

Servite Rosary

THE SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY



Introduction

The Rosary of the Seven Sorrows is also commonly known as the Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows or the ‘Servite Rosary.’ It is a Catholic devotion which draws attention to the Seven Sorrows of Mary during her life on earth. The format presented here was approved by Pope Pius VII in 1815, but the devotion itself originates from the spiritual writings of St. Bridget of Sweden who lived in the 1300’s.

The Seven Sorrows devotion is ideal for obtaining the grace of healing for wounds caused by our own sin or the sin of others. It is efficacious in obtaining spiritual protection or the grace of conversion for friends or loved ones, or for the dispelling of errors and the revealing of truths.

How is the Servite Rosary connected with cancer?

The patron saint of cancer patients, St. Peregrine, was himself a member of the Servite Order. Following a diagnosis of an incurable cancer in his leg, he was scheduled for an amputation as his only hope for survival. While praying during the night before his operation he was totally cured. He lived more than 20 years beyond this inexplicable miracle and did not die until he was well into his 80s.

Introductory Prayer

† My God, I offer You this Rosary for Your glory, so I may honor Jesus' Mother, the Blessed Virgin, so I can share and meditate upon her suffering and, through her, the suffering of Jesus. I humbly beg You to give me true repentance for all my sins, wisdom, and humility.

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

3 Hail Mary

Say three Hail Marys, in thanksgiving for our Sorrowful Mother's tears and our tears in union with hers.

The First Sorrow: The Prophecy of Simeon

"Now your servant may depart this life in peace, my Lord," and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this Child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed."

While meditating on each sorrow, say one Our Father followed by seven Hail Marys.

After each sorrow say: Most Merciful Mother, remind us always about the sorrows of your Son, Jesus.

The Second Sorrow: The Flight into Egypt

The second sorrow is the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt to escape the threat of Herod to the Baby Jesus. The road was rough, unknown, and little frequented. She knew that where they were going there would be no familiar faces to greet them. Yet her confidence in God was never shaken.

While meditating on each sorrow, say one Our Father followed by seven Hail Marys.

After each sorrow say: Most Merciful Mother, remind us always about the sorrows of your Son, Jesus.

The Third Sorrow: The Loss of Jesus in the Temple

During the third sorrow Mary was physically separated from her son Jesus by the loss of him in the temple. This suffering could be compared to the suffering her Son felt when the apostles abandoned Him on the Cross. However, Our Lady knew that Jesus always did what was necessary, and so she never suspected him of being disobedient.

While meditating on each sorrow, say one Our Father followed by seven Hail Marys.

After each sorrow say: Most Merciful Mother, remind us always about the sorrows of your Son, Jesus.

The Fourth Sorrow: Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary

In the fourth sorrow Mary meets Jesus as he carries his Cross to Calvary. Our Lady knew that her son would be crucified, but due to her strong bond of love and compassion with her Son, she felt every pain Jesus did. Displaying her humility, she perfectly surrendered everything to the will of God.

While meditating on each sorrow, say one Our Father followed by seven Hail Marys.

After each sorrow say: Most Merciful Mother, remind us always about the sorrows of your Son, Jesus.

The Fifth Sorrow: Mary Stands at the Foot of the Cross

Standing at the foot of the Cross, she bore her pain and suffering with silence and humility knowing that this was the will of God. She displayed a great strength remaining with her son even though, except the apostle John, all the apostles had abandoned Jesus.

While meditating on each sorrow, say one Our Father followed by seven Hail Marys.

After each sorrow say: Most Merciful Mother, remind us always about the sorrows of your Son, Jesus.

The Sixth Sorrow: Mary Receives the Dead Body of Jesus in Her Arms

During this sorrow Our Lady could see all of the wounds her Son had suffered as she held His wounded Body. Even though her pain and anguish was relentless, she remained brave and strong.

While meditating on each sorrow, say one Our Father followed by seven Hail Marys.

After each sorrow say: Most Merciful Mother, remind us always about the sorrows of your Son, Jesus.

The Seventh Sorrow: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

The seventh sorrow is when Mary, with the help of John and the holy women present at the Crucifixion, placed the Body of Jesus in the sepulcher just as any other dead person. Even though she felt great pain and sorrow, she was always certain that her Son would raise from the dead on the third day.

While meditating on each sorrow, say one Our Father followed by seven Hail Marys.

After each sorrow say: Most Merciful Mother, remind us always about the sorrows of your Son, Jesus.

Concluding Prayers

Queen of Martyrs, your heart suffered so much. I beg you, by the merits of the tears you shed in these terrible and sorrowful times, to obtain for me and all the sinners of the world the grace of complete sincerity and repentance. Amen.

Concluding Prayers

Lord Jesus, we now implore, both for the present and for the hour of our death, the intercession of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Thy Mother, whose holy soul was pierced at the time of Thy Passion by a sword of grief.

Concluding Prayers

Grant us this favor, O Savior of the world, Who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Three times say: Mary, who was conceived without sin and who suffered for us, pray for us. †