

The Rosary

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How to Make it

Different Chaplets

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Birthstones

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Praying the Rosary

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall laud thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of thy majesty, and on thy wondrous works, I will meditate."

Psalm 145:3-5

The Rosary is a meditative expression of prayer that calls us to praise God with our lips and draw near to him with our hearts. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion and desire. This mobilization of faculties is necessary in order to deepen our convictions of faith, prompt the conversion of our heart, and strengthen our will to follow Christ. Christian prayer tries above all to meditate on the mysteries of Christ."

The rosary has four sets of mysteries; the joyful, the luminous, the sorrowful and the glorious. Each set of mysteries contains five separate decades, or ten prayers, and will take you once completely around the rosary beads. Begin by praying the introductory prayers.

Each decade consists of prayers found in the introductory prayers; Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory Be. As you pray each decade with the Our Father prayer, think about the setting of the mystery; the sights, sounds and feelings of those in the story. As you pray through the ten Hail Mary's let the story unfold before you, knowing that Christ is acting on your behalf. If you read the passages referred to in each mystery, the story will be fresh in your mind, allowing you to focus on important details and gain new insights.

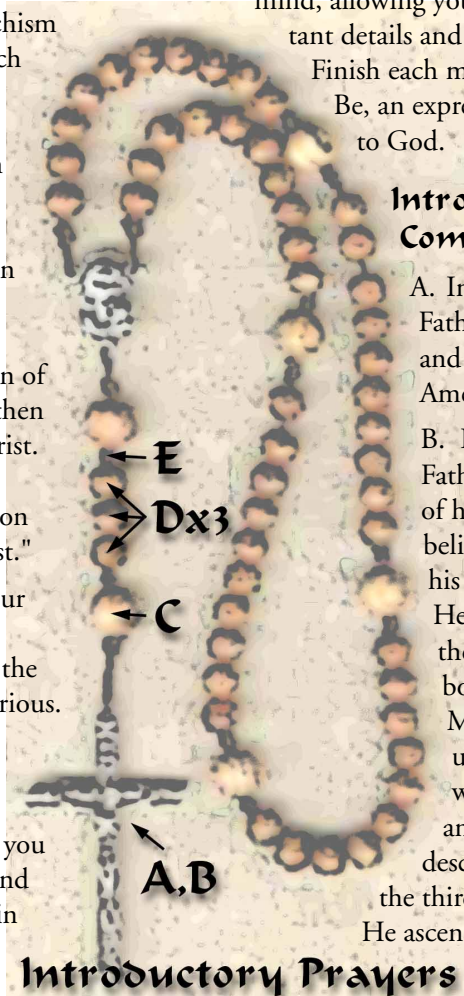
Finish each mystery with one Glory Be, an expression of thankfulness to God.

Introductory and Common Prayers

A. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Sign of the cross.)

B. 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 Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right



Introductory Prayers

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.

C. 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.

D. 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.

E. 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.

The Joyful Mysteries

1. THE ANNUNCIATION

Luke 1,26-38. Verse 35: "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."

2. THE VISITATION

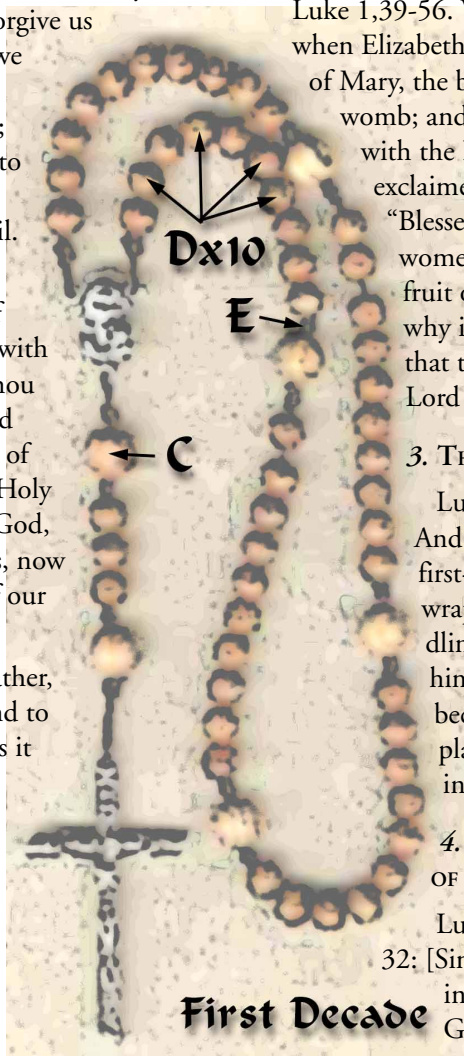
Luke 1,39-56. Verses 41-43: And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

3. THE NATIVITY

Luke 2,1-20. Verse 7: And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

4. THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

Luke 2,21-38. vs. 28-32: [Simeon] took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord,



now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel.”

5. FINDING JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Luke 2,41-52. Verses 45-47: and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

(Turn to the Concluding Prayers)

The Mysteries of Light

Text from Apostolic Letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, October 2002

1. JESUS' BAPTISM IN THE JORDAN

The Baptism in the Jordan is first of all a mystery of light. Here, as Christ descends into the waters, the

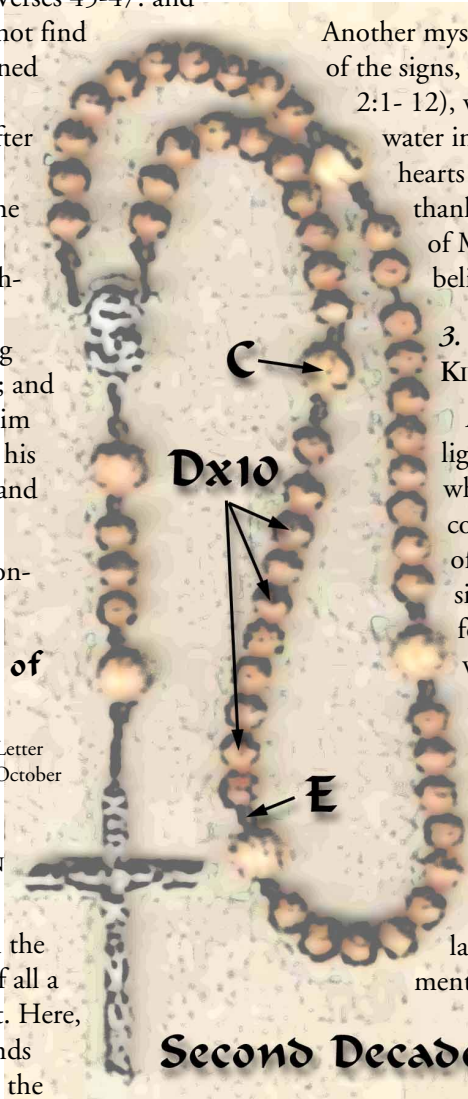
innocent one who became “sin” for our sake (cf. 2Cor 5:21), the heavens open wide and the voice of the Father declares him the beloved Son (cf. Mt 3:17 and parallels), while the Spirit descends on him to invest him with the mission which he is to carry out.

