

How to Pray a Living Rosary



A “living” rosary is essentially prayed in the same way as a “regular” rosary. Start with the Apostles’ Creed, one Our Father, three Hail Mary’s, and a Glory Be. Announce the first decade, pray one Our Father, ten Hail Mary’s, one Glory Be, and the Fatima prayer. Repeat for the other four decades. End with the Hail, Holy Queen, and other closing prayers as desired.

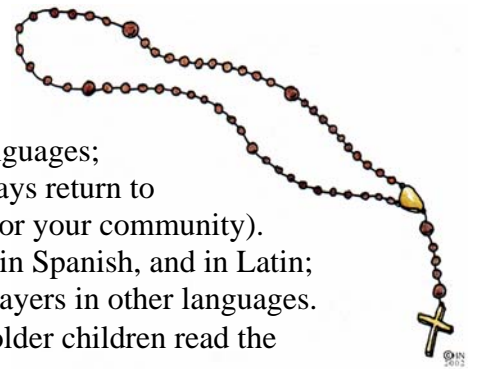
Rather than sitting in pews, however, with each individual facing forward and fingering his or her own beads, the community stands and forms the rosary with their bodies. Each person represents one bead of the rosary and leads the prayer for that bead. It might be beneficial to have one person act as an emcee for the rosary.

Make sure to have a microphone for the prayer leaders. The emcee or an altar server can carry a portable microphone from person to person, or the microphone may be set up in the middle of the rosary, with each person walking to the microphone when his turn comes.

There are many ways to embellish this prayer. A few examples are suggested below. What other ideas can you add to make this a memorable and prayerful experience for *your* community?

Embellishments and Variations:

- Give everyone a candle. Light the candle of the next person after you have finished your prayer, or have the emcee walk around the rosary lighting the candles.
- Give everyone a flower. Have them walk to the center and place it at the feet of a statue of Mary before they lead their prayer.
- Have altar servers carry a crucifix from person to person as the prayers are recited.
- Connect the beads by having everyone hold onto a (blue) ribbon. N.b., you’ll probably need to get several spools of ribbons and tie them together.
- If you don’t have a large enough space to form an entire rosary, consider doing it in a procession. An altar server enters the church carrying a cross; when (s)he reaches the front of the church, he turns around and faces the congregation. The emcee for the rosary leads the Apostles’ Creed. Then a group of five follows, who lead the Our Father, three Hail Mary’s, and the Glory Be. After that come five groups of twelve or thirteen people, with each person leading the Our Father, ten Hail Mary’s, the Glory Be, and the Fatima prayer. The emcee should announce each decade as the groups come forward.
- If you don’t have enough people to have one person per bead (total of 60 people), form a one-decade rosary and have each group lead the prayer five times.
- If you have a multi-lingual group, have each person lead the prayer in his or her native language. The second half of the prayer may continue in that language or always return to the same language. So, in a mix of English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Vietnamese



speakers, the first half of the prayers will be in one of those languages; the second half will continue in one of those languages, or always return to English (or Spanish or Latin or whichever language is easiest for your community). For your convenience, here are links to the prayers in English, in Spanish, and in Latin; visit <http://www.rosary-center.org/rosaryprayers.htm> for the prayers in other languages.

- Involve children by having them “act out” the mysteries. Let older children read the mysteries.
- Coordinate colors. Have the people in each decade dress in the same color. For example, the Annunciation decade might wear green, the Visitation white, and the Nativity red. Or alternate colors, so the first, third and fifth decades wear blue, while the second and fourth wear white. If doing a living rosary with children who have school uniforms in two or more colors, have the Our Father “beads” in one color and the Hail Mary “beads” in another.