

Franciscan Crown Rosary – Instructions, Reflections and Prayers

[All Prayers are taken from The Roman Missal. New York: Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1974 ICEL]

Instructions

How to say the Crown Rosary

A Journey of Faith: The Seven Joys of Mary

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1. The Franciscan Crown consists of seven decades of Hail Mary's, each preceded by an Our Father and followed by a Glory Be.
2. The Crown recalls the seven joys of Mary and how she responded to the grace of God in her life.
3. It begins with the Sign of the Cross which is then followed by seven decades, each consisting of one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory Be.
4. At the end of the seven decades, there are two additional Hail Mary's, bringing the total number of Hail Mary's to 72. This completes the 72 years of Mary's Joy, and according to Tradition, equals the number of years the Virgin Mary lived on earth.
5. The Crown is concluded by praying one Our Father and one Hail Mary for the intentions of the Pope. The Sign of the Cross concludes the Franciscan Crown Rosary.

[Taken from http://www.franciscanfriarstor.com/stfrancis/stf_crown_rosary.htm]



FIRST JOY - The Annunciation - The Gift Of Fortitude *[Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-36]*

Reflection:

At baptism, we are called by name to give flesh to Christian values and beliefs. In responding to the gift of baptism, how have we dealt with becoming a disciple of the Lord? What is our relationship to God, Church and others? How do we respond to the invitation to build up the Body of Christ? Why can living according to Christian values be a lonely and frightening thing? Name people and events in your life which have helped you live out your faith commitment?

Prayer:

O God, who willed that your Word should take on the reality of human flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, grant, we pray, that we, who confess our Redeemer to be God and man, may merit to become partakers even in his divine nature. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SECOND JOY - The Visitation - The Gift Of Counsel *[Luke 1:39-56]*

Reflection:

Mary's response to God was the powerful prayer of the Magnificat, the joyous acknowledgement of God's goodness within her. What is our response to God? What are three positive qualities with which the Lord has blessed you? Whom do you turn to for counsel and friendship in your life?

Prayer:

Almighty ever-living God, who, while the Blessed Virgin Mary was carrying your Son in her womb, inspired her to visit Elizabeth, grant us, we pray, that, faithful to the promptings of the Spirit, we may magnify your greatness with the Virgin Mary at all times. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**THIRD JOY- The Birth of the Lord and the Adoration of the Magi –
The Gift Of Fear Of The Lord** *[Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:1-7]*

Reflection:

In reflecting upon the role of Mary as a woman of faith, we learn that she accepted the will of the Father and all that went with that responsibility. How do you respond to the will of God in your life? Imagine the emotional turmoil Mary experienced at the time of Jesus' birth. She turned to God for strength. Where do you turn during those periods of emotional turmoil in your life?

Prayer:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, as we are bathed in the new radiance of your incarnate Word, the light of faith, which illumines our minds, may also shine through in our deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FOURTH JOY - The Presentation of the Lord and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin -
The Gift Of Wisdom [Luke 2:22-24]

Reflection:

As Mary and Joseph presented Jesus to the elders of the Temple, they once again displayed their love and faithfulness towards God. As you were presented by your parents or you presented yourself to the Lord in the Sacrament of Baptism, your parents/Godparents also displayed their love and faithfulness towards God. How do you express your love and faithfulness towards God? How do you share wisdom with others?

Prayer:

Almighty ever-living God, we humbly implore your majesty that, just as your Only Begotten Son was presented on this day in the Temple in the substance of our flesh, so, by your grace, we may be presented to you with minds made pure. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIFTH JOY - The Finding of the Christ Child in the Temple –
The Gift Of Understanding [Luke 2:41-52]

Reflection:

This event was probably a frustrating and stressful experience for both Mary and Joseph. The happiness of finding Jesus was lost when Mary and Joseph could not comprehend his explanation. When do you most often lose sight of Christ within your life? How do you seek to understand the wisdom of God and the will of God? What are the five qualities you appreciate about your parents and their love for you?

Prayer:

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



SIXTH JOY - The Resurrection and the Meeting of Mother and Son –**The Gift Of Piety And Love***[Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-20; Luke 24:1-12]***Reflection:**

The ordeal of seeing her only Son die a criminal's death was undoubtedly a traumatic experience for Mary. She drew strength from the Father's love and realized that Jesus would conquer death through the power of God. From where do you draw your strength? Does the gift of the resurrection truly give you a reason to hope and a reason to live?

Prayer:

O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SEVENTH JOY - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin and Her Coronation as Queen of Heaven and Earth and Protectress and Advocate of the Franciscan Family**The Gift Of Knowledge** *[John 11:17-27; Revelation 11:19, 12:1-6, 21:1-6]***Reflection:**

As Mary experienced the call from God, we also need a deepening conviction and eagerness to hear God's call in our lives and respond to the call. It is important to trust God enough to allow ourselves to respond freely and generously as Mary did. Are you as eager to hear God's call as Mary was? How are the fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, serenity) growing and affecting your relationship with God and others?

Prayer:

O God, who, looking on the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary, raised her to this grace, that your Only Begotten Son was born of her according to the flesh and that she was crowned this day with surpassing glory, grant through her prayers, that, saved by the mystery of your redemption, we may merit to be exalted by you on high. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

[If those who use the seven-decade rosary make a slight change in the mysteries they recall in each of the decades, they can gain the same indulgences which have been granted for the so-called Dominican Rosary of fifteen decades. All one has to do is make the first five of the seven mysteries coincide with the five Joyful Mysteries, and then add the last two Glorious Mysteries for the two additional decades; © 1970 Franciscan Herald Press 1434 West 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609]