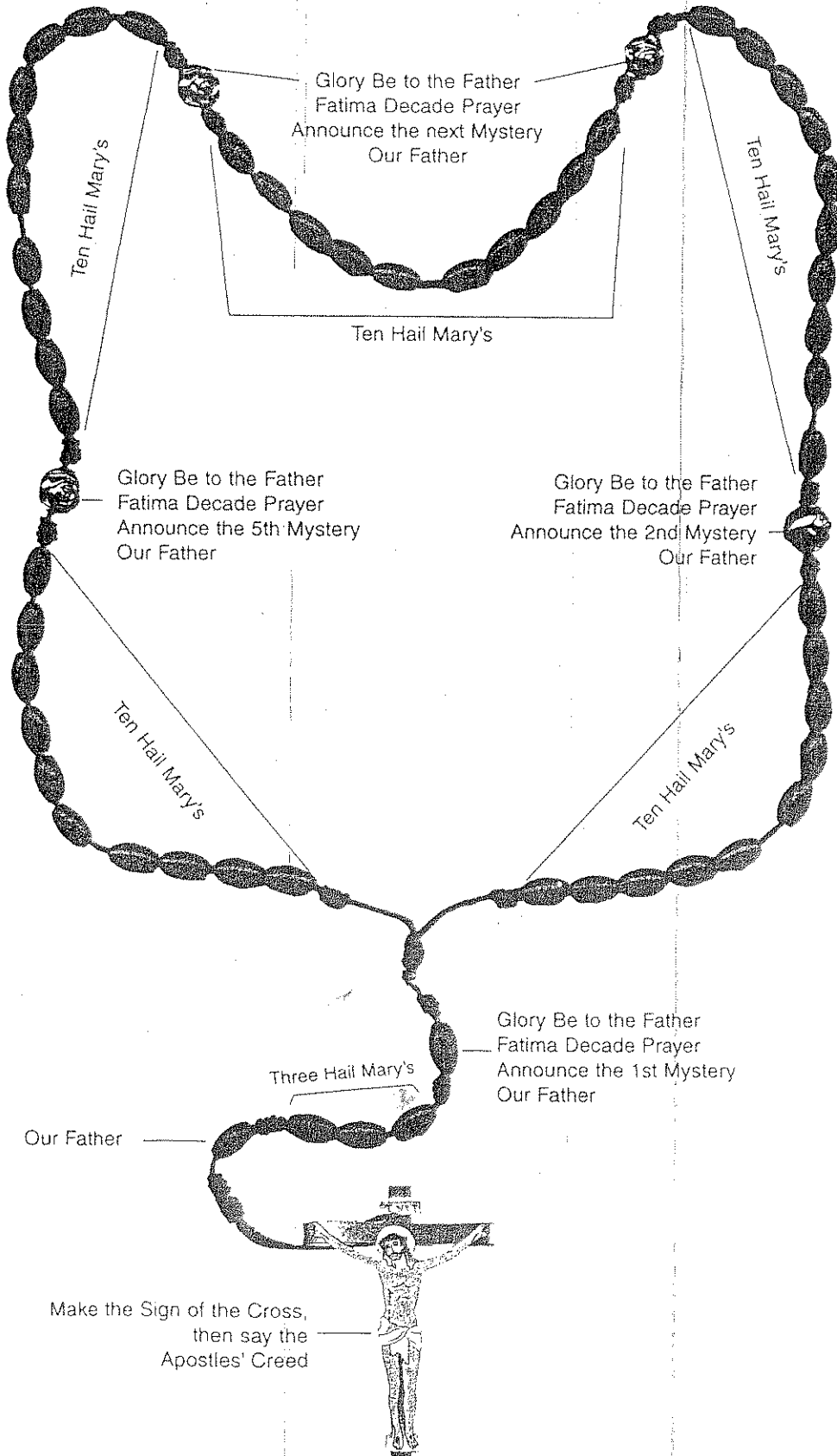


1. Make the Sign of the Cross.
2. On the crucifix, pray the Apostles' Creed.
3. Pray the Our Father on the first large bead.
4. Pray the Hail Mary on each of the three small beads.
5. Pray the Glory Be.
6. Think about what happens in the First Mystery* and pray the Our Father.

