

How to Pray the Franciscan Crown Rosary

Using the Franciscan Crown Seven-Decade Rosary Beads I make the Sign of the Cross and begin immediately with the first decade, saying one Our Father and ten Hail Marys. There is no Creed or opening prayers. Continue in the same manner with the remaining six decades, reciting each decade in honor of one of the joyful [or during penitential seasons and/or on Fridays one of the sorrowful] mysteries, until the seven decades have been completed:

The Seven Joys of our Lady

First Joy: *The Annunciation* (Luke 1:26-33):

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a virgin named Mary. The angel said to her: “Rejoice, O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women. You have found favor with God. You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name ‘Jesus’” And Mary said: “I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say.”

Response Prayer:2

Almighty Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have revealed the beauty of your power by exalting the lowly virgin of Nazareth and making her the mother of our Savior. May the prayers of this woman bring Jesus to the waiting world and fill the void of completion with the presence of her child, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Second Joy: *The Visitation* (Luke 1:39-47):

Mary set out, proceeding in haste to a town of Judah. She entered Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out: “Blest are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb. Blest is she who trusted that the Lord’s words to her would be fulfilled.” Then Mary said: “My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit finds joy in God my Savior”.

Response Prayer:

Eternal Father, you inspired the Virgin Mary, mother of your Son, to visit Elizabeth and assist her in her need. Keep us open to the working of your Spirit, and with Mary may we praise you forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Third Joy: *The Nativity* (Luke 2:4-7):

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth to Bethlehem to register with Mary who was with child. While they were there she gave birth to her first-born son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.

Response Prayer:

Father, source of light in every age, the virgin conceived and bore your Son who is called Wonderful God, Prince of Peace. May her prayer, the gift of a mother’s love, be your people’s joy through all ages. *Amen.*

Fourth Joy: *The Adoration of the Magi* (Matt 2:9-11):

After their audience with King Herod, the Magi set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child was. On entering the house, they found the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense,

and myrrh.

Response Prayer:

Father of light, unchanging God, you revealed your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Your light is strong; your love is near. Lead us to your glory in heaven by the light of faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Fifth Joy: *The Finding in the Temple (Luke 2:43-46):*

As Mary and Joseph were returning from Jerusalem at the end of the feast, the child Jesus remained behind. Mary and Joseph returned to Jerusalem in search of him. On the third day they came upon Jesus in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Response Prayer:

Father in heaven, creator of all, teach us the sanctity of human love, show us the value of family life. Help us to live as the holy family, united in respect and love. Bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Sixth Joy: *The Resurrection (Luke 24:1-6):*

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the grave carrying the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the grave, so they went in; but they did not find the body of Jesus. Suddenly, two men in bright shining clothes stood by them. Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground. The men said: "Why are you looking among the dead for the one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised."

Response Prayer:

God our Father, by raising Christ your Son you conquered the power of death and opened for us the way to eternal life. Raise us up and renew our lives by the Spirit that is within us. Grant this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Seventh Joy: *The Crowning of Our Lady in Heaven (Rev 12:1; Ps 45:14-15):*

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun. She was standing on the moon with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. With jewels set in gold, and dressed in brocades, the king's daughter is led in to the king.

Response Prayer:

All-powerful and ever-living God, you raised Mary, mother of your Son, body, and soul to the glory of heaven. May we see heaven as our final goal and come to share her glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*