2. JESUS AT THE WEDDING IN CANA

Another mystery of light is the first of the signs, given at Cana (cf. Jn 2:1-12), when Christ changes water into wine and opens the hearts of the disciples to faith, thanks to the intervention of Mary, the first among believers.

3. JESUS PROCLAIMS THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Another mystery of light is the preaching by which Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of God, calls to conversion (cf. Mk 1:15) and forgives the sins of all who draw near to him in humble trust (cf. Mk 2:3-13; Lk 7:47-48): the inauguration of that ministry of mercy which he continues to exercise until the end of the world, particularly through the Sacrament of Reconciliation which he has entrusted to his Church (cf. Jn 20:22-23).



Second Decade

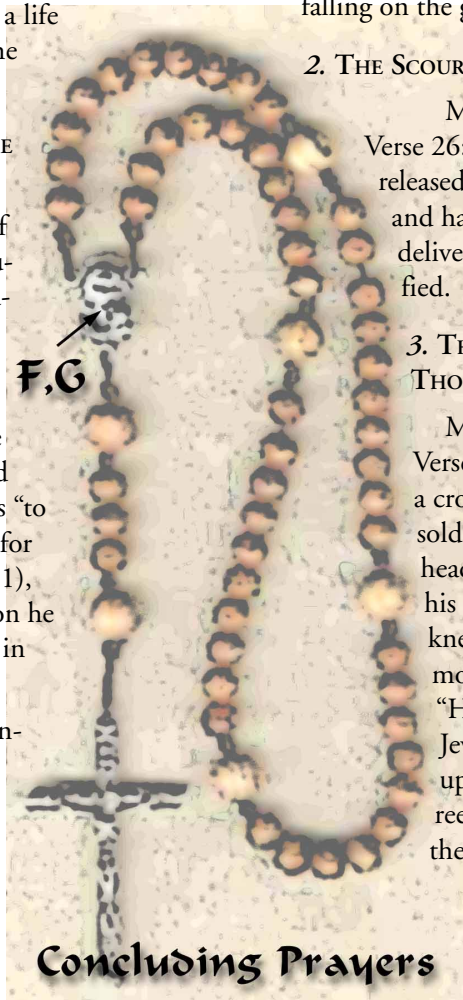
4. THE TRANSFIGURATION

The mystery of light par excellence is the Transfiguration, traditionally believed to have taken place on Mount Tabor. The glory of the Godhead shines forth from the face of Christ as the Father commands the astonished Apostles to “listen to him” (cf. Lk 9:35 and parallels) and to prepare to experience with him the agony of the Passion, so as to come with him to the joy of the Resurrection and a life transfigured by the Holy Spirit.

5. INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

A final mystery of light is the institution of the Eucharist, in which Christ offers his body and blood as food under the signs of bread and wine, and testifies “to the end” his love for humanity (Jn 13:1), for whose salvation he will offer himself in sacrifice.

(Turn to the Concluding Prayers)



The Sorrowful Mysteries

1. THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

Luke 22,39-46. Verses 41-42,44:
And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, “Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.” . . . He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.

2. THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Matthew 27,15-26.
Verse 26: Then [Pilate] released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

3. THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

Matthew 27,27-31.
Verses 29-30: and plaiting a crown of thorns [the soldiers] put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.

4. THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

John 19,16-17: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha.

5. THE CRUCIFIXION

Luke 23,33-49. Verses 44-46: It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

(Turn to the Concluding Prayers)

The Glorious Mysteries

1. THE RESURRECTION

Luke 24:1-12. Verses 5-7: ... and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise."

2. THE ASCENSION

Acts 1,6-12. Verse 9-11: And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

3. THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 2,1-13. Verses 2-4: And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

4. THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

Universal Catechism, par. 974: The Most Blessed Virgin Mary, when the course of her earthly life was completed, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven, where she already shares in the glory of her Son's Resurrection, anticipating the resurrection of all members of his Body.

5. THE CORONATION OF MARY

Revelation 12,1: And a great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars....

Concluding Prayers

- F. Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile, show us to the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
- G. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Sign of the cross.)

Pro-Life Rosary

The Pro-Life rosary has the same structure as the standard 5-decade Dominican rosary, but it has specific bead colors and some adapted prayers as follows (a diagram of the rosary is on the following page):

Bead Colors

- W = White or Clear
P = Purple
G = Green
R = Red
B = Light Blue
Bl = Black
A = Aqua Blue

Prayer at the Crucifix

“Lord, for all those who say ‘I don’t believe,’ I say ‘I believe in God.’”
Continue with the Apostles’ Creed.

Prayer at the first Our Father bead

Offer the first Our Father prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Prayer at the three purple Hail Mary beads

Purple represents the Lord’s Passion and Death. Pray “Lord, I offer these three Hail Mary’s for an increase in Faith, Hope and Love in all people so that all people will always choose life, and I also offer them in reparation for the suffering you endure each time an unborn baby is killed, each time someone is euthanized, each time death overcomes life in this world. Amen.”

every red ‘Hail Mary’ I pray that every evil, anti-life law in our nation and world be reversed. With every white ‘Hail Mary’ I plead protection and strengthening of every pro-life law in existence; and with every blue ‘Hail Mary’ I petition for new and strong pro-life laws to be enacted in our nation and in our world. Amen.”

Fifth Decade

After stating the mystery, pray “Lord Jesus, I thank you for your incarnation. You were formed in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and your humanity is the source of our humanity from the moment of our conception. Had Satan had his way, you too would have been torn from your mother’s womb, never to be born, and never to fulfill your destiny. On every green ‘Hail Mary’ I thank you for those who in any way work for life. Give them continued courage, strength, peace of heart, and love. Protect them from all evil and increase their witness in this nation and in the world. Strengthen their families to understand the importance of their work and to support them in their stand for life.

“Mary, our mother, join us in our intercession for the end of all pro-death, pro-choice activities. With Christ crush the head of evil in our nation, our world, and in our personal lives. Roll back the crimson holocaust. With every white ‘Hail Mary’ of the decade advance the cause of your divine Son, Jesus, the incarnate Word. Amen.”

Rosary Making Instructions

Overview

This document describes the supplies, tools and techniques necessary to make a number of different types of chaplets, including the 5-Decade Dominican Chaplet (also known as the rosary).

