



Novena Prayers In Honor of Our Lady of Victories

Our Lady of Victories church

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The History of the Holy Rosary

By Saint Louis Marie de Montfort

Since the Rosary is composed, principally and in substance of the prayer of Christ and the Angelic Salutation, that is, the Our Father and the Hail Mary, it was without doubt the first prayer and the principal devotion of the faithful and has been in use all though the centuries, from the time of the apostles and disciples down to the present.

It was only in the year 1214, however, that the Church received the Rosary in its present form and according to the method we use today. It was given to the Church by St. Dominic, who had received it from the Blessed Virgin as a means of converting the Albigensians and other sinners. St. Dominic, seeing that the gravity of people's sins was hindering the conversion of the Albigensians, withdrew into a forest near Toulouse, where he prayed continuously for three days and three nights. During this time, he did nothing but weep and do harsh penances in order to appease the anger of God. He used his discipline so much that his body was lacerated, and finally he fell into a coma. At this point our Lady appeared to him, accompanied by three angels, and she said, "Dear Dominic, do you know which weapon the Blessed Trinity wants to use to reform the world?" "Oh, my Lady", answered St. Dominic, "you know far better than I do, because next to your son Jesus Christ you have always been the chief instrument of our salvation". Then our Lady replied, "I want you to know that in this kind of warfare, the principal weapon has always been the Angelic Psalter, which is the foundation-stone of the New Testament. Therefore, if you want to reach these hardened souls and win them over to God, preach my Psalter". So he arose, comforted, and burning with zeal for the conversion of the people in that district, he made straight for the cathedral. At once, unseen angels rang the bells to gather the people together, and St. Dominic began to preach.

At the very beginning of his sermon, an appalling storm broke out, the earth shook, the sun darkened, and there was so much thunder and lightning that all were very much afraid. Even greater was their fear when, looking at a picture of our Lady exposed in a prominent place, they saw her raise her arms in heaven three times to call down God's vengeance upon them if they failed to be converted, to amend their lives, and seek the protection of the holy Mother of God. God wished, by means of these supernatural phenomena, to spread the new devotion of the holy Rosary and to make it more widely known. At last, at the prayer of St. Dominic, the storm came to an end, and he went on preaching. So fervently and compellingly did he explain the importance and value of the Rosary that almost all the people of Toulouse embraced it and renounced their false beliefs. In a very short time a great improvement was seen in the town; people began leading Christian lives and gave up their former bad habits.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, instructed by the Blessed Virgin as well as by his own experience, St. Dominic preached the Rosary for the rest of his life. He preached it by his example as well as by his sermons, in cities and in country places, to people of high station and low, before scholars and the uneducated, to Catholics and to heretics. The Rosary, which he said every day, was his preparation for every sermon and his little tryst with our Lady immediately after preaching.

One day, he had to preach at Notre Dame in Paris, and it happened to be the feast of St. John the Evangelist. He was in a little chapel behind the high altar prayerfully preparing his sermon by saying the Rosary, as he always did, when our Lady appeared to him and said, "Dominic, even though what you have planned to say may be very good, I am bringing you a much better sermon". St. Dominic took in his hands the book our Lady preferred, read the sermon carefully and, when he had understood it and meditated on it, he gave thanks to her. When the time came, he went up into the pulpit and, in spite of the feast day, made no mention of St. John other than to say that he had been found

worthy to be the guardian of the Queen of Heaven. The congregation was made up of theologians and other eminent people, who were used to hearing unusual and polished discourses, but St. Dominic told them that it was not his desire to give them a learned discourse, wise in the eyes of the world, but that he would speak in the simplicity of the Holy Spirit and with his forcefulness. So he began preaching the Rosary and explained the Hail Mary word by word as he would to a group of children, and used the very simple illustrations which were in the book given him by our Lady.

