

Marian Prayers



The Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In the Western Church, the rosary is the preeminent form of prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary. May is a very good month to begin praying the rosary daily.

- **Joyful (Monday / Saturday)**

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation
5. The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple

- **Sorrowful (Tuesday / Friday)**

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

- **Glorious (Sunday / Wednesday)**

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Coronation

- **Luminous (Thursday)**

1. The Baptism in the Jordan
2. The Wedding at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

Hail Holy Queen

The Hail Holy Queen (Salve Regina) is one of four special anthems to the Mother of God that have traditionally been part of the Liturgy of the Hours. This prayer is commonly said at the end of the rosary and in morning prayers.

**Hail, Holy Queen, 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! Amen.

Hail Mary

**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.**

Memorare

The Memorare invites us to ask the Blessed Mother for her assistance and her grace, especially when we feel most troubled in our daily lives. Although the actual author of the Memorare is unknown, it has been traditionally attributed to the abbot St. Bernard of Clairvaux from the 12th century. It was also championed by *another* Bernard, the French priest Claude Bernard, who used it extensively in his ministry to the poor and to prisoners in the 17th century. Claude Bernard credited reciting the Memorare with curing him of a serious illness.

**Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection,
Implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.
Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.
To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.**

Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven)

The opening words of the Eastertide anthem of the Blessed Virgin, the recitation of which is prescribed from Compline of Holy Saturday until Afternoon Prayer of the Saturday after Pentecost inclusively. During the Paschal (Easter) season, substitute this prayer for the Angelus.

***Regina coeli laetare, Alleluia,
Quia quem meruisti portare, Alleluia,
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, Alleluia.
Ora pro nobis Deum. Alleluia.***

Legend says the St. Gregory the Great (d. 604) heard the first three lines of the "Regina Caeli" chanted by angels on a certain Easter morning in Rome while he walked in a great religious procession and that the saint thereupon added the fourth line. A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful, who devoutly recite this according to the formula indicated for the time of the year. It is a praiseworthy practice to recite these prayers in the early morning, at noon, and in the evening.

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia:

R. For he whom thou hast deserved to bear, alleluia,

V. Hath risen, as he said, alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. Because the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

**Let us pray. O God, who by the Resurrection of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has vouchsafed to make glad the whole world, grant, we beseech thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life.
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen. (Roman Breviary)**

The Angelus

This wonderful prayer, which reminds us of the Annunciation, evolved from a recitation of three Hail Mary's following an evening bell around the 12th century to its present form in the 16th century. Although the Angelus has been traditionally said three times daily, at 6 am, noon and 6 pm, you can pray it at anytime! During the Easter season, The Regina Coeli prayer replaces the Angelus.

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

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.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Magnificat

The *Magnificat*, also known as the Cantic of Mary, taken from Luke's Gospel (1:46-55), is the Blessed Virgin Mary's hymn of praise to the Lord. The *Magnificat* provides great material for meditation on the Visitation (when the angel Gabriel informs Mary that she is to be the Mother of God and also tells her of her relative Elizabeth's pregnancy with John the Baptist).

My soul magnifies the Lord

And my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;

Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid;

For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed;

Because He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name;

And His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear Him.

He has shown might with His arm,

He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

He has given help to Israel, his servant, mindful of His mercy

Even as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.



[A Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary](#)

This prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary has a special reference to our Blessed Mother's sad heart at Fatima in Portugal in 1917. During one of the many apparitions, Our Lady of Fatima told the three little shepherd children that God wished there to be devotion to her Immaculate Heart for world peace and for the salvation of souls, for our salvation. (With this devotion we imitate Mary's love for her Son and for humanity as we seek to do His will and to share His love. In uniting our hearts with hers we can better unite them with His as well!)

Immaculate Heart of Mary, my Mother, I come to you in childlike prayer.

I earnestly desire that all the people of the world may be brought back to the humble knowledge and love of the Sacred Heart of your dear Son.

I pray, dear Mother of my God, that the wonderful beauty and purity of your own Immaculate Heart may so win our souls that we may detest all sin and dedicate our lives to the honour and glory of the God who created us.