Health Issues

Making dozens of rosaries on a consistent basis has the possibility of leading to common health problems including eyestrain, headaches, general fatigue, and repetitive motion injury.

If you plan on a lot of rosaries (e.g., hundreds over a few days or weeks) be sure to follow these suggested guidelines:

POSTURE

Sit in a comfortable chair and try to maintain good back, neck, head and shoulder posture. Sitting for long periods of time in hunched positions can lead to back, neck or shoulder pain, and even headaches. Working at a good bench or worktable can help keep the work at the proper height and take strain off of your body.

LIGHTING, VISION

Make sure that your work area has excellent lighting. You may also wish to use prescription glasses, as the work is frequently small and detailed.

PROPER TOOLS

Use the best tools you can afford, preferably ergonomic ones. This will make the entire project more enjoyable and easier on your body. Cord rosaries are pretty quick and the tools simple, but chain rosaries take a fair amount of grasping and wrist twisting, which can be hard on your wrists.

BREAKS

Take 5-minute breaks at least once an hour. Get up, walk around, look outside. Give your body a change of position.

Tools

Your choice of rosary-making tools will depend on the type of rosaries you are making. In general, the quality of the tools being used can positively or negatively affect how easily and quickly a rosary can be made. Poor quality tools, even in the best of hands, can have poor, painful or frustrating results. High quality tools are relatively inexpensive and may last many years.

Cord rosaries require only a simple knotting tool, costing only a few dollars at most. In a pinch, you can make your own from a wood dowel and u-channel material from a discarded umbrella. Simply drill a hole in one end of the dowel and insert the channel material so that it extends from the dowel about three inches. Remove any sharp edges from the channel and shape the dowel to comfortably fit your hand. Sometimes a wood bead reamer can be helpful. Wood

beads often have burs or sawdust in them which can be easily and quickly removed by a wood bead reamer.

Chain rosaries — those made from stock wire or individual links — require at least a set of rosary pliers. These special pliers combine a side-cutter and round-nose plier into a single unit. We strongly recommend the purchase of smooth-jaw chain nose pliers as well, without which some techniques are very difficult and rough on the fingers. When stone beads are used, it is also helpful to have a fine bead reamer on hand. Some stone beads may have irregular bores or be plugged by foreign objects. The drill-holes can be quickly cleared by a decent reamer.

Flexwire rosaries require a set of special crimping pliers to set a crimp-bead on the wire and side-cutters for cutting the wire. As with chain rosaries, it is useful to have a fine bead reamer available for use with any beads having irregular bores.

All of these tools are available via The Rosary Shop at <http://www.rosaryshop.com/>.

Supplies

The supplies necessary for rosary making vary in cost from a few cents to over \$100, depending on the type of chaplet you are making. Obviously, almost every chaplet requires a number of beads and a choice of a crucifix, cross, center and perhaps a medal (or several). Some chaplets omit one or more of these elements.

Cord chaplets then require cord. The cord may vary in thickness from one to two millimeters, depending on the size of the chaplet and the beads, and is made from many different materials; cotton, nylon, polyester, etc. It is often dyed to achieve particular colors and may be bonded — treated with a waxlike chemical to help it hold together. Unbonded cord can be more difficult to thread through beads, but a little beeswax, glue, nail polish or saliva applied to the end can help keep it from fraying. Synthetic cords will generally last longer than natural fibers, but some like nylon do not hold color well.

Chain chaplets require a combination of eyepins, jumprings and chain, or the wire from which to manually make these. Flexwire chaplets require special flexwire and crimp beads. The exact number of each of these follows the techniques area. The eyepin, jumpring and chain dimensions vary, depending on the size of the rosary. The most common eyepin is one inch long and .028 inches in diameter. Common jumprings are 3-4mm. Rosary chain is called cable chain with a 2.5-3mm link. Other types of links are also used, but cable is fairly easy to get. Bulk wire and flexwire are available in many diameters, but like the eyepins, .028 inches is common.

Flexwire chaplets require .019”-.024” flexwire, 2-3mm crimp beads, and one or more types of separator beads.

All needed supplies are available from The Rosary Shop.

Techniques

Like any art, rosary-making consists of numerous basic techniques that may appear simple, but do require some practice to do consistently.

CORD KNOTS

The special cord knots found on most cord rosaries require only a knotting tool, cord, and a little finger dexterity. These instructions are written for right-handers. Left-handers just reverse left/right directions.

1. Grip the knotting tool by the handle with the left hand so that the open side of the u-channel is facing you.
2. Lay the cord along the side of the prong with the groove/channel facing you, holding the cord in place with your left forefinger.
3. With your right hand, wrap the cord entirely around the prong three (or more) times, moving back toward the handle and scooting your left forefinger back as you go. The cord will be wrapping over itself.
4. After the third wrap, with your right hand tuck the end of the cord through the slot in the middle of the tool, under you previous wraps.
5. Carefully slide the knot off, keeping it small, and gently pull to tighten it. The knot can be moved up to several inches while loose



by pushing/rolling it along the cord. You may need to gently roll it in your fingers as you tighten it so that it coils up nicely.

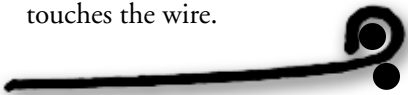
6. If you need to untie the knot, roll it backward with your fingers until it loosens and pull it apart.

After a little practice making knots will come quickly and easily. If this process is too difficult or confusing, you might try regular finger-tied (square) knots between the beads.

MAKING, FILLING AND CONNECTING EYEPINS.

There is an eyepin going through every bead on a chain rosary. Eyepins can be purchased ready-to-use, or made by hand from a roll of wire. If you are creating eyepins from bulk wire, please start with step one. If you are starting with manufactured eyepins, please start at step six.

1. Using round nose pliers (or the end of the rosary pliers) firmly grasp the end of the wire.
2. Rotate the pliers about 270 degrees, wrapping the wire firmly around one of the jaws until the end butts up against the wire. Notice that the size of the loop is dependent primarily upon where on the jaws the wire was grasped.
3. Keeping the jaws in the loop, loosen the grip and rotate them backwards until the jaw outside of the loop touches the wire.



4. Tighten the grip and continue to rotate the pliers in the same direction about 45 degrees, creating a loop that looks like



5. Using cutting pliers, cut the eyepin off of the stock wire so that it is about one inch long.

6. "Fill" the eyepin by placing it through a bead.



7. Using the wire cutters built into the side of your rosary pliers (or another set of cutters), snip the wire so that about 3/8 of an inch of wire extends past the bead. With practice you will be able to judge the length of wire needed by sight. The overall length of the eyepin will vary depending on the size of the bead.