(*If you are praying the rosary with others, you may want to announce the mystery aloud, like this: *The First Joyful Mystery, the Annunciation*. We call these prayer-thoughts mysteries because, even if we think about them a long time, we always find more to think about.)

7. Pray the Our Father on the large bead and one Hail Mary on each of the next ten small beads. Now pray the Glory Be. Do this for each of the mysteries.

HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY





How to recite the Holy Rosary

1. SAY THESE PRAYERS...

IN THE NAME of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (As you say this, with your right hand touch your forehead when you say Father, touch your breastbone when you say Son, touch your left shoulder when you say Holy, and touch your right shoulder when you say Spirit.)

I BELIEVE IN GOD, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty. He shall come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

OUR 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.

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

GLORY BE to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

O MY JESUS, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.

HAIL HOLY QUEEN, mother of mercy; our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us. And after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

O GOD, WHOSE only-begotten Son by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech Thee, that by meditating upon 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.

ANNOUNCE each mystery by saying something like, "The third Joyful Mystery is the Birth of Our Lord." This is required only when saying the Rosary in a group.

2. IN THIS ORDER...

INTRODUCTION

1. IN THE NAME...
2. I BELIEVE IN GOD...
3. OUR FATHER...
4. HAIL MARY...
5. HAIL MARY...
6. HAIL MARY...
7. GLORY BE...
8. O MY JESUS...

THE FIRST DECADE

9. ANNOUNCE...
10. OUR FATHER...
11. HAIL MARY...
12. HAIL MARY...
13. HAIL MARY...
14. HAIL MARY...
15. HAIL MARY...
16. HAIL MARY...
17. HAIL MARY...
18. HAIL MARY...
19. HAIL MARY...
20. HAIL MARY...
21. GLORY BE...
22. O MY JESUS...

THE SECOND DECADE

23. ANNOUNCE...
24. OUR FATHER...
25. HAIL MARY...
26. HAIL MARY...
27. HAIL MARY...
28. HAIL MARY...
29. HAIL MARY...
30. HAIL MARY...
31. HAIL MARY...
32. HAIL MARY...
33. HAIL MARY...
34. HAIL MARY...
35. GLORY BE...
36. O MY JESUS...

THE THIRD DECADE

37. ANNOUNCE...
38. OUR FATHER...
39. HAIL MARY...
40. HAIL MARY...
41. HAIL MARY...
42. HAIL MARY...
43. HAIL MARY...
44. HAIL MARY...
45. HAIL MARY...
46. HAIL MARY...
47. HAIL MARY...
48. HAIL MARY...
49. GLORY BE...
50. O MY JESUS...

THE FOURTH DECADE

51. ANNOUNCE...
52. OUR FATHER...
53. HAIL MARY...
54. HAIL MARY...
55. HAIL MARY...
56. HAIL MARY...
57. HAIL MARY...
58. HAIL MARY...
59. HAIL MARY...
60. HAIL MARY...
61. HAIL MARY...
62. HAIL MARY...
63. GLORY BE...
64. O MY JESUS...

