

FULL OF GRACE

a child's guide to the rosary



by mark neilsen

Introduction

The Rosary became a way of praying hundreds of years ago, when most people could not read or write. The Rosary helped them remember the most important times in Jesus' life and learn about the most important parts of our Catholic faith.

Rosary beads are strung together to help us keep track of where we are in the prayer. But the main parts of the Rosary have always been the prayers themselves and the Mysteries of the Rosary.

Let's Pray the Rosary

Rosary beads help us know what prayer to pray, where to begin and where to end. The rosary is made up of a loop and a pendant. At the end of the pendant is a cross, and that's where you begin. Make the **Sign of the Cross**:



**In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

That is the very first prayer of the Rosary.
The next prayer is the **Apostles' Creed**, and it
is all about what we believe:

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power
of the Holy Spirit and
born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day, he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.
He will 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.**

After the Apostles' Creed, we finger the first bead, the one set apart from the cross and the other set of beads. Beads that are set apart like this are for praying the **Our Father**, sometimes called the Lord's Prayer because it is the prayer Jesus taught us:

**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.**

After the first bead that is set apart, you come to three beads right next to each other. Beads that are right next to each other are for saying 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.**

After saying a Hail Mary on each of the three beads, we come to a space between the Hail Mary bead and the next Our Father bead. In this space we say a **Glory Be**:

**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.**

“If the Rosary is well presented, I am sure that young people will once more surprise adults by the way they make this prayer their own and recite it with the enthusiasm typical of their age group” (Pope John Paul II, *The Rosary of the Virgin Mary*).

In everyday language and with colorful illustrations, *Full of Grace* provides children with a basic guide to one of the most beloved Catholic devotions.



Mark Neilsen is editor of *Living Faith Kids: Daily Catholic Devotions* and *Treasure All These Things: A Rosary Prayer Booklet*, both of which are available from Creative Communications for the Parish.

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