One time, our Lord and our lady appeared to St. Dominic to urge him and inspire him to preach the Rosary more and more to wipe out sin and convert sinners and heretics. The Lord said to him, "Dominic, I rejoice to see that you are not relying on your own wisdom and that, rather than seek empty praise of men, you are working with great humility for the salvation of souls. But many priests want to preach thunderously against the worst kinds of sins at the very outset, failing to realize that before a sick person is given bitter medicine, he needs to be prepared by being put into the right frame of mind to really benefit by it. That is why, before doing anything else, priests should try to kindle a love or prayer in people's hearts and especially a love of my Angelic Psalter. If only they would all start saying it and would really persevere, God in his mercy could hardly refuse to give them his grace. So I want you to preach my Rosary".

From the time of St. Dominic, the holy Rosary has always been called the Psalter of Jesus and Mary. This is because it has the same number of Hail Mary's as there are psalms in the Book of the Psalms of David, the Rosary is held to be just as fruitful for them as David's Psalter is for others.

Our Lady has approved and confirmed this name of the Rosary; she has revealed to several people that each time they say a Hail Mary, they are giving her a beautiful rose, and that each complete Rosary makes her a crown of roses. So the complete Rosary is a large crown of roses and each chaplet of five decades is

a little wreath of flowers or a little crown of heavenly roses that we place on the heads of Jesus and Mary. The rose is the queen of flowers, and so the Rosary is the rose of devotions and the most important one.

Our Lady of the Rosary

October 7, 1571

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary was established in 1571 by St. Pius V to commemorate the naval battle of Lepanto. The victory of the Christians' fleet over the Turks was attributed to the Virgin Mary, whose help was invoked through praying the Holy Rosary. According to a venerable tradition, this beautiful prayer was revealed to St. Dominic by the Blessed Mother. The 150 Hail Mary's correspond to the number of Psalms, which the illiterate people of that time could not understand. The first part of the Hail Mary is taken from the Gospel of St. Luke, the second was added by the tradition of the Church.

The 15 mysteries, divided into joyful, sorrowful and glorious, reflect the principal events of the life of Jesus and Mary. Paul VI said that a rosary without meditation on these mysteries is like a dead person without life. The litanies, taken from the Sanctuary of Loreto in Italy, were added to the Rosary in 1592. The response we repeat after every decade – O my Jesus, forgive us our sins – was dictated by the Virgin Mary to the three visionaries of Fatima in 1917. Those who consider monotonous to repeat so many times the same prayer should be reminded that lovers are never tired to repeat the same few words over and over again. The Holy Rosary is a matter of love.

(Note: On October 16, 2002, Pope John Paul II marked the 24th anniversary of his papacy by issuing the apostolic letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, with a set of suggestions for the New Rosary. The Pope proposed adding the Mysteries of Light or Luminous Mystery to the traditional ones.)

NOVENA PRAYERS IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

Opening Song (Pages 15-18)

Act of Contrition

Leader: My Lord, Jesus Christ.

People: True God and true man/ my Father and Redeemer/ I kneel
in the presence of your divine Majesty/ overcome with grief for
having offended you, my God/ so deserving of all my love./ I
believe in you./ I trust You./ And trusting in Your infinite mercy/ I
hope to have my sins forgiven./

With the help of your grace/ I resolve to confess my sins/
and to start my life anew./ Chastise me in this life, O Lord/ but
spare me in eternity./ Help me make my life/ a worthy obligation
to atone for all my sins/ and the sins of all men./

During this novena to Mary, Your Mother/ Queen of the
Most Holy Rosary/ help me to know You better/ to love you more
fervently/ to serve You with more dedication. / Grant me the
grace to live and persevere in Your service/ until death. Amen.

(Note: This Act of Contrition must be read daily, from First to
Ninth)

First Day

Reflection

The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)

*The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town of Galilee
named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph of
the house of David and the Virgin's name was Mary. He came to
her and said, "Hail full of grace, the Lord is with you". But she was*

greatly troubled at the saying and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her "Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you shall conceive in your womb and bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there will be no end".

And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible. Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word". And the angel departed from her.

