**GUIDELINES FOR ROSARY LEADERS**

Thank you for your interest in our St. Peter Rosary Ministry!

The Rosary is considered a perfect prayer because within it lies the awesome story of our salvation. It's a simple prayer that we can all say together with Mary, the Mother of God. The Rosary is Scripture-based, beginning with the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the great mysteries of the Catholic faith; the Lord’s Prayer, which introduces each mystery, is from the Gospels; and the first part of the Hail Mary is the angel's words announcing Christ's birth and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary. The Mysteries of the Rosary center on the events of Christ's life.

### **What do you need to know to lead the Rosary?**

* We kindly ask you to arrive 35 minutes prior to your scheduled time
* The rosary needs to begin 30 minutes prior to Mass
* The rosary needs to conclude by 10:15 AM (stay as close to this time as possible)
* This is an excellent opportunity to lead and pray the Rosary with family members "How beautiful is the family that recites the Rosary every evening" (Pope John Paul II).

### **Why pray the Rosary today?** The following are a few reasons why:

*"Among all the devotions approved by the Church none has been so favoured by so many miracles as the devotion of the Most Holy Rosary"* (Pope Pius IX).

*"Say the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world"* (Our Lady of Fatima).

*"There is no surer means of calling down God's blessings upon the family . . . than the daily recitation of the Rosary"* (Pope Pius XII).

*"The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description."* (Archbishop Fulton Sheen)

“*When people love and recite the rosary they find it makes them better.” Better ways of thinking, better habits, a better sense of yourself and everything God is calling you to be.* (St. Anthony Mary Claret)

**THOSE WHO MAY SERVE IN THIS MINISTRY:** A Catholic who attends Mass weekly and lives according to the teachings of the church. You must foster your own devotion to the Rosary and show an example to the rest of the faithful by your own devotion and reverent and prayerful manner.

**COMMITMENT:** Rosary Leader’s are asked to attend Mass when scheduled. And, as mentioned, you must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Catholic church.

Maintain and nourish own spiritual life and growth through such means as, daily prayer and reflection, devotions, liturgy of the hours, personal retreats, and holy hour during times of Adoration.

*The lay Christian faithful called to give assistance at liturgical celebrations should be well instructed and must be those whose Christian life, morals, and fidelity to the Church’s Magisterium recommend them. It is fitting that such a one should have received a liturgical formation in accordance with his or her age , condition, state of life, and religious culture. No one should be selected whose designation could cause consternation for the faithful. (Redemptionis Sacramentum 46)*

**SCHEDULE:** The monthly schedules are mailed to your home and copies are located on the bulletin board in the narthex The upcoming week’s schedule is found in the bulletin as a gentle reminder. If unable to serve in this ministry when scheduled, it is the Rosary Leader’s responsibility to call someone else listed in the schedule who serves in that ministry and at that Mass time. If you know ahead of time that you will not be available to serve, contact Kim Garrow in the office **before** the 20th of the month. It is best to send her an email, text, or note as keeping track of all verbal communication from so many people is quite difficult. Please be aware that no one is perfect and sometimes you may mistakenly be put on the schedule. If you are listed on the schedule then you are expected to arrive and serve 15 minutes before Mass begins or find a substitute. If you are unable to find a substitute, please inform the sacristan. If you are the substitute serving, please inform the sacristan.

**TO BECOME A ROSARY LEADER:** Talk to the Pastor.

**AS A ROSARY LEADER:** Encourage the newly confirmed to join this ministry. They are the “next” generation of volunteers in our community and this is the perfect ministry to “introduce” them into service. If they shy away from ‘public’ speaking remember that not everyone is comfortable with it. Instead then encourage them to coming to pray along. It helps to have a personal invitation from other leaders at our parish to feel a sense of belonging.

**BEFORE YOU MINISTER:** Build faithful families and communities through rosary prayer. The faithful promote devotion to the rosary in families and the parish by scheduling regular rosary prayer services. This encourages devotion to Mary and emphasizes the importance of prayer in our community and as a family. Rosary Leader’s should encourage families to learn how their faith can be strengthened through a devotion to Our Lady, while praying the rosary at home together regularly and in the community.

The rosary is a powerful prayer. It settles our hearts and minds. It puts things in perspective and allows us to see things as they really are. It reaches deep down into our souls and puts us at ease, creating a peace that is rare and beautiful.