8. As close to the bead as you can, bend the wire back to make a 90 degree angle.



Bend the wire in such a way that the second loop will be perpendicular to the first one on the other side of the bead. This will limit kinking in your completed rosary.

9. Move pliers down to the end of the wire so that the wire ends just a hair past the tips of your pliers. Grip the wire firmly with the pliers. Rotating your wrist, roll the wire in toward the bead to make an nice even loop,



leaving a small gap in the loop so that the next eyepin will be able to fit through it.

10. Place the eye of the next eyepin through the gap you just made.



11. Finish the loop with your pliers and gently squeeze the first eyepin closed. Try to tuck the end of the wire slightly into the hole of the bead. Leave no extra space between the wire loop and the bead (the bead should not be able to slide on the wire). This will make the rosary less likely to come apart with much use.



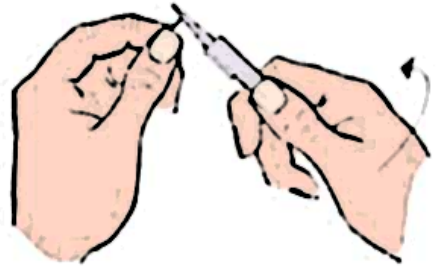
Simply repeat these steps as many times as are necessary to make the parts of your chaplet.

MAKING AND USING CHAIN

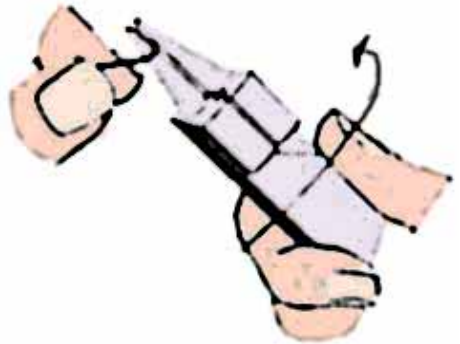
Chain can be purchased premade or made by hand from bulk rolls of wire. Handmade chain, depending on how well it is made and what kind of wire is used, can be just as strong as comparable manufactured chain (with the exception of soldered chain). Many rosary makers like to place a few links of chain between separate parts of their rosaries. Doing so can improve the chaplet's appearance, and make it easier to pray without having to look at the beads — the person can know where they are simply be feeling the space between the beads.

There are different styles of handmade chain. A common one, the “S” style, is taught here. To make your own chain, please start at step one. To use premade chain, please start at step thirteen:

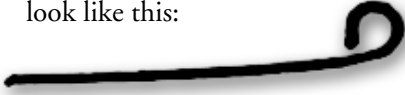
1. Grasp the end of the wire with your round nose or rosary pliers. Remember that the size of your wire loop is determined by how far down the wire is gripped in the pliers — the lower down, the larger the loop. Your loops will be consistent if you grab very end of the wire with the same part of the pliers each time. (TIP: Some people put small notches in the round tips of the rosary pliers to mark where they want the wire to rest. This helps form consistent loops.)



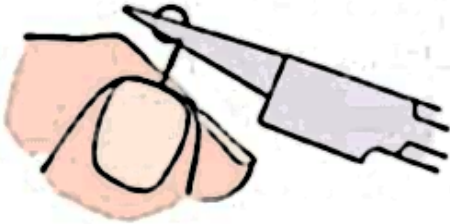
2. Rotate the pliers counterclockwise 270 degrees ($3/4$ of a full circle).



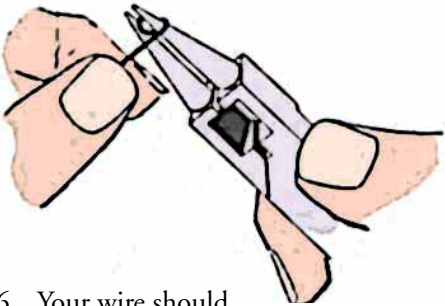
3. Gently pinch the eye so that it is closed (chain or flat nose pliers are great for this) The wire should now look like this:



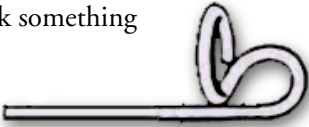
4. Grip the loop you have just made as follows (gripping the loop in the wrong place will make the finished link uneven or difficult to close):



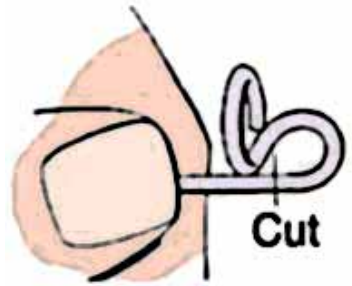
5. As with the first loop, rotate the pliers counterclockwise 270 degrees. Make sure that the loop you just made is snug on the wire.


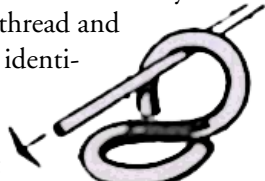


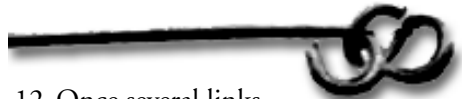
6. Your wire should now look something like this:



7. Now cut the loop you just made as shown, below.



8. Gently squeeze this second loop closed.
9. The completed link will look like this:
- 
10. To add another link, thread the wire through your finished link as shown and return to the beginning of these instructions. NOTE: It is very important to thread and bend all links identically, or else your chain will come out very uneven!
- 
11. Once you have completed the first loop on the new link, the combination will look like this:



12. Once several links have been completed and joined together, you may need to go back through the chain, make sure that all of the links are fully-closed, and even gently squeeze the links together. Do this by placing the

plier jaws on the outside of the loops of a particular link. Gently squeeze so that the link "closes."



USING JUMPRINGS AND SPLIT RINGS

Jumprings and split rings are used to connect crucifixes, crosses, centers and medals to your chaplet. Jumprings are the most common connector. To use a jumpring, open it by twisting it open — do not pull the ends directly apart as this can introduce fractures into the ring, weakening it. Then simply attach the parts to the jumpring and close it by gently twisting it back into shape.

A split ring is significantly stronger than a jumpring. They are made from strong, spring-like metal and look like miniature key-rings. To attach your parts using a split ring, slide them into the ring much as you would a key into a key-ring. There are special pliers available for doing this, but they are rarely necessary unless you work with a lot of very strong split rings. Toothpicks can help.

MAKING BOWS

A bow is an attractive and *extremely* strong alternative to jumprings and split rings. It takes time, practice and patience to learn to make good bows by hand.

1. Grasp the end of the wire with very tips of your round nose or rosary pliers so that about 1/4 inch extends beyond the pliers (the longer this piece, the more wraps you'll have to do at the end). Bend the wire about 45 degrees.

