Living in faith

A CATHOLIC STUDENT'S GUIDE TO LIFE-LONG LEARNING

THE ROSARY'S ORIGINS

Catholic scholars believe that praying the rosary likely began during the High Middle Ages, the 11th to the 13th centuries, when few people were able to read. Repeating the Our Father 150 times, which they had learned through oral tradition, provided a framework for contemplative prayer. The prayers were counted off on a ring of beads called a corona.

It's believed that sometime in the late 1300s Dominican monk Henry Kalkar divided the 150 prayers into 15 decades and replaced the Our Father with the Hail Mary. Later, the rosary was shortened to 5 decades.

Under Pope Leo XIII, who served from 1878 to 1903, October was named the Month of the Holy Rosary. The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on October 7 each year.

NEWEST: LUMINOUS MYSTERIES – In 2002, Pope John Paul II introduced the Luminous Mysteries, the mysteries of light, to the church's traditional Glorious, Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries for contemplation while praying the rosary.

> "I thought that I had no time for faith nor time to pray, then I saw an armless man saying his rosary with his feet."
>
> — Unknown

The Luminous Mysteries are:

- Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan
- The wedding at Cana
- The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
- The Transfiguration of Jesus
- The Last Supper, institution of the Eucharist

EARLIEST MYSTERIES

Joyful

- Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary
- Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
- Birth of Jesus
- Presentation of Jesus in the temple
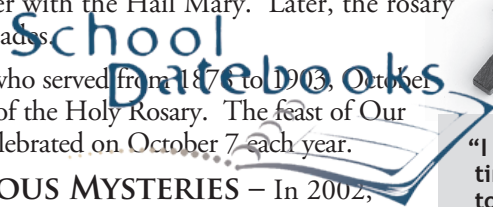- Finding Jesus in the temple

Sorrowful

- Agony of Jesus in the garden
- Jesus scourged at the pillar
- Jesus crowned with thorns
- Jesus carries his cross
- Crucifixion of Jesus

Glorious

- Resurrection of Jesus
- Ascension of Jesus
- Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
- Assumption of Mary into heaven
- Coronation of Mary as queen of heaven and earth