Novena Prayer

Blessed Virgin, you as a young girl did accept so generously the invitation from the angel Gabriel. You did accede to the invitation from God to be the mother of Christ. Generously and freely did you give your consent.

Teach me, O Virgin Mary to imitate your generosity, each me to model my life on yours and make me generous in my response to the divine inspiration. Make me loyal and true, faithful and sincere when grace comes to me.

O God, we humbly pray that with Mary, the Mother of your Son, pleading for us, you grant all that is for our good. Thus we ask through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Here we pause to ask Our Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, the special grace we wish to obtain in this novena.)

Our Lady of Victories, pray for us (3 times and a Hail Mary after each invocation)

Closing Song (Pages 15-18) to be sung each day after the Novena

Second Day

Reflection

The Visitation (Luke 1:39-47)

In those days, Mary arose and went in haste into the hill country to a city in Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah's and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry.

"Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb". And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior".

Novena Prayer

O Blessed Mother, you who did visit your cousin Saint Elizabeth and did shed such happiness and joy by your presence; you who did hear from the lips of Saint Elizabeth those words, "Whence is this to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Assist me to acquire the Spirit that animated You during your life on earth. Assist me so that I shall be able, by word and example to bring Christ's spirit to others, so that I may be able to reflect the kindness and mercy of my divine Redeemer.

God, Our Lord and master, cleanse our hearts that we may receive Christ, your only son in the spirit of Mary's faith and obedience through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Here we pause to ask Our Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, the special grace we wish to obtain in this novena.)

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Third Day

Reflection

The Nativity (Matthew 2:13-15)

When the wise men had departed, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise. Take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt and remain there till I tell you: for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord has spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my Son".

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt saying, "Rise and take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel for those who sought of the child's life are dead."

Novena Prayer

O Virgin, Mother of God, help me this day to show gratitude to God. Help me to be thoughtful of others, especially my parents and members of my family. Make me considerate of those who are kind to me and patient toward those who are rude to me.

God our Father, your Son has brought us peace. He left us his own task to be peacemakers in our world. Give us the strength to carry this mission out in the same spirit in which your Son gave himself to You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

(Here we pause to ask Our Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, the special grace we wish to obtain in this novena.)

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Fourth Day

Reflection

The Presentation at the Temple (Luke 2:27-35)

Inspired by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up to his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now You let your servant depart in peace, according to your word, for mine eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul), that thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Novena Prayer

Virgin most holy, you did fulfill the Jewish law so as to be more pleasing to God because of your obedience, aid us in our lives so that we may be faithful in deeds, little and great. Help us so that we may not seriously violate the laws of God, so that we may not transgress the precepts of the Church. Virgin Mother, let us draw from your example the lesson we need to fashion our own lives on yours, our own thoughts and convictions on yours. Help us to be obedient, true and loyal to your Son.

O God we humbly pray that with Mary, the mother of your Son pleading for us, you grant us protection and guidance. Grant that all of us, especially our parents, brothers and sisters, friends, relatives, benefactors, members of the seminary community may live in your peace and love. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Here we pause to ask Our Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, the special grace we wish to obtain in this novena.)

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Fifth Day

Reflection

The Crucifixion (John 19:25-27)

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleofas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, He said, to his mother, "Woman, behold your son." Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother." And from that hour, the disciple took her to his own home.

Novena Prayer

Dearest Virgin, assist me in this struggle I must ever be subjected to against the powers of this world, the flesh and the devil. Secure from God for me the grace to appreciate the fleeting character of life, the swiftness of the years and the dissatisfaction of sin.

Mother of mercy and love, Blessed Virgin Mary, I am a poor and unworthy sinner, and I turn to you in confidence and love. You stood by your Son as He hung dying on the cross. Stand also by me, a poor sinner, and by all the priests who are offering mass today here and throughout the entire Church. Help us to offer a perfect and acceptable sacrifice in the sight of the holy and undivided Trinity, our Most High God. Amen.

