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# THE FRANCISCAN CROWN ROSARY

PRAYER AND REFLECTIONS



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# The Franciscan Crown Rosary

## Prayer and Reflections

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### Introduction

One unique devotion of the Franciscans is a seven-decade rosary known as the Franciscan Crown. While the traditional rosary consists of 5 decades which meditate on 15 mysteries (or 20 if you pray the Luminous mysteries) the 7-decade Franciscan Rosary, known as the Franciscan Crown, is a Rosary consisting of seven decades with each decade describing a particular joy from the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The story of the Rosary of the Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin dates back to the early 15<sup>th</sup> century. A pious young man named James had been accustomed to adorning a beautiful statue of Mary with a crown of flowers, which he had picked and woven himself. He later entered the Franciscan Order, but either because of a lack of time or permission, he was no longer able to continue this devotion. Distraught because of this, he decided to abandon the religious life and return to the world.

Our Lady then appeared to him and convinced him not to leave the order. She told him that he should not be downcast because he was no longer permitted to adorn her statue, for she would teach him a way to give her honor which was much more pleasing and meritorious. Instead of a crown of flowers, which quickly wither, he was to weave a crown of prayers, and these prayers could be offered at any moment. She then taught him the Rosary of the Seven Joys, adding that these prayers would not only form a more acceptable crown, but they would also yield innumerable graces for himself and others.

Among the Friars Minor, the promotion of this devotion is attributed to St. Bonaventure, Bl. Cherubin of Spoleto, St. John Capistran, Pelbart of Temesvár, and St. Bernadine of Siena to mention a few. St. Bernadine is said to have had a vision of the Virgin Mary when he was meditating on the seven joys of Mary. We pray the Franciscan Crown in community every Saturday.

*Source: [franciscanmissionaries.com/7-decade-rosary/](http://franciscanmissionaries.com/7-decade-rosary/)*

### How to Pray the Franciscan Crown Rosary

Pray one Our Father and ten Hail Mary prayers for each of the Seven Joys of Mary.

1. The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)
2. The Visitation (Luke 1:39–56)
3. The Nativity of Our Lord (Matthew 1)
4. The Adoration of the Magi (Matthew 2:11).
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)
6. The Appearance of Christ to Mary after the Resurrection (John 20, 21)
7. The Assumption and Coronation of Mary (Revelation 12:1)

After meditating on all of the Joys, end the prayer with:

- Two Hail Marys for the 72 years that the Blessed Mother lived on earth, according to tradition.
- An Our Father and Hail Mary for the intentions of the Holy Father.

We hope that the following pages will help you meditate on each of the Joys of Our Blessed Mother Mary.





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## The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)



My Blessed Mother, when St. Gabriel appeared at the Annunciation, we know that you were surprised and troubled. In your humility, you would have never imagined that an angel would appear to you. However, once you realized that he was sent by God, you listened to him and immediately gave your Fiat, your “Yes” to God.

Through your faith and willingness to follow God—even in very difficult situations—you are a beautiful example to all Christians. Help me to accept God’s Will in my life and to listen when He speaks.



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## The Visitation (Luke 1:39–56)



My Blessed Mother, we know that your journey to see Elizabeth must have been difficult. As an expectant mother yourself, this visit would have been especially uncomfortable. However, you did not think about yourself—you thought of your cousin and her unborn baby, who later was known as St. John the Baptist.

I am faced with times every day when I can choose the good of another person over myself. Will you guide me as I try to help others more?



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### The Nativity of Our Lord (Matthew 1)



My Blessed Mother, as you gazed upon your newborn Baby, what were your thoughts? You were holding God Himself in your arms. The One who made you became your Son. As this Baby looked up at you, those were the eyes of God.

I can never grasp the extent of the love that you have for your Son, but I ask that you help me as I try to love Him more. Teach me about Him. Guide me as I follow His commandments. Help me to understand His love for me.



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### The Adoration of the Magi (Matthew 2:11)



My Blessed Mother, when the Magi visited the Baby Jesus, what were your thoughts as they worshipped your Child? Even though they gave Him valuable gifts, the gift they received was much greater: a chance to see the Divine Infant.

Dear mother, guide me to live more generously, not only with my money, but also with my time and my talents. Help me to see life from your Son's perspective that "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).



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### The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)



My Blessed Mother, even though it was joyful to find Jesus in the temple, it must have been incredibly painful and frightening to lose your Son for three days. Each minute without Jesus must have been excruciating, but you never despaired. When you and St. Joseph finally glimpsed His Face at the temple, your joy and relief must have been palpable.

As I face obstacles and fears, remind me that God is in control. Even when the path seems difficult, guide me to your Son, Who always comforts our pains and relieves our anxiety.



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## The Appearance of Christ to Mary after the Resurrection (John 20, 21)



My Blessed Mother, the moment that you saw Jesus after His Resurrection must have been the happiest moment of your life. The Son who died in your presence was alive. He was risen from the dead. The sorrow of His death was turned into the greatest moment in history.

As I struggle with difficulties in this life, guide me to your Son. Remind me that He overcame sin and death. Teach me that Jesus loves me so much that He died for me. With that knowledge, even the most difficult problems become easier.



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### The Assumption and Coronation of Mary (Revelation 12:1)



Blessed Mother Mary, in your humility, you would not have asked your Son to grant you great honors. However, out of His love for you, He assumed you into Heaven and then crowned you as Queen of Heaven. What were your thoughts as you first saw Heaven? How great was your joy when you saw your Son again?

As I live my life, Blessed Mother, remind me that my ultimate goal is Heaven. When I become weighed down in my day-to-day battles, guide me to your Son. As you lived your life for Jesus, help me to do the same. Remind me that the joy of Heaven is worth every problem that we face on earth.



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