Liturgical Living: The Month of the Rosary

In the Catholic Church, the month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary.

The history of this devotion can be traced back to the year 1571, when the Catholic League entered into battle against the Ottoman Empire to protect Italy from invasion. The Turks were on a warpath to overthrow all of Europe, killing millions of people and forcing Islamic conversion on survivors. They had conquered the Middle East and Mediterranean islands, and Italy was next.

In anticipation of this fight, Pope Pius V had the churches of Rome opened both day and night, urging Catholics to pray the Rosary and ask the Blessed Mother to intercede. Heading into battle where they were greatly outnumbered, every man in the Catholic League's forces carried a rosary.

Miraculously, the Catholic League returned victorious after a daylong battle known as the Battle of Lepanto that took place off the coast of Greece. In thanksgiving for Mary's intercession and protection, Pope Pius V declared the day, October 7, as a feast day for Our Lady of the Rosary. To celebrate, a rosary procession was held in Saint Peter's Square.

The presence and protection of our Mother Mary has immense power — her immaculate intercession has won wars and conquered hearts. After the feast day was established, the entire month of October was dedicated to the rosary in 1884 by Pope Leo XIII.

What are some ways to celebrate this month's devotion?

- Pray a rosary every day for the month of October.
- Create a shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary in your home (an image or statue of Mary, a rosary, candles, flowers, etc.).
- Add a rosary-inspired prayer to your dinner blessing (Hail Mary, Hail Holy Queen, Fatima Prayer).
- Pray the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- Take a trip over to Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston, NY to pray the outdoor rosary.
- Read a book about Mary this month.
- Listen to Marian hymns. This CD is a lovely collection.
- Begin the Five First Saturdays devotion this month (presented to the children at Fatima by Our Lady).

- Help your kids make a rosary. This idea is an easy one decade rosary for little ones, and this step-by-step guide would be good for elementary-aged kids.
- If your kids enjoy drawing, they will like this video on how to draw a rosary.
- Make a rosary lapbook. This is such a great way to help kids learn the mysteries.
- Make, pray, and eat an edible rosary! For example, use chocolate chips for Our Father beads and Cheerios for Hail Mary beads.
- For a healthier option, make rosary fruit skewer or a fruit rosary

O, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, in these times of trial and confusion, obtain for me, by the Precious Blood of thy Son, pardon for my sins, the salvation of my soul, and the necessary means to secure it. Protect my family from the dangers that surround us and keep us secure under thy protection. Grant that the Holy Catholic Church may triumph over her enemies, and that the Kingdom of Christ may be propagated on earth. Amen.