

Have You Thanked Our Lord and His Blessed Mother Today?

October is the month of the Rosary. Some people say they are bored as they repeat the prayers of the rosary, but that is because they really don't understand what they are praying. When a person understands what he or she is praying, it is anything but boring.

We begin the rosary by saying the Apostles Creed to remind us what we are celebrating: the Incarnation, the teachings, Passion, and Resurrection of Our Lord. We can only celebrate our faith when we realize how great a gift our salvation really is. Since we cannot save ourselves, we need Jesus as our Savior and that is humbling to admit. Also, we give praise to the Trinity each time we pray the Glory Be. We thank God for creating us and loving us.

We say the Hail Mary fifty three times. With each one, we should remember to say thank you to Our Lady for her saying "Yes" to the angel's invitation to be the Mother of God. We say thanks so many times because we can't say "Thank you" enough! How can we not be grateful for such a great gift?

The mysteries of the Rosary help us grow in our faith as we pray and think about the most important events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. As we meditate on the mysteries of the rosary, we view the life of Jesus through the eyes of His beloved Mother! In his apostolic letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae 1*, Pope John Paul II said, "With the Rosary, the Christian people *sits at the school of Mary* and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love." Further, Pope Benedict has emphasized the importance of getting to know our faith in his letter, *Porta fidei*. It is helpful to read and memorize the mysteries from the Gospels and then remember the Scriptures that go with each one. When we pray each mystery we can use prayer books or Scripture passages to help us imagine or think about each scene. For example, for the Annunciation, we can meditate on the angel's response, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God" (Luke 1:30).

We pray the Joyful Mysteries on Monday and Saturday to help us meditate with gratitude for Jesus becoming a human being. We meditate with gratitude for Mary and her example, because she surrendered her life to God and trusted Him to know what was best for her. In the Vatican II document, *Lumen Gentium 5*, the Council fathers wrote, "The Virgin Mary, who at the message of the angel received the Word of God in her heart and in her body and gave Life to the world, is acknowledged and honored as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer"

We pray the Luminous Mysteries on Thursday to help us meditate on the life and teachings of Jesus from the time He started His ministry until the night before He died. We are grateful for what He taught us and for giving us the Eucharist. We pray the Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesday and Friday to help us meditate on the Passion of Christ. We celebrate that Jesus loved us enough to die for us so we can have eternal life. We unite our suffering and the suffering of those we love with the Passion of Jesus. We plead for mercy for all sinners including ourselves. We pray the Glorious Mysteries on Wednesday and Sunday to help us meditate on the Resurrection of Our Lord and the events that followed. The Glorious Mysteries give us hope for when we join Jesus and Mary in eternal glory!

What we receive from the Rosary depends on what we bring to it.

Q: How do you pray the rosary? Have you ever prayed the rosary in gratitude for what Jesus did for you? Q: What do you think about when you say each of the mysteries?

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