

Praying the Rosary

with Venerable
Sr. Thecla Merlo



Daughters of St. Paul

The Generalate - Rome 2024

For Private Use

Praying the Rosary

with Venerable Sr. Thecla Merlo

PRESENTATION

The Rosary is a very simple prayer but it is nevertheless profoundly Christocentric and leads to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

Mary's gaze, from the Annunciation to Pentecost, is fixed on her Son. It is a profound gaze on the night of his Birth, a grieving one on the afternoon of his Passion, and a radiant one on the morning of his Resurrection.

Venerable Thecla Merlo, who had immense faith in Mary, prayed the Rosary constantly and invited everyone else to do the same because it is a prayer that evangelizes us from within and then transforms us into disciples and missionaries.

The Joyful Mysteries

(Mondays and Saturdays)

First Joyful Mystery

The angel Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus to Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary (Luke 1:26-27).

May our Mother, Teacher and Queen grant all of us the virtues of humility and docility. May she help us live in such a way as to make our entire life a continual yes to God in imitation of hers (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

God enters our abode to offer us his plan of love and freedom. How can we understand his plan for us? Whenever we make decisions, even small ones, let us ask ourselves, "Where and in what way can I manifest greater love?" In this way, life becomes a continual response to God and, as Sr. Thecla Merlo says, a continual "Yes! Here I am!"

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Cierardo Dottori

The Joyful Mysteries

(Mondays and Saturdays)

Second Joyful Mystery

Mary visits her relative Elizabeth

In those days, Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-40).

Can't you see what a beautiful apostolate we have? There are so many souls waiting to be saved [...]. May we seek first of all the glory of God, to become holy and to do good (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

Let us reach out to others. Let us give ourselves, forget ourselves, cross mountains, overcome our selfishness. Look at Mary, at Thecla Merlo, at countless other apostles of yesterday and today. What did they do that was so extraordinary? They interacted with people. Through their witness, they sowed the Gospel of joy. They never tired of doing good.

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Mary Southard

The Joyful Mysteries

(Mondays and Saturdays)

Third Joyful Mystery

Jesus is born in Bethlehem

While they were there, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn (Luke 2:6-7).

Jesus brought us love and salvation. By becoming a human being, he made it possible for us to become children of God and opened heaven to us. What great gifts the Lord has given us! (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

Grafted onto Christ, we welcome and rediscover the beauty of feeling ourselves children of the same Father and brothers and sisters with one another. By means of our lives, God will continue to make his presence felt and to incarnate himself every day in a unique and unrepeatable, new and creative, free and authentic way.

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Jorge Cocco Santángelo

The Joyful Mysteries

(Mondays and Saturdays)

Fourth Joyful Mystery

**Mary and Joseph
present Jesus in the Temple**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons” (Luke 2:22-24).

Let us learn from Baby Jesus a love for poverty: let us ask to love and practice it as he did. Then Jesus will draw near to us, answer us, and nothing will ever again be lacking to us (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

“The newness of the Child meets the tradition of the Temple; the promise finds fulfillment.

Mary and Joseph, who are young, meet Simeon and Anna, who are old. What happened in the Temple also happens to us: around Jesus, everything is unified and life becomes harmonious. With him, we find the courage to move ahead and the strength to remain steadfast. Encountering the Lord is the source of this” (Pope Francis).

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Beato Angelico

The Joyful Mysteries

(Mondays and Saturdays)

Fifth Joyful Mystery

Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple

When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him: “Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” He replied, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” [...] And Jesus increased in wisdom, in years, and in divine and human favor (Luke 2:48-49, 52).

It is very easy to seek satisfaction in the things we have to do or are doing. In everything we decide or do, let us always strive for detachment. Then, once our decision is made, let us work with great enthusiasm (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

T rue wisdom does not lie in using big words or expressing ideas that are hard for others to understand. Instead, it lies in having the humility to say and do everything with intense love. Jesus grew in age, wisdom and grace. We too are invited to allow the grace of God to work in us, making us wise people who are able to speak truthfully to those we meet in “the temple of life.”