You revealed the secrets of your own sad heart at Fatima and begged for penance, prayer, and conversion of the world to God.

What more can I do than unite my heart to yours in this great yearning?

What can I add but the fervent prayer that all the world may listen to your pleading?

I give my heart to you, my heavenly Queen, and in confidence I leave to you what is best for me in answer to my prayer for love and reparation.

Immaculate Heart of the Mother of my God, I implore through your powerful intercession, the conversion of the hearts of men, complete victory over sin, and the return of the peace which you have promised. Amen.

[Our Lady of Lourdes Prayer](#)

This prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes commemorates a beautiful event! In 1858 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, a humble 14-year-old French girl in a grotto near the town of Lourdes in France asking for, among other things, prayer and penance for sinners. During the ninth of her 18 appearances to Bernadette that year, our Lady of Lourdes, asked Bernadette to dig up a spring of water where none had been found before. The pure water flowing from this spring has been the source of countless miraculous cures for 150 years!

St. Bernadette once said of the spring she discovered that, "one must have faith and pray; the water will have no virtue without faith." Let us all be inspired by this prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes to approach her with faith, hope and love!

O ever immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comfort of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings; deign to cast upon me a look of mercy. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favours, and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence, to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. I will endeavour to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory, and bless you in eternity. Amen.

[Traditional Prayer to Our Lady of Perpetual Help](#)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help (also known as **Our Lady of Perpetual Succour**) is a Roman Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary as represented in a famous Byzantine icon from the 15th-century. The image of the Blessed Mother with her Divine Son has helped her provide strength, comfort and even miracles to the faithful for centuries! The feast day of the image is celebrated on June 27, with novena devotions held every Wednesday. In this novena prayer to Our lady of Perpetual Help, we pay tribute to the Blessed Virgin Mary in asking for her assistance.



**Oh Mother of Perpetual Help,
grant that I may ever invoke your powerful name,
the protection of the living and the salvation of the dying.
Purest Mary, let your name henceforth be ever on my lips.
Delay not, Blessed Lady, to rescue me whenever I call on you.
In my temptations, in my needs, I will never cease to call on you,
ever repeating your sacred name, Mary, Mary.**

**What a consolation, what sweetness,
what confidence fills my soul when I utter your sacred name or even only think of you!
I thank the Lord for having given you so sweet, so powerful, so lovely a name.
But I will not be content with merely uttering your name.
Let my love for you prompt me ever to hail you Mother of Perpetual Help.
Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for me and grant me the favour I confidently ask of you.**

[\(Mention Request here\)](#)

Recite the Hail Mary three times

Remember that when we pray this novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help, that we are not choosing to worship her over her Divine Son. She is "our Mother on the order of grace," according to a Vatican II document, and all the graces Mary gives us come directly from our Lord. She is always ready to intercede with Him on our behalf, but never for anything contrary to His wishes.

[Prayer of the Immaculate Conception](#)

This prayer of the Immaculate Conception celebrates one of the four Marian dogmas of the Catholic Church which states that the Virgin Mary was free of original sin from the moment of her conception, in preparation for her role as the Mother of God.

**O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
did prepare a worthy dwelling place for Your Son,
we beseech You that, as by the foreseen death of this, Your Son,
You did preserve Her from all stain, so too You would permit us,
purified through Her intercession, to come unto You.
Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, world without end.
Amen.**

[Petition to Mary by Saint Alphonsus Liguori](#)

This prayer reminds us that just as our mothers were the first to teach us to love Christ, the Mother of God continues to present her Son to us, and to present us to him.

**Most holy Virgin Immaculate, my Mother Mary, to thee who art the Mother of my Lord,
the queen of the universe, the advocate, the hope, the refuge of sinners,
I who am the most miserable of all sinners, have recourse this day.
I venerate thee, great queen, and I thank thee for the many graces
thou has bestowed upon me even unto this day;
in particular for having delivered me from the hell which I have so often deserved by my sins.**

**I love thee, most dear Lady; and for the love I bear thee,
I promise to serve thee willingly forever and to do what I can
to make thee loved by others also.**

**I place in thee all my hopes for salvation;
accept me as thy servant and shelter me under thy mantle,
thou who art the Mother of mercy.**

**And since thou art so powerful with God, deliver me from all temptations,
or at least obtain for me the strength to overcome them until death.**

From thee I implore a true love for Jesus Christ.

