



Bring this completed paper to class with you on
Sunday, October 29 or Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023.

Name _____

Our Faith in Action activities for October will be centered on praying the rosary as a family. Your child has received some simple rosary beads. Feel free to use your own, or let them choose their own at a gift shop. By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a certain devotion. The month of October is dedicated to the holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). The best way to celebrate the month is, of course, to pray the Rosary. The Rosary helps us to pray to Jesus through Mary. The Rosary draws its mysteries from the New Testament and is centered on the great events of the Incarnation and Redemption with each decade referring to an event in the life of Jesus and Mary. The Mysteries of the Rosary give us “thumbnails” of the life of Christ and his Mother.

- The Joyful Mysteries are taken mostly from Saint Luke’s Gospel in the New Testament. They involve the joyful events of Jesus’ childhood.
- The Luminous Mysteries bring a deeper understanding to the public life of Jesus. They fill in the blanks between the childhood of Jesus and His suffering and death on the cross.
- The Sorrowful Mysteries remind us of how much Jesus loves us. They recall how He suffered and died just for us.
- The Glorious Mysteries tell us what happened after Jesus died-His Resurrection, the descent of the Holy Spirit and the love Jesus had for his Mother.

We will begin with the *Joyful Mysteries*. Create a prayer space in your home. Find a place to pray that is as distraction free as possible. Remove toys or screens and set up a few objects (like a statue, a crucifix, a picture of Mary or Jesus, a candle, some flowers... even a photos of people you would like to pray for) that you can look at as you pray.

Each night take some time to pray the rosary. Before you begin, ask your child who they would like to dedicate their prayer to. Use the diagram found on the *I prayed a Rosary for you* card to learn how to pray starting with the sign of the cross. You can begin by just saying *one decade and slowly build to more*. Take turns saying each of the ten Hail Marys if your child knows this prayer, or you can print it out and they can read it. Use the attached Joyful Mysteries meditations to tell the story of each mystery as you move along the rosary. When you have finished, have your child send the *I prayed a rosary for you* card to the person they wished to pray for. Use the circle area to write a note. You can download more cards to print at home on our website.

Please complete the questions on the back of this paper with your child and return it to the next class.

More resources for praying the rosary with children: Catholic Sprouts has some great ideas for Praying the Rosary as a Family that you can read by visiting here: <https://catholicsprouts.com/7-ideas-for-praying-the-rosary-as-a-family/> You can also visit <https://kindlingwild.com/how-to-pray-the-rosary-for-kids/> to learn more about the origins of this powerful prayer and talk about it with your children. Teaching Catholic Kids also has 13 tips for praying the Rosary with kids here:

<https://www.teachingcatholickids.com/?s=13+tips+for+praying+the+rosary+with+kids>

I mailed my rosary card to _____

I wanted to devote my prayer to them because

I prayed the rosary with

When my card was received by the person I prayed for, this is what happened:

The thing I liked the most about this quiet time with my family is

When learning about the Joyful Mysteries of Jesus' childhood, the story I enjoyed the most was:

_____ be

cause _____

The hardest part of saying the Rosary was _____ but if I _____ then I

think it might get easier for me.

Adults: How did taking time to talk with God as a family change your evening family time? Is this something you will practice more? Explain.

Thank you for passing on the faith to your children!



The First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation

“The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a virgin; and the virgin’s name was Mary. “Rejoice, so highly favored! The Lord is with you.” She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean. But the angel said to her, “Mary do not be afraid; you have won God’s favor. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High; and his reign will have no end.” Mary said to the angel, “But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?” The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God.” “I am the handmaid of the Lord” said Mary, “Let what you have said be done to me.” Luke 1:27-38

As you color this page think about what God is asking of your life. Are you ready to say “yes” without any hesitation or doubt like Mary did? May we all be willing servants of God like our Blessed Mother Mary.

The Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation

“Mary set out at that time and went to the hill country. And she went into Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, “Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.” And Mary said “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my savior; because he has looked kindly upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down the princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.”

Luke 1:39-53

As your children color this page reflect on the words of the Hail Mary prayer. This scripture is where it comes from. The Holy Spirit filled Elizabeth and she spoke these words we recite as we meditate on these events of Jesus’ life. What a beautiful gift God gave us in this scripture.



The Visitation

www.Dreamstime.com



The Nativity

www.Dreamstime.com

The Third Joyful Mystery: The Nativity

“Now while Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem the time came for her to have her child. And she gave birth to a son, her first born, and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes. And she laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by the shepherds and the angel of the Lord appeared to them. “Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favor.” And some wise men came from the east, and going in they saw the child with his mother Mary. And falling to their knees they did him homage. Then they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. And Mary kept in mind all these things and pondered them in her heart.” Luke 2:1-19

As you pray this decade, consider how great a gift Jesus is to the world. Remind your children that during Christmas we give gifts to emulate God giving us the gift of Jesus. Nothing we can give to each other can even come close to the gift of salvation that our Lord Jesus is.

The Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation

“Observing the Law of Moses, they took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. And when the parents brought in the child Jesus, he took him into his arms and blessed God. “Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised. Because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see. A light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel. And he said to Mary his mother, “You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected.” And a sword will pierce your own soul too- so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.” And they went back to Nazareth, and the child grew into maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favor was with him.”
Luke 2:22-40

Mary and Joseph show such obedience in this mystery. Not only have they been obedient to God in birthing and raising His son Jesus Christ, but they also were obedient to all of the Jewish Laws and customs of their time. May we strive for that perfect obedience to Jesus both in our hearts and in what we do and say.



