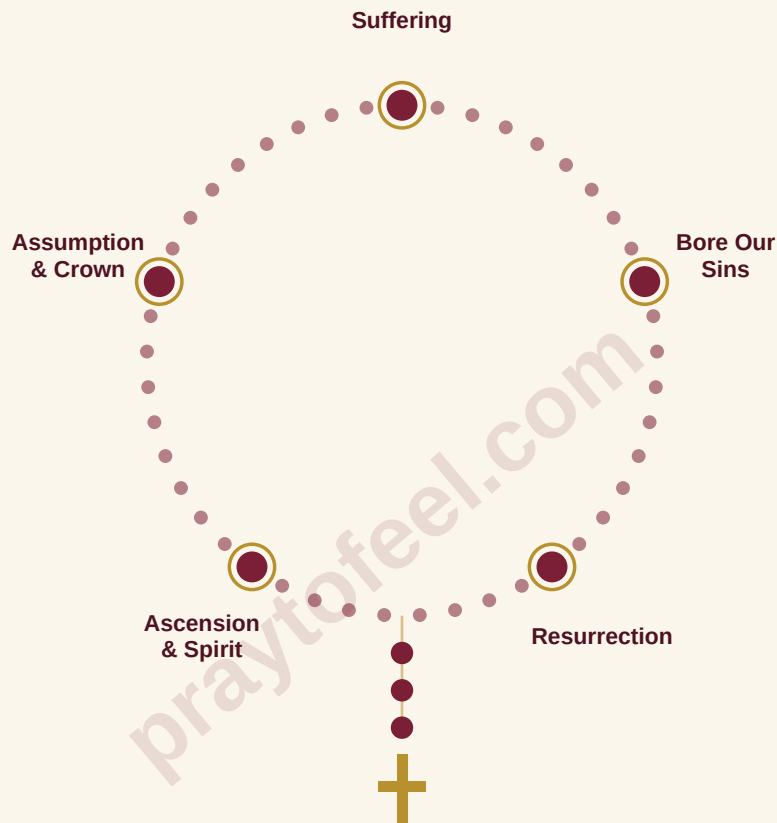




A GUIDE OF PRAYER & REMEMBRANCE

The Rosary for the Dead



A complete, step-by-step guide to praying the Rosary for a departed soul — with the full order of prayers, the meaning of each decade, and a quick-reference card for every prayer spoken along the way.

Offered in loving memory of

[Name of the Deceased]

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM

Before You Begin



Why We Pray This Rosary

In times of sickness and death, prayer is the greatest comfort, consolation, and help that we can offer one another. Praying the Rosary for a departed soul is an act of both mourning and hope — we entrust our loved one into the mercy of God while asking Our Blessed Mother Mary to intercede on their behalf, that they may be led safely home to peace and everlasting light.

How to Use This Guide

Leader lines are prayed aloud by the person leading the Rosary; **All** lines are the group's response — shown in bold throughout this guide.

Wherever you see *[Name of deceased]*, insert the name of the person you are praying for, and adjust *he/she* and *his/her* as needed.

The guide is organized in the order you will pray it: Opening → Five Decades → Concluding Prayers. Full texts of every prayer (Apostles' Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, and more) are gathered on the Prayer Reference Card at the end for quick lookup or memorization.