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Silvio Consadori

The Mysteries of Light

(Thursdays)

First Mystery of Light

Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan River

When Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:16-17).

May our union with Jesus be a union of mind, will and heart; may we gradually be so transformed that we can say with St. Paul, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). How many graces we have received! We "swim" in the graces of the Lord (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

Let us thank God for the immense gift of being his children, which enables us to turn to him with childlike trust and confidence, and heed his tender voice. May the joy of being his children illuminate our whole life to the point that we live and think like Jesus himself.

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Pinterest

The Mysteries of Light

(Thursdays)

Second Mystery of Light

Jesus at the Wedding Feast in Cana

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:1-5).

Let us always have greater trust in Jesus Master. We belong to him and he wants to save us. He came from heaven to do this (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

Our lives can be compared to the wedding feast in Cana if we pay attention to Jesus' words and offer the "new wine" of joy and hope to those who need it. If we do this, then the little we have is transformed into overflowing life. Mary teaches us that following the promptings of Jesus is the best way to make good choices. Thecla Merlo also invites us to "always have greater trust in Jesus Master."

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Pinterest

The Mysteries of Light

(Thursdays)

Third Mystery of Light

Jesus proclaims the kingdom of God

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news” (Mark 1:14-15).

Let us forget ourselves so as to seek the glory of God and the good of others. If we strive to become holy and seek, as St. Paul says, the things of the spirit and not those of the flesh (our own comforts and satisfactions), then we will be working for the glory of God and the good of everyone (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

To love is
“to forget
ourselves.”
Let us do this
in order to seek the good
of those we meet along the road of life.
It is necessary to set out, to detach ourselves from our comforts, to convert ourselves in order to do good. We will not be alone on this journey: we will be accompanied by the Father’s Missionary, the Pilgrim of Love, who goes before us.

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Jorge Cocco Santángelo

The Mysteries of Light

(Thursdays)

Fourth Mystery of Light

***Jesus is transfigured
before his disciples***

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. He was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them (Mark 9:2-3).

Today is the Feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus. It is the feast, you might say, of the Divine Master, because when Jesus was transfigured on Tabor, the heavenly Father's voice resounded: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!" Let us listen to Jesus Master! (Sr. Thecla Merlo)

We climbed the Mount and contemplated the transfigured and radiant face of the Lord.

Our eyes were dazzled by the splendor of his pure-white garments... But the time always comes when we have to descend the mountain and return to daily life. How can we prolong our "mountain-top" experience? Thecla Merlo says we can do this by listening to his Word: "Listen to Jesus Master!" If we do so, our life will become radiant, transparent!

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Carl Bloch

The Mysteries of Light

(Thursdays)

Fifth Mystery of Light

Jesus institutes the Eucharist during the Last Supper

Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his apostles, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:19-20).

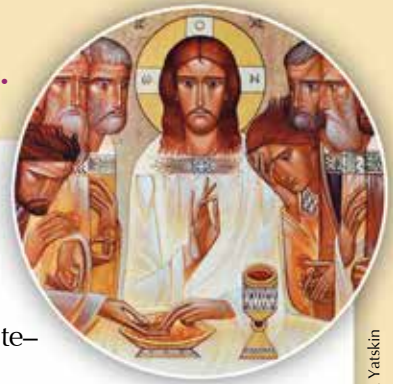
The Feast of Corpus Christi is the feast of Jesus' love for us. He loved us so much that he wanted to remain with us. Let us fill our hearts with love for Jesus every morning in Holy Communion, and then go forth to take him to souls. A person whose heart is filled with God will feel an ever-increasing need to expand it (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

The Eucharist is "the feast of Jesus' love for us."

This love has a taste—the taste of bread.

Bread that is life; Bread that sustains and nourishes us. Filling our hearts with this Bread makes us yearn to expand them. The Bread of Christ transforms us into Bread. The Giver of this Bread transforms us into a gift for others. Life becomes Eucharist!

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Lyuba Yatskin

The Sorrowful Mysteries

(Tuesdays and Fridays)

First Sorrowful Mystery

Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemani

They went to a place called Gethsemani. Jesus said to his disciples, “I am deeply grieved, even to death. Remain here and keep awake.” Taking with him Peter, James and John, he began to be distressed and agitated (Mark 14:33).