(Here we pause to ask Our Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, the special grace we wish to obtain in this novena.)

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Sixth Day

Reflection

The Resurrection (Matthew 28:1-7)

After the Sabbath as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene came with the other Mary to inspect the tomb. Suddenly there was a mighty earthquake as the angel of the Lord descended from heaven. He came to the stone, rolled it back and sat on it. In appearance he resembled a flash of lightning while his garments were dazzling as snow. The guards grew paralyzed with the fear of him and fell down like dead men.

Novena Prayer

Blessed Mother of my Redeemer, I try to understand the joy that must have been yours as you did see your Risen Son on the first Easter morning. I try to enter in to the joy that possessed you when Christ our Lord appeared in all the glory of his resurrection. Calvary had made heavy demands upon you. The three hours agony had been an agony for you. But dearest Mother, when I am tempted to see the sorrows and disappointments of life, do you give me my spirit? Do you help me see with the eyes of faith the Easter morning that Christ reserves for those who are faithful, who love their God sincerely?

Share with me, O Blessed Mother your sentiments of the first Easter Sunday and may they keep me strong in faith, firm in hope and afire with Charity. Let discouragement have no place in my heart and keep me mindful of glorious Resurrection. God, you are the source of truth and mercy. Mercifully hear the prayers of your people, and by the intercession of Blessed Mary, Mother of God, grant to us the grace of perseverance. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Here we pause to ask Our Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, the special grace we wish to obtain in this novena.)

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Seventh Day

Reflection

The Descent of the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39)

On the last and greatest of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me, let him drink who believes in me." Scripture has it: "From within him rivers of living water shall flow!"

(Here He was referring to the Spirit whom those that came to believe in him were to receive. There was of course, no Spirit as yet, since Jesus has not yet been glorified.)

Novena Prayer

O Virgin Most Holy, I recall that you were with the apostles when the Holy Spirit, in the form of tongues of fire, descended upon the twelve. I recall that you did share with the apostles their trials and triumphs their joys and sorrows. Assist me this day O mother of my Redeemer. Bring me to a better realization of the power of the Holy Spirit, a firmer and more lively faith in the Holy Spirit. Aid me in my quest for light, my search for truth. And when I have received this reward, do give me the courage I need to follow bravely the course marked out for me.

God our Father, all holiness is from you. In your goodness hear the prayers of your family, and by the intercession of Blessed Mary, your handmaid, send your blessing upon us all. Their promise was made by your gift: May they always fulfill it by your grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Here we pause to ask Our Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, the special grace we wish to obtain in this novena.)

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Eighth Day

Reflection

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (Luke 11:27-28)

As Jesus was speaking to the crowd, a woman raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breast that You sucked," But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it."

Novena Prayer

Virgin Most Holy, who was miraculously assumed into Heaven, we honor you in your Assumption. O Mother of God, we wish that from your place of mercy you may help us to arrive at our celestial destinations. Virgin most pure, come to our assistance when we need protection and guidance. Aid us when we seem to stray from the path that leads to life everlasting. Assist us when we falter in striving to do our best, to make our most gallant efforts to serve God faithfully.

Jesus, our Lord, you progressed steadily in wisdom and made the image and beginning of the Church in her final protection. Grant to the Church that she will finally become the community of those fully redeemed. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

(Here we pause to ask Our Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, the special grace we wish to obtain in this novena.)

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Ninth Day

Reflection

The Coronation in Heaven (Luke 1:46, 55)

Then Mary said: "My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit finds joy in God my Savior. For He has looked upon this servant in her lowliness; all ages to come shall call me blessed. God who is mighty has done great things for me; holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age on those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, He has confused the proud in their inmost thoughts. He has deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places. The hungry He has given every good thing, while the rich he has sent empty away. He has upheld Israel his servant, ever mindful of his mercy, even as he promised our fathers, promised Abraham and his descendants forever."