Through thee I hope to die a holy death.

**My dear Mother, by the love thou bearest to Almighty God,
I pray thee to assist me always,
but most of all at the last moment of my life.**

**Forsake me not then, until thou shalt see me safe in heaven,
there to bless thee and sing of thy mercies through all eternity.**

Such is my hope. Amen.

[To Mary, Refuge of Sinners](#)

This prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary portrays Mary as the font of mercy and forgiveness, through whom we obtain forgiveness of our sins and protection from temptation.

**Hail, most gracious Mother of mercy,
hail, Mary, for whom we fondly yearn,
through whom we obtain forgiveness!**

Who would not love thee?

**Thou art our light in uncertainty, our comfort in sorrow,
our solace in the time of trial, our refuge from every peril and temptation.**

**Thou art our sure hope of salvation, second only to thy only-begotten Son;
blessed are they who love thee, our Lady!**

[Ave Maris Stella](#)

The hymn *Ave Maris Stella* (Hail Star of the Sea) is a wonderful tribute, both in prayer and song, to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The original Latin text dates back to around the 8th-9th centuries and has been attributed to several people including St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153). It was a particular favourite of those chanting it as part of the Divine Office (the Liturgy of the Hours) in the Middle Ages. The title, "Star of the Sea" is one of the oldest and most widespread titles applied to Mary. The hymn is frequently used as a prayer for safe-conduct for travellers.^[7]

**Hail, bright star of ocean,
God's own Mother blest,
Ever sinless Virgin,
Gate of heavenly rest.**

**Taking that sweet Ave
Which from Gabriel came,
Peace confirm within us,
Changing Eva's name.**

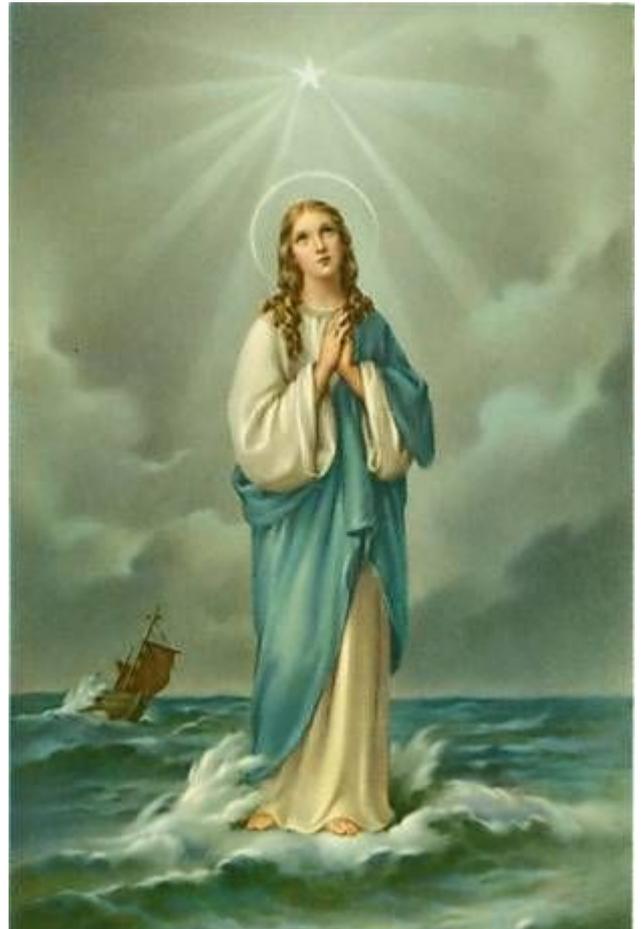
**Break the captives' fetters,
Light on blindness pour,
All our ills expelling,
Every bliss implore.**

**Show thyself a Mother;
May the Word Divine,
Born for us thy Infant,
Hear our prayers through thine.**

**Virgin all excelling,
Mildest of the mild,
Freed from guilt, preserve us,
Pure and undefiled.**

**Keep our life all spotless,
Make our way secure,
Till we find in Jesus,
Joy forevermore.**

**Through the highest heaven
To the Almighty Three,
Father, Son and Spirit,
One same glory be. Amen.**



It is important to remember that in our prayers to Mary we honour, not worship her. As we read above "May the Word Divine/Born for us thy Infant/Hear our prayers through thine." She is more than happy to help us intercede to her Divine Son for the graces and mercy we need from Him.