The Fifth Joyful Mystery: Finding of Jesus in the Temple

“When Jesus was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When they were on their way home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple. He was sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions. And all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. “My child, looking for me? Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father’s affairs?” But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.” “Why were you, and in favor with God and men.”
Luke 2:41-52

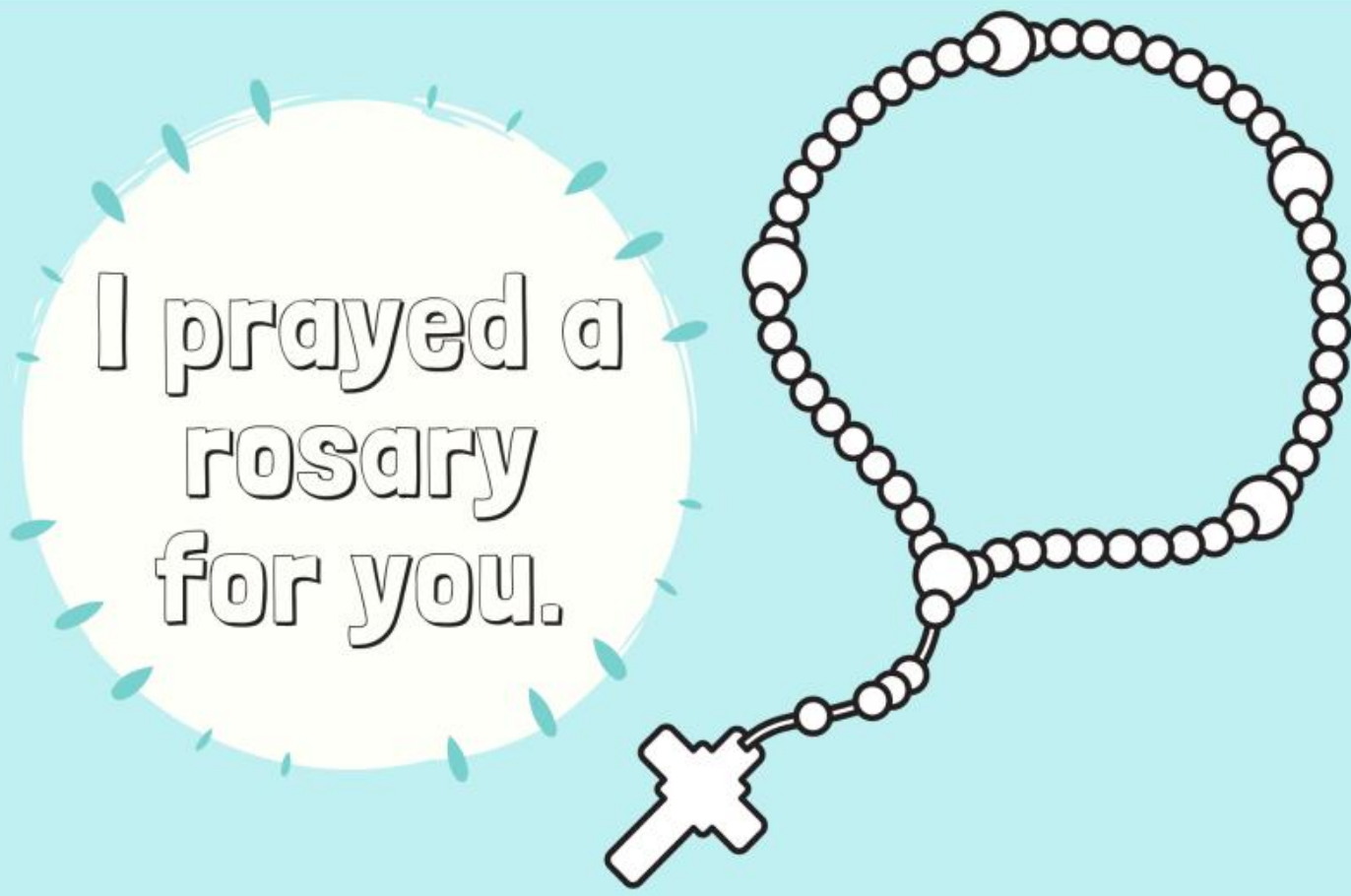
I can totally relate to poor Mary and Joseph, being the worried parents looking for a child. Can you imagine how they must’ve felt? Having been entrusted to birth and raise Jesus, God’s own son, and then lose him in a huge city during a feast? Just as difficult as losing him was understanding the response Jesus gave them when they questioned him. It’s so difficult to raise children who are under my authority, but it must’ve been so much more difficult and confusing raising a child that is both under your authority but also you are under His. May you always recognize God’s authority over you, and may it give you a sense of comfort and peace.

Ave Maria!

Find more family friendly rosary resources on the religious ed page our website at shjmbasilica.org

The Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful Mysteries	Sorrowful Mysteries	Luminous Mysteries
1. The Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary	1. The Agony of Our Lord in the Garden	1. The Baptism of Our Lord
2. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth	2. Our Lord is Scourged at the Pillar	2. The Wedding at Cana
3. The Birth of Our Lord	3. Our Lord is Crowned with Thorns	3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Presentation of Our Lord	4. Our Lord Carries the Cross to Calvary	4. The Transfiguration of Our Lord
5. The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple	5. The Crucifixion of Our Lord	5. The Institution of the Holy Eucharist



How to Pray the Holy Rosary