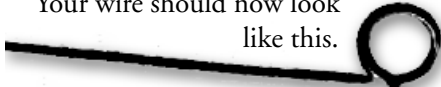


13. Most rosaries use three or more links on each side of every Our Father bead. To connect the chain to your chaplet, first make sure your chain is the desired length (by cutting off any excess links). Open the eyepin or jumpring by twisting the loop open to the side — do not open it by unrolling it. Place the chain link onto the open end and close the eyepin or jumpring by twisting the free end back into its loop. Squeeze it tight if necessary.

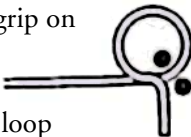


2. Carefully move the pliers towards your hand so that the bend you just made is right outside of the jaws. You are about to create the loop that takes the place of a jump or split ring. Therefore, you may wish to grip the wire farther down on the jaws so as to make a larger loop.

3. Now bend the wire in the opposite direction 360 degrees, creating a closed loop. You will need to release the grip part way through the bend; rotate the pliers back and take a second grip to complete the loop. Your wire should now look like this.



4. Loosen the grip on the pliers and rotate them in the loop clockwise to this point:



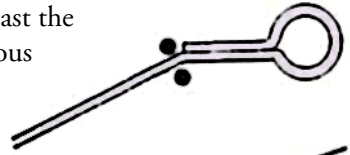
5. Grip the wire at this point. Using your hand, bend the long end of the wire until it is roughly parallel to the short end. They don't have to be perfect. You can slide your center, medal or crucifix onto the large loop anytime between now and before you begin winding the wraps.



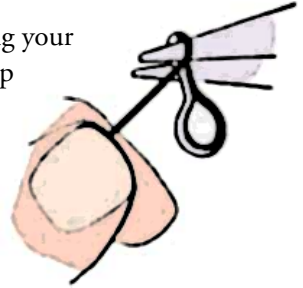
6. Using the pliers, firmly grasp the wire at the tip of the short end. Using your hand, bend the long end approximately 45 degrees (similar to the first step):



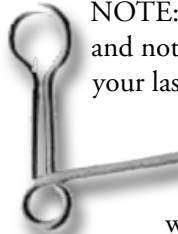
7. As in step 2, slide the pliers just past the previous bend:



8. Now, using your hand, wrap the wire around the pliers to form a smaller loop.

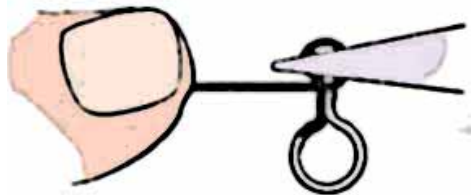


9. Your wire should now look like this.

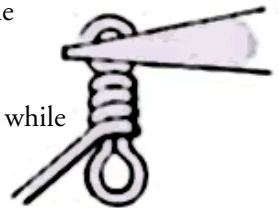


NOTE: If this is a "real" bow and not a practice one, this is your last chance to slide the center, medal or crucifix onto the larger loop! Once you begin winding it will be too late.

10. Grip the loop you just made as shown below:



11. Carefully wrap the wire around the two center wires, being careful to keep the wraps close together. It's okay if the center wires don't stay perfectly still while wrapping.



12. Now, using some good side or end cutters, cut off the extra wire and pinch the end tightly into the coil. Your finished bow will look like this (or better!):



FLEXWIRE CHAPLETS

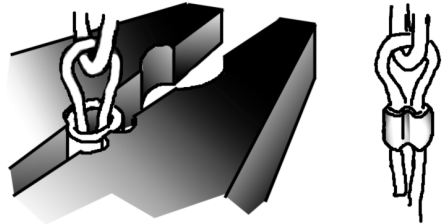
An animated tutorial for making flexwire rosaries is available at The Rosary Shop web site. Flexwire rosaries are among the strongest, fastest and simplest to make. Flexwire is made of multiple strands — as many as 49 — of stainless steel wire which are then coated with a tough but supple nylon sheath. The wire comes in different thicknesses and the coating in different colors. For rosaries, the selected wire should be at least 0.019 inches thick. (As a comparison, the average eyepin is 0.028 inches thick.)

Though thinner than the typical eyepin, flexwire rosaries are actually stronger because there are no links that can stretch, separate or wear. For example, even the soldered chain on most rosaries can be pulled apart with a purposeful tug, and the eyepins will separate much more quickly.

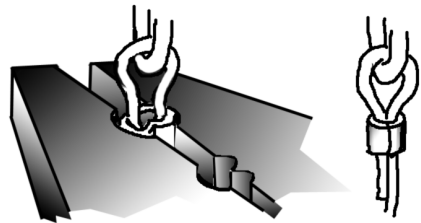
But 0.024 inch flexwire has a test pull strength of about 40 pounds.

Making flexwire rosaries requires a set of special (but inexpensive) crimping pliers and wire cutters. Take a close look at the crimping pliers. There are two crimping areas; one with a small tooth in it, the other round. The key to a flexwire rosary's strength is the proper use of the crimping pliers.

1. Run one end of the flexwire through a crimp bead and then the eye on the center or crucifix.
2. Turn the wire back on itself and run it back through the crimp bead, creating a loop through the center or crucifix eye. At least 4mm of wire should be extending back through the crimp bead (this will be tucked into the beads). *If the wire does not extend all the way through the crimp bead and out the other side, your rosary will be very weak and probably fall apart with a small tug.*
3. Using the crimping jaw with the small tooth in it, apply firm pressure on the crimp bead so that it is about 3mm away from the center or crucifix eye. The spacing is important so that the wire does not bind. The bead should collapse completely.



4. Release the crimp bead and rotate it 90 degrees. Now crimp it in the smooth jaws so that it folds together.



5. Release the crimp bead and rotate it 45 degrees. Gently crimp it with the smooth jaws to make it more round. Repeat this until it has a smooth, cylindrical appearance.
6. Now string the beads as desired. It is common to place separator beads between the Hail Mary beads and larger separator beads on either side of the Our Father beads.

Once all beads are on the strand, slide on the second crimp bead and repeat steps 1 through 5, attaching the strand to the center or crucifix.

IMPORTANT: When crimping the second end of the wire, allow a small amount of slack in the beads so that the strand is not too tight. Flexwire does not stretch like cord, and if it is too tight, the rosary will have an unpleasant, stiff feel and will not coil up to nicely fit into a pocket or pouch.

Because there are no links on a flexwire rosary, attaching a medal takes some ingenuity. A common approach is to attach it to the flexwire loop under the center using a jumpring or split ring.

Centers, optional on most rosaries, are not optional on flexwire rosaries due to the method of construction.