Prayer of Saint Augustine to the Blessed Virgin

This prayer shows both Christian reverence for the Mother of God and the proper understanding of intercessory prayer. We pray to the Blessed Virgin so that she might present our prayers to God and obtain forgiveness from Him for our sins.

**O blessed Virgin Mary, who can worthily repay thee thy just dues of praise and thanksgiving,
thou who by the wondrous assent of thy will didst rescue a fallen world?**

**What songs of praise can our weak human nature recite in thy honour,
since it is by thy intervention alone that it has found the way to restoration.**

**Accept, then, such poor thanks as we have here to offer, though they be unequal to thy merits;
and receiving our vows, obtain by thy prayers the remission of our offenses.**

**Carry thou our prayers within the sanctuary of the heavenly audience, and bring forth from it
the antidote of our reconciliation.**

**May the sins we bring before Almighty God through thee, become pardonable through thee;
may what we ask for with sure confidence, through thee be granted.**

**Take our offering, grant us our requests, obtain pardon for what we fear,
for thou art the sole hope of sinners.**

**Through thee we hope for the remission of our sins, and in thee,
O blessed Lady, is our hope of reward.**

**Holy Mary, succour the miserable, help the fainthearted,
comfort the sorrowful, pray for thy people, plead for the clergy,
intercede for all women consecrated to God;
may all who keep thy holy commemoration feel now thy help and protection.**

**Be thou ever ready to assist us when we pray, and bring back to us the answers to our prayers.
Make it thy continual care to pray for the people of God, thou who, blessed by God,
didst merit to bear the Redeemer of the world, who liveth and reigneth,
world without end. Amen.**

For the Grace of Love

Written by Rafael Cardinal Merry del Val, the secretary of state for Pope Saint Pius X, it reminds us that Mary is the perfect example of the Christian life, who in her own actions shows us true love for Christ.

O Mary, my dear Mother, how much I love thee!

And yet in reality how little!

Thou dost teach me what I ought to know,

for thou teachest me what Jesus is to me and what I ought to be for Jesus.

Dearly beloved Mother, how close to God thou art, and how utterly filled with Him!

In the measure that we know God, we remind ourselves of thee.

**Mother of God, obtain for me the grace of loving my Jesus;
obtain for me the grace of loving thee!**

[To the Blessed Virgin Mary for May](#)

This prayer asks the Blessed Virgin Mary for her protection and for the grace to imitate her in her love of Christ, and Christ in His love of her. As the Mother of Christ, she is our mother, too, and we look to her for guidance as we look to our mothers on earth.

**O most august and blessed Virgin Mary!
Holy Mother of God! Glorious Queen of heaven and earth!
Powerful protectress of those who love thee,
and unfailing advocate of all who invoke thee!**

**Look down, I beseech thee, from thy throne of glory on thy devoted child;
accept the solemn offering I present thee of this month, specially dedicated to thee,
and receive my ardent, humble desire, that by my love and fervour I could worthily honour
thee, who, next to God, art deserving of all honour.**

**Receive me, O Mother of Mercy, among thy best beloved children;
extend to me thy maternal tenderness and solicitude;
obtain for me a place in the Heart of Jesus, and a special share in the gifts of His grace.**

**O deign, I beseech thee, to recognize my claims on thy protection,
to watch over my spiritual and temporal interests, as well as those of all who are dear to me;
to infuse into my soul the spirit of Christ, and to teach me thyself to become meek, humble,
charitable, patient, and submissive to the will of God.**

**May my heart burn with the love of thy Divine Son, and of thee, His blessed Mother,
not for a month alone, but for time and eternity; may I thirst for the promotion of His honour
and thine, and contribute, as far as I can, to its extension.**

**Receive me, O Mary, the refuge of sinners! Grant me a Mother's blessing and a Mother's care,
now, and at the hour of my death. Amen.**

[Act of Reparation to the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)

This prayer offers praise to the BV Mary and to the Holy Trinity in reparation for offenses against the Mother of God.