N*o one, not even a person who is already holy, can persevere without prayer. Without God’s grace, we cannot do the slightest meritorious good work. St. Paul says that we cannot even speak the name of God without grace (Sr. Thecla Merlo).*

Payer is a meeting between two people who love each other, an encounter in which we can be ourselves and confide our sorrows and anxieties without fear, knowing that we will not be judged but loved by the Father. Thecla Merlo teaches us that prayer helps us to persevere on our journey and to make room within ourselves for the Holy Spirit so that we can exclaim with Jesus, “Abba, Father!” (Romans 8:15)

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Jorge Cocco Santángelo

The Sorrowful Mysteries

(Tuesdays and Fridays)

Second Sorrowful Mystery

Jesus is scourged

Pilate released Barabbas for the crowd and, after having Jesus flogged, handed him over to be crucified (Matthew 27:26).

Jesus and Mary suffered, and if we want to follow them, then we must accept our crosses. If we do this willingly, we will be filled with great peace, great serenity (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

Crowned with the pain of humanity, lashed by the sins of the world, Jesus silently accepts mockery and ridicule.

Totally misunderstood, he is king of the Truth that nullifies the illusion of a powerful and avenging Messiah and reveals him to be the servant of life. In him, what the world considers foolish, weak and contemptible can no longer be despised because it is the wisdom and power of God.

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Pinterest

The Sorrowful Mysteries

(Tuesdays and Fridays)

Third Sorrowful Mystery

Jesus is crowned with thorns

The soldiers stripped Jesus and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand, knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” (Matthew 27:28-29)

In every need of spirit and heart, may I always turn to Jesus. Let me contemplate him in the Garden, on his way to Calvary, scourged, crowned with thorns, crucified. He did everything for me! (Sr. Thecla Merlo)

The essence of the Christian life is that even in our sufferings we are infinitely loved by God, who “did everything for me,” for us. Thecla Merlo invites us to “always turn to Jesus” and to serve others. The staggering measure of God’s love also invites us to console those who wear “a crown of thorns.”

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Pinterest

The Sorrowful Mysteries

(Tuesdays and Fridays)

Fourth Sorrowful Mystery

Jesus carries the cross to Calvary

They took Jesus and, carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them (John 19:17-18).

In my opinion, the most beautiful thing we can do is accept the little crosses that come to us day by day from the people we live with, from our efforts to put up with one another.... St. Paul says, "One in body and spirit." We are a single entity (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

It is so easy for us to get used to the presence of certain objects and symbols that we often don't even notice them. The cross is an example of this. Accustomed to still finding it displayed in many places, we no longer grasp the profound effect it can have on a person. Let us allow the cross to revitalize our way of living and loving.

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Pinterest

The Sorrowful Mysteries

(Tuesdays and Fridays)

Fifth Sorrowful Mystery

Jesus dies on the cross

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus cried out with a loud voice: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit!" Having said this, he breathed his last (Luke 23:44-46).

He gave everything for us. Everything! He still had a few drops of blood left in his heart and he allowed the soldier to open that organ so as to give it completely to us. He did not save even a drop for himself! (Sr. Thecla Merlo)

On the cross, Jesus transforms pain into love, vengeance into mercy, the bitterness of life into strength.

Thecla Merlo reminds us that on the cross Jesus "gave everything for us, everything!" On the cross, his love was poured out completely. "He did not save even a drop for himself!" Let us contemplate this great mystery of total self-giving. Let us listen in silence to the voice of the Son who surrenders himself to the Father. His voice cries out Hope!

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Pinterest

The Glorious Mysteries

(Wednesdays and Sundays)

First Glorious Mystery

The Risen Christ lives among us

The first day of the week, at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body of Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen” (Luke 24:1-6).

After meditating on the sufferings of Jesus, let us rejoice in the triumph of his resurrection and trust in him. “If Jesus had

not been resurrected, our faith would be in vain.” But Jesus is risen, so let us trust in him and spend ourselves for his glory (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

Life is made up of processes, and each process requires patience. The seed must die in order to bear a wealth of fruit. The art of the spiritual life is to look for the signs of new life, the presence of the Risen One in our daily lives. We are called to participate in the risen life of Christ here and now.