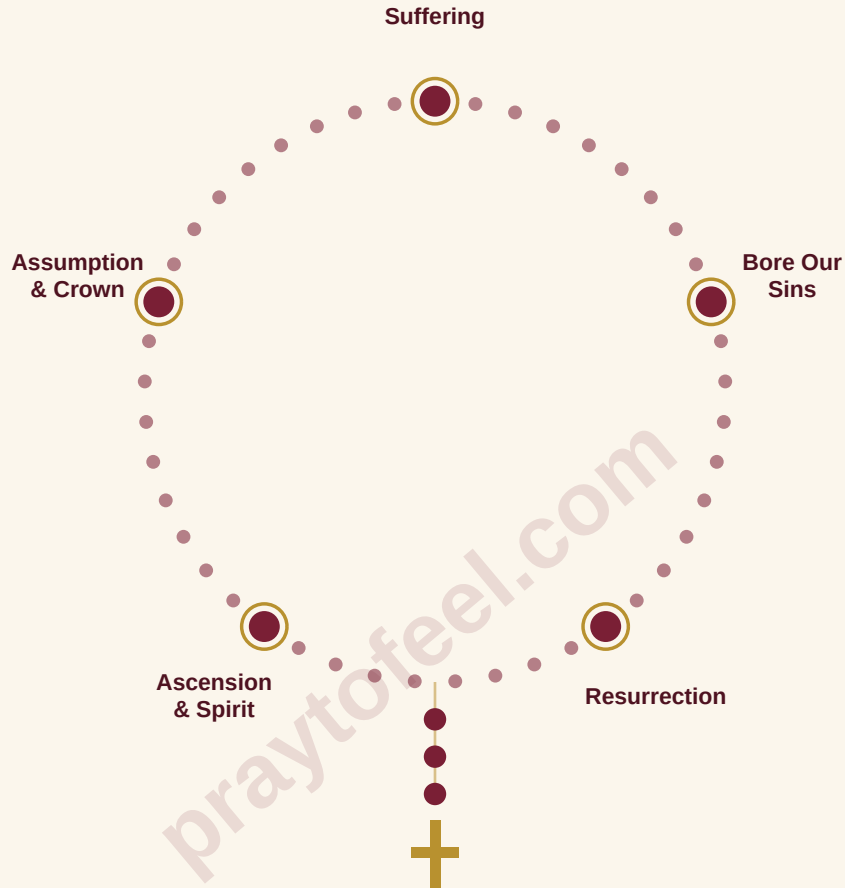
At a Glance

Part	Steps	What Happens	Time
Opening	1–5	Sign of the Cross, opening prayer, Apostles' Creed, Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be	4–5 min
The Five Decades	6–30	Five decades, each with a reflection, Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be, and the Fatima & Eternal Rest prayers	18–20 min
Concluding Prayers	31	Hail Holy Queen, closing prayer, final Eternal Rest, and blessing	3–4 min

Total time: roughly 25–30 minutes when prayed aloud with a group.

Reading the Rosary

Each of the five large beads begins a decade with its Our Father and its own reflection; the ten small beads that follow are the Hail Marys. The pendant beneath the medal carries the opening prayers, before you begin travelling the loop.



Steps 1–5 • Opening Prayers



Step 1 • Sign of the Cross & Opening Prayer

LEADER

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER

In times of sickness and death, prayers are the best means of consolation, comfort, and help that people can give. Let us now begin this Rosary by calling on our Blessed Mother Mary to pray for us now as we pray for [Name of deceased].

LEADER

God of heaven, You called [Name of deceased] from this life. God of Mercy, fulfill his/her faith and hope in You. Lead [Name of deceased] safely home to heaven to be with You forever, filled with joy and peace in Your presence. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Step	Prayer	Said By	Note
2	Apostles' Creed	Leader begins, All continue	See Reference Card →
3	The Lord's Prayer	Leader begins, All continue	See Reference Card →
4	Hail Mary ×3	Leader / All, alternating	See Reference Card →
5	Glory Be	Leader begins, All continue	See Reference Card →

Once Step 5 is complete, you are ready to begin the First Decade.

The Five Decades



Each decade follows the same rhythm — a short reflection, then the Our Father, ten Hail Marys, the Glory Be, and the Fatima & Eternal Rest prayers — but the reflection and intention change each time, tracing the pattern of Christ's own life.