**O blessed Virgin, Mother of God, look down in mercy from heaven,
where thou art enthroned as Queen, upon me, a miserable sinner, thine unworthy servant.
Although I know full well my own unworthiness, yet in order to atone for the offenses that are
done to thee by impious and blasphemous tongues, from the depths of my heart I praise and
extol thee as the purest, the fairest, the holiest creature of all God's handiwork.
I bless thy holy name, I praise thine exalted privilege of being truly Mother of God, ever virgin,
conceived without stain of sin, co-redemptrix of the human race.
I bless the Eternal Father who chose thee in an especial way for His daughter; I bless the Word
Incarnate who took upon Himself our nature in thy bosom and so made thee His Mother;
I bless the Holy Spirit who took thee as His bride.**

**All honour, praise and thanksgiving to the ever-blessed Trinity,
who predestined thee and loved thee so exceedingly from all eternity
as to exalt thee above all creatures to the most sublime heights.**

**O Virgin, holy and merciful, obtain for all who offend thee the grace of repentance,
and graciously accept this poor act of homage from me thy servant,
obtaining likewise for me from thy divine Son the pardon and remission of all my sins. Amen.**

[Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary \(Litany of Loretto\)](#)

Recited alone, or after praying the rosary, particularly during the month of May, this litany is dedicated to Mary.
A partial indulgence is attached to those who pray this litany.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*

Holy Mother of God, *pray for us.*

Holy Virgin of virgins, *pray for us.*

Mother of Christ, *pray for us.*

Mother of divine grace, *pray for us.*

Mother most pure, *pray for us.*

Mother most chaste, *pray for us.*

Mother inviolate, *pray for us.*

Mother undefiled, *pray for us.*

Mother most amiable, *pray for us.*

Mother most admirable, *pray for us.*

Mother of good counsel, *pray for us.*

Mother of our Creator, *pray for us.*

Mother of our Savior, *pray for us.*

Virgin most prudent, *pray for us.*

Virgin most venerable, *pray for us.*

Virgin most renowned, *pray for us.*

Virgin most powerful, *pray for us.*

Virgin most merciful, *pray for us.*

Virgin most faithful, *pray for us.*

Mirror of justice, *pray for us.*
Seat of wisdom, *pray for us.*
Cause of our joy, *pray for us.*
Spiritual vessel, *pray for us.*
Vessel of honour, *pray for us.*
Singular vessel of devotion, *pray for us.*
Mystical rose, *pray for us.*
Tower of David, *pray for us.*
Tower of ivory, *pray for us.*
House of gold, *pray for us.*
Ark of the covenant, *pray for us.*
Gate of heaven, *pray for us.*
Morning star, *pray for us.*
Health of the sick, *pray for us.*
Refuge of sinners, *pray for us.*
Comforter of the afflicted, Help of Christians, *pray for us.*
Queen of Angels, *pray for us.*
Queen of Patriarchs, *pray for us.*
Queen of Prophets, *pray for us.*
Queen of Apostles, *pray for us.*
Queen of Martyrs, *pray for us.*
Queen of Confessors, *pray for us.*
Queen of Virgins, *pray for us.*
Queen of all Saints, *pray for us.*
Queen conceived without original sin, *pray for us.*
Queen assumed into heaven, *pray for us.*
Queen of the most holy Rosary, *pray for us.*
Queen of Peace, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, *spare us, O Lord!*
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, *graciously hear us, O Lord!*
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, *have mercy on us.*

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Grant, we beg you, O Lord God,
that we your servants, may enjoy lasting health of mind and body,
and by the glorious intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, be delivered from present
sorrow and enter into the joy of eternal happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.