Repeatedly crimping a single crimp bead will weaken it to the point of breaking.

BIRTHSTONE REFERENCE CARD	
MONTH	BIRTHSTONE
January	Garnet
February	Amethyst
March	Aquamarine Bloodstone
April	Diamond Crystal Mother of Pearl
May	Emerald Green Onyx
June	Alexandrite Pearl Moonstone
July	Ruby Jasper
August	Peridot Carnelian
September	Sapphire Lapis
October	Opal Tourmaline
November	Topaz Citrine
December	Turquoise

Chaplet Configurations

There are dozens of different chaplets. Though they almost all have similar elements — beads, medals, crucifixes — many have them in different numbers or locations. Following is a brief overview of a few popular chaplets.

All of the rosaries on this page are prayed using the standard Dominican rosary prayers and meditations found in this booklet. Please note that flexwire chaplets also require separator beads:

5-Decade Dominican Chaplet

(commonly known as the rosary)

- Hail Mary Beads: 53
- Our Father Beads: 6
- Center: 1 (optional)
- Crucifix or Cross: 1
- Medals: 1 or more (optional)
- Findings: 6-10' Cord; 53 eyepins, 4+ jumprings and 1' chain; or 4' Flexwire and 4 crimp beads

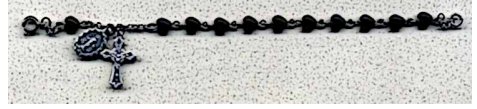
15-Decade Dominican Chaplet

(commonly known as the rosary, often as a “habit” rosary)

Almost identical to the common 5-Decade Rosary, but 15 decades instead of 5.

- Hail Mary Beads: 153
- Our Father Beads: 16
- Center: 1 (optional)
- Crucifix or Cross: 1
- Medals: 1 or more (optional)

- Findings: 15-30' Cord; 153 eyepins, 4+ jumprings and 3' chain; or 4' Flexwire and 4 crimp beads



1-Decade Rosary Bracelet

- Hail Mary Beads: 10
- Our Father Beads: 1
- Crucifix or Cross: 1 small
- Medals: 1 small (optional)
- Findings: 11 eyepins, 3+ jumprings, 3” chain and a bracelet clasp; or 1' Flexwire, 2 crimp beads and a bracelet clasp

1-Decade Rosary Chaplet

- Hail Mary Beads: 10
- Our Father Beads: 1
- Center: 1 (optional)
- Crucifix or Cross: 1
- Medals: 1 (optional)
- Findings: 11 eyepins, 4+ jumprings and 3” chain; or 1' Flexwire and 4 crimp beads



Attaching Medals

Medals are usually attached to rosaries either directly below the center or between the Our Father bead and Hail Mary beads below the center. It is fairly easy to attach on chain rosaries using only a jumpring.

Some have multiple medals attached, each one near an Our Father bead.

Attaching medals to cord rosaries is a little more difficult. To do so, one of the wraps in the special cord rosary knot should be strung through the jumpring, thereby attaching the medal to the knot.

Angelic Crown

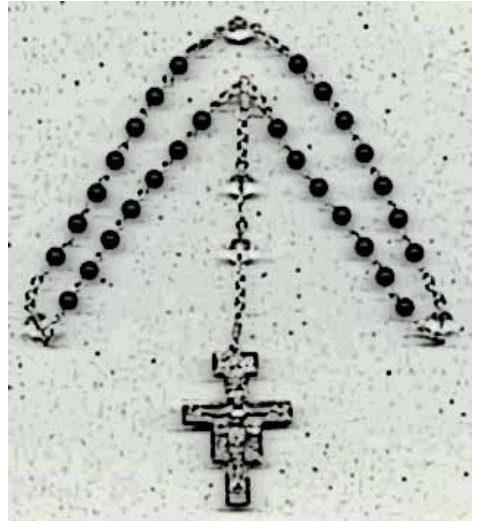
The Angelic Crown consists of nine groups of three beads each; between each group there is one large bead, and at the end four more large beads are added. A medal, representing the holy Angels is attached to the chaplet. On the small beads the "Hail Mary" is said and on the large beads the "Our Father."

- Hail Mary Beads: 27
- Our Father Beads: 12
- Center: 1 (optional)
- Crucifix or Cross: 1
- Medals: 1 representing the angels
- Findings: 4-6' Cord; 39 eyepins, 5+ jumprings and 2' chain; or 4' Flexwire and 4 crimp beads

Franciscan Crown

Also known as the Rosary of the Seven Joys. Composed of seven decades of 1 Our Father and 10 Hail Marys each. At the end 2 Hail Marys are added, and it is concluded with the Our Father and Hail Mary.

- Hail Mary Beads: 73
- Our Father Beads: 8
- Center: 1 (optional)
- Crucifix or Cross: 1
- Medals: 1 (optional)
- Findings: 5-7' Cord; 81 eyepins, 4+ jumprings and 2' chain; or 6' Flexwire and 4 crimp beads



Anglican Prayer Chaplet

The Anglican Rosary consists of four septades (groups of seven) Hail Mary beads separated by Our Father beads. There are two Our Father beads between the center and crucifix.

The specific meditations for each group of beads are unknown.

- Septade Beads: 30
- Cruciform Beads: 5
- Center: 1 (optional)
- Crucifix or Cross: 1
- Medals: 1 (optional)
- Findings: 4-6' Cord; 35 eyepins, 4+ jumprings and 1' chain; or 4' Flexwire and 4 crimp beads

For more information on these and other chaplets, see the section on unusual rosaries at The Rosary Shop web site.

Patron Saints

A partial list of saints
and their respective
vocations, hobbies or
states in life.

ST ALBERT

Medical Technicians
Medical Technologists
Scientists

ST ANDREW

Fishermen
Gout
Russia
Scotland
Single Women

ST ANNE

Cabinet Makers
Canada
Grandmothers
Horseriders
Housekeepers
Housewives
Mothers
Women In Labor

ST ANTHONY

Amputees
Barren Women
Butchers
Cemetery Workers
Domestic Animals
Faith in Blessed
Sacrament
Grave Diggers
Lost Articles
Monks
Poor
Travelers

ST BARBARA

Ammunition Workers
Architects
Artillery
Brass Workers
Builders
Fireworks
Fortifications
Founders
Gunners
Impenitence
Lightning Miners
Stone Masons
Storms
Sudden Death
Warehouses