STEPS 6–10 • THE MYSTERY OF SUFFERING

First Decade

A person's life is patterned on the life of Jesus. Jesus was conceived, born, grew in grace, wisdom, and age. As an adult, He worked at a trade, carried on His ministry with difficulty. He suffered, died, and was buried. In the First Decade of the Rosary, let us reflect on the mystery of suffering. Jesus suffered a bitter agony and the cruel scourging to lead us on the way to the Father. Let our prayer intention be that *[Name of deceased]*, having accepted the suffering of life, may be at peace with the Lord.

Our Father ×1 • Hail Mary ×10 • Glory Be ×1 • Fatima & Eternal Rest

STEPS 11–15 • BEARING OUR SINS

Second Decade

In the Second Decade, we will consider how Jesus willingly bore our sins when He was crowned with thorns, carried His cross to Calvary, and was then crucified on the cross in a supreme act of love. Let our intention be that *[Name of deceased]*, having carried his/her cross, may now share the glory of a true disciple.

Our Father ×1 • Hail Mary ×10 • Glory Be ×1 • Fatima & Eternal Rest

STEPS 16–20 • THE RESURRECTION

Third Decade

In the Third Decade, we will reflect on the Glorious Mystery of Jesus rising from the dead. Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me, though he should die, will come to life.' This is the glory of Easter and of our faith — that we too will be raised to glory. Let our intention be that *[Name of deceased]*, having believed in the Lord, is now with Him in glory.

Our Father ×1 • Hail Mary ×10 • Glory Be ×1 • Fatima & Eternal Rest

STEPS 21–25 · THE ASCENSION & THE SPIRIT

Fourth Decade

In the Fourth Decade, we contemplate the Ascension of Jesus into heaven and His sending of the Holy Spirit. Before Jesus returned to the Father, He promised the Apostles and all disciples, present and future, that He was returning to prepare a place for them, that He would send His Spirit to guide them, and that He would be with them until the end of time. Let our intention be that *[Name of deceased]*'s family and all others who mourn loved ones be assured that they have reached the place Jesus prepared for them.

Our Father ×1 • Hail Mary ×10 • Glory Be ×1 • Fatima & Eternal Rest

STEPS 26–30 · MARY'S ASSUMPTION & CROWNING

Fifth Decade

In the Fifth Decade, we reflect on the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in our Christian life through her Assumption into Heaven and her Coronation as Queen of Heaven. Because of her perfect faith and obedience, and her standing at the foot of the Cross, we believe she was assumed into Heaven and honored by God, the angels, and the saints — her crown of light a symbol of that reward. Let our intention be that *[Name of deceased]* also receives the reward of his/her faith.

Our Father ×1 • Hail Mary ×10 • Glory Be ×1 • Fatima & Eternal Rest

Step 31 • Concluding Prayers



Once the fifth decade is complete, close the Rosary with the following, in order:

Order	Prayer
1	Hail Holy Queen
2	Concluding prayer (“O God...”)
3	Eternal Rest, prayed once more for [Name of deceased]
4	Final blessing for the souls of the faithful departed
5	Sign of the Cross

Closing Blessing

LEADER

May his/her soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

ALL

Amen.

Full texts for every prayer named above are on the following Prayer Reference Card.

The Prayer Reference Card



Every prayer spoken during the Rosary, in full, for memorization or quick lookup.

Apostles' Creed

LEADER

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day, He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

ALL

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

LEADER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

ALL

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.

Hail Mary

LEADER

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

ALL

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

Glory Be

LEADER

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

ALL

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Fatima & Eternal Rest Prayer

LEADER

O my Jesus,

ALL

Forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.

LEADER

Eternal rest grant unto [Name of deceased], O Lord.

ALL

And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

LEADER

May he/she rest in peace.

ALL

Amen.

Hail Holy Queen

LEADER

Hail, Holy Queen.

ALL

Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy 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.

Concluding Prayer

LEADER

O God,

ALL

Whose only begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that while meditating upon these mysteries of the most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Final Commendation

LEADER

Eternal rest grant unto [Name of deceased], O Lord.

ALL

And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

LEADER

May he/she rest in peace.

ALL

Amen. May his/her soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

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