

Rosary Patch

A Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Introduction

Throughout the history of the Catholic Church, Mary has held a special place in our hearts. As the mother of Jesus, she has been revered for her strength of heart and faith. Mary said yes to the Lord when He called upon her to give life to His son. It took great courage, but she knew that God would protect her.

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked with favor on the lowliness of His servant."

Luke 1:46b-47

As Catholics, we look to Mary's faith as an example of how we should be. But we also look to Mary's strength to help us when we lack our own. One of the greatest ways we can ask her for help is through praying a Rosary.

The Rosary is a long prayer, perhaps, but while praying on each of those 59 beads we reflect on all of our beliefs as Catholics. We learn about not only Mary, but the life of Jesus as well. The Rosary is a beautiful way for Catholics to reflect upon their faith and find comfort in the Lord.

When Mary appeared to three Shepard children, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta, in Fatima, Portugal in 1916, she asked us to pray the Rosary for her intercession. As you earn this patch you will learn more about your faith and be able to carry out Mary's request.

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.

A Note to Leaders

Thank you for taking your time to teach the children about the Rosary. It is a very important prayer that I feel needs to be passed on to the future generations of Catholics.

For this patch, I will ask you to learn about many parts of the Rosary or events pertaining to it. I encourage you to find the answers to the questions in preparation for teaching the patch. It may even help you to grow more in your faith. Here are some resources I would suggest:

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Rosary Army: www.rosaryarmy.com
- www.rosary-center.org
- www.theholynosary.org
- There are also many wonderful books about the Rosary, available at religious bookstores.

- For making rosaries: Free instructions for corded rosaries can be found at the rosary army site, or you can look for a rosary making group in your area by contacting your diocese.

- For donating rosaries: Rosaries can be donated to the Rosary Army, or if you find a group, they may have a place to take the rosaries.

● Patch Criteria

There are four categories of activities for this patch: History, Prayers, Mysteries, and Rosary making. In order to earn the patch, you must do a required number of activities from each category.

Daisies: One activity per category

Brownies: Two activities per category

Juniors: Three activities for History, Prayers, and Mysteries
Two activities for Making Rosaries

Cadettes: Three activities per category

Seniors/Ambassadors: Four activities per category

History

The Rosary is a very old prayer, but do you know where and when it was first prayed? Mary holds a special place in the heart of the Church. Take some time to learn more about Mary's story, as well as the story of the Rosary.

Activities:

- Learn about Mary's apparition to St. Dominic and the Origin of the Rosary.
- Learn about Mary's apparition in Fatima, Portugal.
- Learn about the Rosary Crusades.
- Learn about 2 other apparitions of Mary.
- Learn about Mary's birth and presentation in the temple.
- Learn about the Church's teachings on the Assumption.

Prayers

When you pray a Rosary, there are seven prayers that you must say: The Sign of the Cross, the Hail Mary, Nicene Creed, Our Father, Glory Be, the Fatima prayer and Hail Holy Queen. Some of these prayers may be new to you, but many will be prayers that you have said so many times that you hardly think about what you are saying. However, if you take the time you learn about the words you are saying, it can help to deepen your understanding of your faith.

Activities

- Learn/say each of the Prayers of the Rosary.
- Learn about the Nicene Creed.
- Learn about the Hail Mary.
- Learn about the Promises Mary makes to those who pray the rosary.
- Learn how to pray a Novena or a chaplet.
- Pray a rosary. Invite your family to pray with you.

Mysteries

When you pray a rosary, you begin each decade with a Mystery. A Mystery is a story about the lives of Mary or Jesus. There are different sets of mysteries, and traditionally we pray them on different days. Learning the Mysteries is a very important part of the Rosary.

Activities:

- Find out what the mysteries are (which stories, which days we pray them on, etc)
- Learn about the Luminous mysteries.
- Learn about the Glorious mysteries.
- Learn about the Joyful mysteries.
- Learn about the Sorrowful mysteries.
- Learn about the Virtues associated with each decade of the rosary.

Making Rosaries

Here is the fun part! Making rosaries is a great hobby to have, but it can also help you learn more about the Rosary. Learn about the structure of the Rosary, the different ways people make them, and then you can make one! Making Rosaries can also help you share the Rosary. After you make one for yourself, make one or two to send to people who don't have one.

Activities:

- Learn about the structure of a Rosary.
- Make a rosary.
- Learn about different types of rosaries. (Mission, Corded, Metal, etc.)
- Make a mission rosary as a service project.**

****Service Project!** Find a local group that sends corded rosaries over seas or make them for children who don't have them at your church.