ST BENEDICT

Homeless
Monastics
Monks
Poisoning
Speleologists

ST BERNARD

Alpinists
Mountain
Climbers
Skiers

ST BRENDAN

Mariners
Navigators
Sailors
Seafarers
Yachtsmen

ST CAMILLUS

Hospitals
Nurses
Sick
Sickness

ST CATHERINE

Artists
Leather Workers
Philosophers
Scribes
Secretaries
Stenographers
Tongue

ST CATHERINE LABOURE

Miraculous Medal

ST CECELIA

Composers
Musicians
Throat
Vocalists

ST CHARLES BORROMEIO

Apple Orchards
Catechist
Clergy
Colic
Seminarians
Spiritual Directors
Stomach Trouble
Ulcers

ST CHRISTOPHER

Automobiles
Bachelors
Bus Drivers
Hazards of Traveling
Motorists
Porters
Sailors
Travel
Travelers
Truck Drivers

STS COSMAS & DAMIAN	ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON	ST GENESIUS
Barbers	Widows	Actors
Druggists	ST FLORIAN	Comedians
Pharmacists	Firefighters	Dancers
Physicians	ST FRANCIS DE SALES	Dance Teachers
Surgeons	Authors	Epilepsy
Chemical Industries	Confessors	Lawyers
ST DANIEL	Congo	Montebanks
Prophecy	Deaf	Organ Makers
ST DAVID	Journalists	Secretaries
Wales	Press	ST GEORGE
ST DENNIS	Teachers	Boy Scouts
Headaches	Writers	Cavalry
ST DISMAS	ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI	Chivalry
Prisoners	Animal Welfare	England
ST DOMINIC	Society	Farmers
Astronomers	Animals	Soldiers
Choir Members	Birds	ST GERARD
Dominican Order	Catholic Action	Expectant Mothers
ST DOROTHY	Fire	Mothers
Florists	Italy	Pregnant Women
Gardeners	Merchants	ST GREGORY
ST DYMPHNA	Needle Workers	Musicians
Family Harmony	Solitary Death	Singers
Insanity	ST FRANCIS XAVIER	ST HELEN
Mental Illness	Apostleship of Prayer	Archaeologists
Nerves	Australia	HOLY SPIRIT
Rape Victims	Borneo	Counsel
Runaways	China	Fear of the Lord
ST ELIZABETH (of Hungary)	Emigrants	Fortitude
Bakers	Hospital Administrators	Knowledge
Countesses	Immigrants	Piety
Falsely Accused	Missioners	Understanding
Nursing Services	Missions, Domestic	Wisdom
Tertiaries	Missions, Foreign	
	New Zealand	
	Winemakers	

ST HUBERT

Dog Bite
Hunters
Machinists
Mathematicians

ST IVES

Advocates
Judges
Lawyers
Notaries

ST JAMES

Arthritis
Blacksmiths
Chile
Laborers
Pilgrims
Rheumatism
Tanners
Veterinarians

ST JASON

Converts

ST JOAN OF ARC

France
Servicewomen
Soldiers
Virgins

ST JOHN BERCHMAN

Altar Servers
Mass Servers
Youth

ST JOHN NEUMANN

Catholic Education

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Art Dealers
Publishers
Asia Minor
Booksellers
Compositors
Engravers
Lithographers
Paper Makers

ST JOHN VIANNEY

Confessors
Parish Priests
Priests
Secular Priests

ST JOSEPH

Belgium
Canada
Carpenters
China
Confectioners
Doubt
Dying
Engineers
Families
Happy Death
Hesitation
Married Couples
Peru
Pioneers
Universal Church
Workers

ST JUDE

Desperation
Hopeless Cases
Impossible Situations

ST KEVIN

Long Life

ST LAWRENCE

Blindness
Ceylon
Cooks
Fire
Lumbago
Poor

ST LOUISE

Orphans
Widows

ST LUCY

Blindness
Cutters
Eye Diseases
Eyes
Peasants
Peddlers
Saddlers
Salespeople

ST LUKE

Artists
Butchers
Doctors
Glass Industry
Goldsmiths
Jewelers
Notaries
Painters
Physicians
Sculptors
Surgeons

ST MARIA GORETTI

Purity

ST MARK

Glaziers
Notaries
Stained Glass Workers

ST MARTIN DE PORRES African Americans Poor Sick Poor Hairstylists	ST NICHOLAS Bakers Brewers Brides Children Coopers Greece Pawn Brokers Russia Sicily Switzerland	ST PEREGRINE Cancer Patients Skin Diseases
ST MATTHEW Accounts Bankers Bookkeepers Stockbrokers Tax Collectors	OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL Enlightenment N.C.C.W.	ST PETER Bridge Builders Butchers Clock Makers Fever Fishermen Foot Trouble Frenzy Long Life Masons Net Makers Ship Builders Stationers Wolves
ST MAXIMILIAN KOLBE Difficult Century Families of Addicts	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Mexico	ST RAPHAEL Apothecaries Blindness Druggists Eye Diseases Happy Meetings Lovers Nurses Safe Journey Sheep Raisers
ST MICHAEL Battle Germany Grocers Mariners Paratroopers Peril at Sea Police Officers Radiologists Sailors Seafarers Sick Temptation	OUR LADY OF LORETTO Aviators Flyers Home Builders Lace Makers	ST RAYMOND Expectant Mothers Medical Records Librarian Obstetricians
MIRACULOUS America Brazil Hungary Portugal United States Virgins	OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP Never Failing Hope	ST RITA Desperation Healing of Wounds Loneliness Tumors
	ST PATRICK Ireland Snake Bite Toothache	ST ROBERT Canonists
	ST PAUL Authors Press Public Relations (Hospitals) Publishers Travel Writers	

ST ROQUE

Aids
Dog Fanciers
Invalids
Plague

ST ROSE OF LIMA

Latin America
Philippines
Vanity

SCAPULAR

Equador

ST SEBASTIAN

Archers
Arrowsmiths
Athletes
Bookbinders
Cattle
Diseases
Children, Unruly
Enemies of Religion
Funeral Directors
Gardeners
Hardware
Iron Workers
Lead Workers
Plague Patients
Potters
Racquet Makers
Stone Masons
Swans

STAR OF THE SEA

Navigators
Sailors
Yachtsmen

ST STEPHEN

Austria
Bricklayers
Casket Makers
Stone Workers

ST THERESA

Aviators
Missions, Domestic
Tuberculosis

ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

France
Missions, Foreign

ST THOMAS AQUINAS

Catholic Universities
Clear Weather
Pencil Makers
Scholars
Schools
Student/Schools
Theologians

ST THOMAS MORE

Adopted Children
Civil Servants
Court Workers
Difficult Marriages
Lawyers
Stepparents
Widowers

ST TIMOTHY

Stomach Disorders

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Charitable Societies
Charity
Hospital Workers
Lepers
Prisoners
Spiritual Help

ST WILLIAM

Adopted Children

Rose Petal Beads

We recommend some practice runs before using any rose petals that have a special meaning in one of these recipes.