Novena Prayer

Virgin most pure, come to my aid as I work out my salvation with fear and trembling. Come to my assistance as I call upon you to help me. Virgin, you who were crowned in heaven, give me the courage that I need to persevere in the battle of life so that one day I may be able to receive from the loving hands of our son my crown of everlasting life. Virgin most holy, Queen of Heaven, comfort me and encourage me in my constant struggles with self and those who would oppose my determination to serve you alone. Aid me and guide me, Virgin Mother of my God.

O Lord God, grant that all who confidently calls on the Blessed Mary, mother of Jesus and our mother too, may experience her maternal help, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Here we pause to ask Our Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, the special grace we wish to obtain in this novena.)

Our Lady of Victories, pray for us (3 times and a Hail Mary after each invocation)

MARIAN SONGS

Hail Holy Queen

Hail Holy Queen enthroned above, O Maria
Hail Queen of mercy and of love, O Maria

Refrain: Triumph, all ye cherubim
Sing with us, ye seraphim
Heaven and earth resound the hymn
Salve, salve, salve Regina

Our life, our sweetness here below, O Maria
Our hope in sorrow and in woe, O Maria (Refrain)

And when our life breath leaves us, O Maria
Show us thy Son, Christ Jesus, O Maria (Refrain)

On This Day O Beautiful Mother

Refrain: On this day, O beautiful Mother
On this day, we give thee our love
Near thee Madonna, fondly we hover
Trusting thy gentle care to prove

On this day, we ask to share
Dearest Mother thy sweet care
Aid us ere our feet astray
Wonder from thy guiding way (Refrain)

Queen of angels, deign to hear
Lisping children's humble pray'r
Young hearts gain, O virgin pure
Sweetly to thyself allure (Refrain)

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you
Blessed are you among women and
Blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus
Holy Mary, Mother of God
Pray for us sinners now
And at the hour of our death. Amen.

Refrain: Gentle woman, quiet light
 Morning star, so strong and bright
 Gentle mother, peaceful dove
 Teach us wisdom, teach us love.

You were chosen by the Father
You were chosen for the Son
You were chosen among women
And for woman, shining one. (Refrain)

Blessed are you among women
Blest in turn all women, too
Blessed they, with peaceful spirit
Blessed they, with gentle hearts. (Refrain)

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace
The Lord is with you
Blessed are you among women
And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God
Pray for us sinners
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Immaculate Mary

Immaculate Heart, your praises we sing
Your reign now in heaven with Jesus our King

Refrain: Ave, Ave, Ave Maria
 Ave, Ave, Maria

In heaven, the blessed your glory proclaim
On earth we your children invoke your sweet name (Refrain)

We pray for our Mother, the Church upon earth
And bless, Holy Mary, the land of our birth (Refrain)

Mother Dearest, Mother Fairest

Mother dearest, Mother fairest
Help us all, who call on thee
Virgin purest, brightest, rarest
Help us help, we cry to thee

Refrain: Mary, help us, help, we pray
 Mary, help us, help, we pray
 Help us in all care and sorrow
 Mary, help us, help, we pray.

Lady, help in pain and sorrow
Soothe those racked on beds of pain
May the golden light of morrow
Bring them health and joy and gain. (Refrain)

Mother Dear, O Pray For Me

Mother dear, O pray for me
While far from heaven and thee
I wander in a fragile dark
O'er life's tempestuous sea

O Virgin Mother from thy throne
So bright in bliss above
Protect thy child and cheer my path
With thy sweet smile of love

Mother dear, remember me
And never cease thy care
Till heaven eternally
Your love and bless I share.

Dear Lady of Fatima

Our Lady of Fatima, we come on bended knees
To beg your intercession, for peace and unity
Dear Lady, won't you show us the right and shining way
We pledge our love and offer you
A Rosary each day.

You promised at Fatima, each time that you appear
To help us if we pray to you to banish war and fear
Dear Lady, on first Saturdays, we ask your guiding hand
For peace and guidance here on earth
And protection for our land.