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Peter von cornelius

The Glorious Mysteries

(Wednesdays and Sundays)

Second Glorious Mystery

Jesus ascends to heaven

After he had spoken to the Eleven, the Lord Jesus ascended to heaven and was seated at the right hand of God. And his disciples went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed their message by the signs that accompanied it (Mark 16:19-20).

Let us remember that the gift of time is not to be used for our own satisfaction, but for the Lord and for eternity. Let us keep firmly in mind that every moment has repercussions on eternity. This fact should dominate our thoughts throughout the year. Time is very precious! (Sr. Thecla Merlo)

In the Gospels, we do not find abstract teachings or ways of thinking, but rather a way of living: a way of dwelling in the world, of interpreting it and building it in love and solidarity with all who suffer. Jesus ascends to the Father, but remains among us. To continue the mission of Jesus is to imitate his way of life, to be an *alter christus* (another Christ) in our own time.

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Jorge Cocco Santángelo

The Glorious Mysteries

(Wednesdays and Sundays)

Third Glorious Mystery

The Holy Spirit descends on Mary and the apostles

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).

May we prepare ourselves well to receive the Holy Spirit because we need him very much! Let us pray for each other, asking that he descend upon us. Let us cling steadfastly to the Lord. May our minds and hearts always be filled with God (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

May the Holy Spirit guide us so that our minds and hearts are filled with God. May we allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit to the point that we are transformed. The Spirit revolutionizes, inspires and enlightens us. If we heed his voice within us, then everyone whose path we cross will also be transformed and enlightened.

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Pinterest

The Glorious Mysteries

(Wednesdays and Sundays)

Fourth Glorious Mystery

Mary is taken up into heaven

Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. From now on, all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me and holy is his name” (Luke 1:46-49).

The proclamation of the Assumption invites us to think of our heavenly reward, of the resurrection of the body, of its glorification. This thought causes us to rejoice; it comforts us, calls us to hope and prayer, to operative zeal in bringing people to the path of salvation and to heaven (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

In Luke’s Gospel, Mary is a woman who sings! Her song is permeated with gratitude; it exalts God’s preference for his little ones. Its rhythm is that of a heart throbbing with compassion. Let us join our voice to hers so that we too can proclaim the greatness of a merciful God.

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Pinterest

The Glorious Mysteries

(Wednesdays and Sundays)

Fifth Glorious Mystery

**Mary is our Mother,
the Queen of heaven and earth**

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars (Revelation 12:1).

May we have great trust in Mary's love for each one of us. Let us turn to her in all our needs. Let us put all our problems in her hands. May she be our counselor, our support, our defense, our consolation in every suffering, our help in every need, our mother always. Like children, let us remain in her arms: she will take us to Jesus (Sr. Thecla Merlo).

Just as Christ's kingship is interwoven with humility, service and love, the same is true of Mary: she is Queen because with her yes she generated Life. "Yes" is a small word, but its meaning is huge. It involves acceptance, commitment, concrete love. Mary teaches us how to give Jesus, true Life, to the world, which desperately needs meaning and love.

- Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- Glory to the Father



Giotto

PRAYER to obtain graces



Most Holy Trinity, thank you for the gifts of light, grace and virtue granted to Venerable Sr. Thecla Merlo, and for having chosen and made her the wise mother and reliable guide of the Daughters of St. Paul.

Through her intercession, grant that I may live of her great loves: Jesus Master, the Eucharist, the Church, and the Gospel proclaimed to all people with the instruments of social communication to the point of complete sacrifice.

Lord, if it is your divine will, exalt this faithful Servant to the joy of the Church and the good of humanity, and grant me, through her intercession, the favor I ask of you. Amen.

With ecclesiastical approval

Those who obtain graces and favors through the intercession of Venerable Sr. Thecla Merlo are asked to inform the Superior General of the Daughters of St. Paul, Via San Giovanni Eudes 25, 00163 Rome, Italy.