Recipe 1

You will need: Rose petals (enough for 1/2 cup when chopped), 1/4 cup flour, 2 tsp salt, and Rose oil (optional)

Chop rose petals in a food processor using a plastic blade attachment. Add the flour and salt and blend. Continue blending in food processor and add a drop of rose oil and a small amount of water, blending until the dough is smooth. Pat the dough out on a working surface to 1/4-1/2 inch thickness. Cut out the dough with a thimble and roll each piece into a bead. String the beads on wire to make a hole. Allow to air dry.

Recipe 2

Put several handfuls of rose petals in the pan (don't use a copper pan, as there may be a chemical reaction between the pan and rose paste). Barely cover with water. Bring to a slow simmer and cook until the mass of rose petals forms a paste (takes about an hour). Stir frequently to prevent sticking.

Drain the liquid, and allow to cool. Manually form beads around a wire (to create the hole). If the paste is not sticky enough to hold its shape, add some egg white to the mixture. Allow to dry thoroughly before using.

Recipe 3

Gather approximately two pounds of petals. Dry out of the light until they are leathery but not brittle. Using a microwave on 'defrost' with a bowl of silica in the center speeds this up and preserves the color and scent of the petals.

Grind to flour. At this point add a drop of scent, color preserver like vitamin C, and perfume stabilizer (available at a perfume supply shop).

Mix with glue and knead to the consistency of play dough. The glue selection will determine the safety measures necessary and the durability of the beads; Elmer's glue will be easy and safe but short-lived, while an epoxy or similar chemical will require special handling but may last a lifetime.

Form the beads either on the intended chain or on a temporary string, lightly sprinkling the beads with gold embossing powder and then heating the surface of those beads (light bulb, toaster top, embossing gun) produces a very lovely gilded-leather effect.

Allow to hang dry until the beads are surface dry and place in the microwave on 'defrost', this time with the beads in the silica. Dry to wine-cork feel and consistency. If you don't use a microwave, hang to dry in a frost-free freezer for best results. Shellac very lightly (so the rose scent can still come through) and allow to dry.

Gentle tumbling for a very short period of time in a rock tumbler may help to smooth rough or irregular beads.

Other Resources

Rosary-Making Supplies

The Rosary Shop stocks the largest known variety of rosary-making supplies in one place — almost 1000. All items can be ordered directly over the Internet. *We do not have a print catalog.* Please see our web site for the latest list of parts and prices at <http://www.rosaryshop.com/>.

The Rosary Shop
805 NW Alder Street
McMinnville, OR 97128
U.S.A.

<http://www.rosaryshop.com/>
service@rosaryshop.com

Phone: 503-434-5264
FAX: 503-434-5803

These other suppliers also carry parts specifically for rosary makers:

Our Lady's Rosary Makers
PO Box 37080
4611 Poplar Level Road
Louisville, KY 40233

Lewis and Company
391 Third Avenue
Troy, NY 12181

The Rosary Workshop
W5209 16.5 Lane
Stephenson, MI 49887

Rosary Newsletter

To receive a free monthly newsletter from The Rosary Shop, send an e-mail to requests@rosaryshop.com with the subject line:

subscribe rosary-newsletter

Rosary-Maker Discussion Groups

The Rosary Shop hosts a free discussion group for people interested in the rosary and rosary making. You need e-mail and Internet access to participate. To sign up, send an e-mail from your e-mail account to requests@rosaryshop.com. To subscribe to the standard version in which you will receive individual e-mails, the subject line should read:

subscribe rosary-talk

To subscribe to the digest version, the subject line should read:

subscribe digest rosary-talk

To stop your subscription, the subject line should read:

unsubscribe rosary-talk

Additional Chaplets

Additional information on dozens of different chaplets is available at The Rosary Shop web site under *Information Center/Useful Resources/Unusual Rosaries*.

Mission Rosary Supplies

Inexpensive, subsidized mission rosary supplies can be ordered directly from Our Lady's Rosary Makers (contact information above). The restriction on these parts is that they may be used *only* for missions.

Placing an Order

The Rosary Shop accepts orders three ways; Internet, mail and FAX.

Internet—

We encourage you to place your order over the Internet at <http://www.rosaryshop.com/>. The web site has an easy and completely secure ordering system using the best commercially available encryption software. Internet orders also receive a coupon good for 10% off on the next order.

Mail—

To place an order by mail, please fill out all applicable information on the other side of this form and send it to:

The Rosary Shop
805 NW Alder Street
McMinnville, OR 97128
USA

Detailed instructions are in the next column. You are welcome to make copies of the order form as needed. Please be sure to print clearly.

FAX—

To place your order by FAX, please fill out the form on the other side of this page and fax it to 503-434-5803.

Telephone—

To place your order by telephone, please have your order information ready when you call 503-434-5264. We aren't always available to take orders by phone, but will return all messages as soon as possible.

Our Guarantee—

All regular items can be returned within 30 days of purchase for a complete refund for any reason. Shipping charges are refundable only if we sent the item to you by mistake. Custom handmade rosaries and other special-order items can be returned for a *partial* refund, which varies and is determined by The Rosary Shop on a case-by-case basis. If you wish to return an item, please pack it carefully *with a copy of your order form* and return it to The Rosary Shop, ATTN: Returns, 805 NW Alder Street, McMinnville, OR 97128, USA.

Detailed Instructions—

Please print clearly using a black pen.

1. Fill in the shipping information. This is the name and address of the person to whom the order will be shipped. Please be sure to include apartment or suite numbers.
2. Fill in *your* contact information. If it is the same as the shipping info, feel free to write in "same." Please include as much information as is possible, *especially your phone number*, so that we can contact you if there is a question about the order.
3. Fill in the payment information. If paying by check, be sure to include your check with the order (made out to "The Rosary Shop"). If

paying by credit card, please double-check your credit card information for accuracy.

4. Fill in the information for the parts you wish to order. *Please double-check this area before sending your order.*
5. Calculate the total parts cost.
6. Calculate the shipping and handling cost. We ship all orders by Priority or First Class Mail in the U.S.A. and usually take 2-3 business days to ship. International orders are shipped by Small Packet Air Mail, and take 5-7 business days.
7. Add the total parts cost and shipping cost to determine the grand total. Write this amount in box 7. If you are paying by check, please make your check out to "The Rosary Shop." (There is no sales tax on any item ordered from The Rosary Shop.) Now simply drop the order in the mail or FAX it to us.

Please feel free to use additional sheets if necessary.

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McMinnville, OR 97128
USA

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FAX: 503-434-5803

Web: <http://www.rosaryshop.com/>

e-mail: service@rosaryshop.com