Of course, in order for the rosary to start working in your life, you have to pray it! The hardest part of anything is getting started. The rosary is no different. It may seem intimidating at first, but that’s where your help comes in! Our hope is that you will be inspired to help others discover the power of the rosary!

**A COUPLE MORE POINTS:**

* Be reliable. Each Rosary Leader is responsible for serving when scheduled. Please be courteous: if you cannot serve when assigned, please arrange for a substitute
* Dress "UP" neatly and conservatively. (Flip-Flops, tennis shoes, sun dresses, tank tops, Tshirts, low-cut tops, shorts, and blue jeans are inappropriate for Sunday Mass.)
* PARTICIPATE in the liturgy by truly entering into a spirit of prayer. Sing and respond.
  + This is not the time to be talking among yourselves. You are called upon to set a good example.
* It is expected that those who serve as Rosary Leader will arrive a **MINIMUM OF 35 MINUTES BEFORE MASS**.
* Remember, this is public speaking – and in the Presence – .
* In all things charity…
* Please keep a constant pace for the prayer.
  + It is harder for others to respond if the pace is too slow or too fast. Set the pace so that it is constant and that everyone can understand the words to the prayer.
* Do your conscious best to keep track of the prayers. There are 10 Hail Mary’s and others do find it distracting if only 9 or 11 are prayed. These mistakes are easy to avoid if you use a rosary as you pray and follow a prayer book or a copy of “How To Pray the Rosary”.
* Pray with joy. Pray with sorrow. Pray with reverence.
* This is a group prayer, and your leader position helps all to pray in unison.
* Sometimes people arrive at church mid-decade, it is helpful to lead the mysteries with the number so they can pick up and follow along. (ie. The **third** Glorious Mystery: The Descent of the Holy Spirit….)
* The General Instruction of the Roman Missal #45 states ‘it is a praiseworthy practice for SILENCE to be observed in the church, in the sacristy, in the vesting room, and in adjacent areas, so that all may dispose themselves to carry out the sacred celebration in a devout and fitting manner.’
  + There should be a sufficient silence (ten or fifteen minutes) between the Rosary and Mass.
* Leading the Rosary before Mass should help lead the faithful into a prayerful state before Mass even starts and also benefit those in our intentions: The holy souls in purgatory, the sick in the parish and our personal intentions.
* After leading or praying the Rosary try to quietly reflect on the upcoming readings, the psalms or other prayers to observe a time of quiet and set an example.
* Speak loud as leaders do not use a microphone.
* Included are basic instructions on how to lead the Rosary:
  + This is only a guideline: You may lead the Rosary however you are most comfortable. Please just be aware of the time - as the church should be silently praying for 15 minutes before Mass begins.