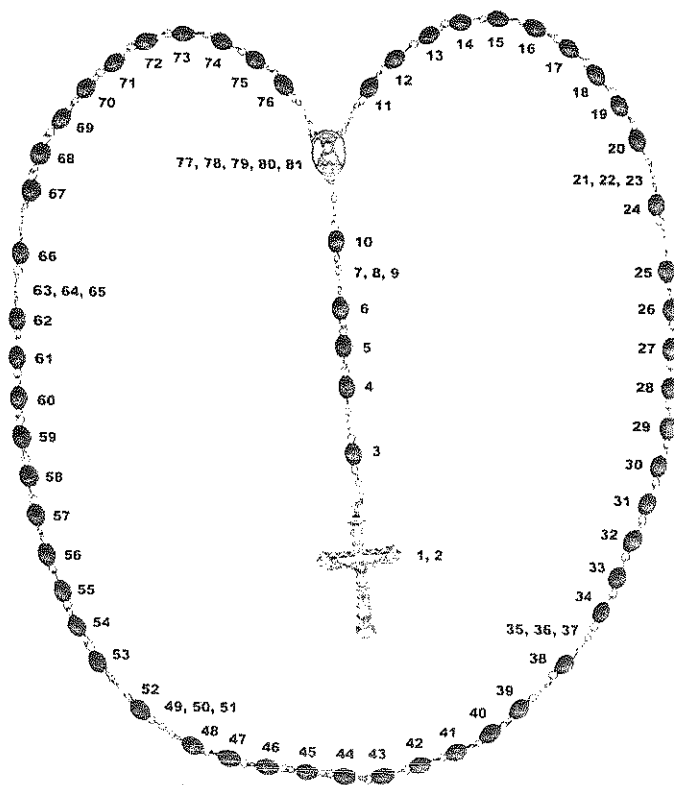
THE FIFTH DECADE

65. ANNOUNCE...
66. OUR FATHER...
67. HAIL MARY...
68. HAIL MARY...
69. HAIL MARY...
70. HAIL MARY...
71. HAIL MARY...
72. HAIL MARY...
73. HAIL MARY...
74. HAIL MARY...
75. HAIL MARY...
76. HAIL MARY...
77. GLORY BE...
78. O MY JESUS...

CONCLUSION

79. HAIL HOLY QUEEN...
80. O GOD, WHOSE...
81. IN THE NAME...

3. WHILE TOUCHING THESE BEADS TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR PROGRESS...



4. AND SILENTLY MEDITATING ON THESE "MYSTERIES", OR EVENTS FROM THE LIVES OF JESUS AND MARY...

On Monday and Saturday, meditate on the "Joyful Mysteries"

- First Decade (Steps 9-22): The Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
- Second Decade (Steps 23-36): The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)
- Third Decade (Steps 37-50): The Birth of Our Lord (Luke 2:1-21)
- Fourth Decade (Steps 51-64): The Presentation of Our Lord (Luke 2:22-38)
- Fifth Decade (Steps 65-78): The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

On Thursday, meditate on the "Luminous Mysteries"

- First Decade: The Baptism of Our Lord in the River Jordan (Matthew 3:13-16)
- Second Decade: The Wedding at Cana, when Christ manifested Himself (Jn 2:1-11)
- Third Decade: The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14-15)
- Fourth Decade: The Transfiguration of Our Lord (Matthew 17:1-8)
- Fifth Decade: The Last Supper, when Our Lord gave us the Holy Eucharist (Mt 26)

On Tuesday and Friday, meditate on the "Sorrowful Mysteries"

- First Decade: The Agony of Our Lord in the Garden (Matthew 26:36-56)
- Second Decade: Our Lord is Scourged at the Pillar (Matthew 27:26)
- Third Decade: Our Lord is Crowned with Thorns (Matthew 27:27-31)
- Fourth Decade: Our Lord Carries the Cross to Calvary (Matthew 27:32)
- Fifth Decade: The Crucifixion of Our Lord (Matthew 27:33-56)

On Wednesday and Sunday, meditate on the "Glorious Mysteries"

- First Decade: The Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord (John 20:1-29)
- Second Decade: The Ascension of Our Lord (Luke 24:36-53)
- Third Decade: The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41)
- Fourth Decade: The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
- Fifth Decade: The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth

You are encouraged to copy and distribute this sheet.