1. Kiss the Cross
2. **Sign of the Cross** - In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
3. **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 rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, is seated 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.*
4. **Our Father**
5. **3 Hail Mary’s**
6. **Glory Be**
7. **Fatima Prayer** - *Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of your mercy. Amen.*
8. **First Glorious Mystery - The Resurrection: Jesus rises from the dead (Faith)**
   1. Sundays during Advent: **First Joyful Mystery - The Annunciation: The angel tells Mary, that she is to be the Mother of God (Humility)**
   2. Sundays during Lent: **First Sorrowful Mystery - The Agony in the Garden: Jesus prays in the Garden (Contrition)**
9. **Our Father**
10. **10 Hail Mary’s**
11. **Glory Be**
12. **Fatima Prayer** - *Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of your mercy. Amen*
13. **Second Glorious Mystery - The Ascension: Jesus goes back to heaven (Hope)**
    1. Sundays during Advent: **Second Joyful Mystery - The Visitation: Mary visits Elizabeth (Charity)**
    2. Sundays during Lent: **Second Sorrowful Mystery - The Scourging at the Pillar: Jesus is cruelly beaten (Purity)**
14. **Our Father**
15. **10 Hail Mary’s**
16. **Glory Be**
17. **Fatima Prayer** - *Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of your mercy. Amen*
18. **Third Glorious Mystery - The Descent of the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit comes down on Mary and the apostles (Love)**
    1. Sundays during Advent: **Third Joyful Mystery - The Birth of Jesus: Jesus is born in a stable (Poverty)**
    2. Sundays during Lent: **Third Sorrowful Mystery - The Crowning with Thorns (They are placed on Jesus’ head ( Courage)**
19. **Our Father**
20. **10 Hail Mary’s**
21. **Glory Be**
22. **Fatima Prayer** - *Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of your mercy. Amen*
23. **Fourth Glorious Mystery - The Assumption: Mary is taken body and soul to heaven (Eternal Happiness)**
    1. Sundays during Advent: **Fourth Joyful Mystery - The Presentation: Mary presents Jesus in the Temple (Obedience)**
    2. Sundays during Lent: **Fourth Sorrowful Mystery - The Carrying of the Cross: Jesus carries His Cross to Calvary (Patience)**
24. **Our Father**
25. **10 Hail Mary’s**
26. **Glory Be**
27. **Fatima Prayer** - *Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of your mercy. Amen*
28. **Fifth Glorious Mystery - The Coronation: Mary is crowned Queen of heaven and earth (Devotion to Mary)**
    1. Sundays during Advent: **Fifth Joyful Mystery - The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple: Jesus is lost for 3 days, Mary finds Him in the Temple (Piety)**
    2. Sundays during Lent: **Fifth Sorrowful Mystery - The Crucifixion: Jesus is nailed to the Cross, and dies for our sins (Self-denial)**
29. **Our Father**
30. **10 Hail Mary’s**
31. **Glory Be**
32. **Fatima Prayer** - *Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of your mercy. Amen*
33. **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 this valley of tears! Turn, then, O 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.
34. *V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God*.
35. R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
36. *Let us Pray.* 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 meditating on 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.
37. I and all that I have, I give to you, dear Jesus, through Mary, your holy Mother.
38. **Sign of the Cross** - In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
39. Kiss the Cross.

**The Mysteries of the Rosary**

**Joyful Mysteries** (prayed on Mondays and Saturdays): (prayed on Sundays during Advent):

* 1st Decade: The Annunciation
* 2nd Decade: The Visitation
* 3rd Decade: The Birth of Jesus
* 4th Decade: The Presentation
* 5th Decade: The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

**Luminous Mysteries** (prayed on Thursdays):

* 1st Decade: The Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan
* 2nd Decade: The Wedding Feast at Cana
* 3rd Decade: The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
* 4th Decade: The Transfiguration of Jesus
* 5th Decade: The Institution of the Eucharist

**Sorrowful Mysteries** (prayed on Tuesdays and Fridays): (prayed on Sundays during Lent):

* 1st Decade: The Agony in the Garden
* 2nd Decade: The Scourging at the Pillar
* 3rd Decade: The Crowning with Thorns
* 4th Decade: The Carrying of the Cross
* 5th Decade: The Crucifixion

**Glorious Mysteries** (prayed on Wednesdays and Sundays):

* 1st Decade: The Resurrection
* 2nd Decade: The Ascension
* 3rd Decade: The Descent of the Holy Spirit
* 4th Decade: The Assumption
* 5th Decade: The Crowning of Mary Queen of Heaven

When you meditate on these mysteries and establish the rosary as a spiritual habit in your life, an amazing thing happens: Jesus’ peace becomes your peace, his hope becomes your hope, and his healing becomes your healing as his life transforms your life. The rosary can change your life. But, it won't happen overnight. Hardly anyone experiences unimaginable peace the first time they pray the rosary. It has to become a regular part of your prayer life. That doesn't necessarily mean you pray it every day. You might decide to pray it every Wednesday night, every First Friday of the month, or every Sunday before Mass. The important thing is to develop a habit of praying the rosary that works best for you.

**PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY**

Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, your divine Son, Jesus is the perfect Mediator between God and human beings, because He alone could in all justice merit our reconciliation with God as well as the graces that God would impart after the reconciliation. You are the Mediatrix in union with Christ, from Whom your mediation draws all its power. You merited the title of Unique Associates above all by your union with Christ in His redemptive sacrifice. After Jesus, no one suffered as you did. Now your action is primarily one of intercession. In your contemplation of God, you behold our needs with our prayers and you beg God to grant these favors. May the faithful recitation of my Rosary be a sign of my gratitude to Jesus and to you for all you have done for me in bringing about my redemption. May my Rosary also be a means of obtaining all the graces I need for the sanctification and salvation of my soul. Amen.