

OCTOBER—MARY'S MONTH

Immaculate Conception Parish, East Aurora, New York

ACTIVITIES/IDEAS FOR YOUR FAMILY

Our Lady of the Rosary

By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a certain devotion. The month of October is dedicated to the holy rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). The best way to celebrate the month is, of course, to pray the rosary, but additional prayers can be incorporated into our daily prayers during this month, too.



Ways to Honor Mary in the Home

- Find a statue or plaque of Our Lady to make an already existing outdoor garden a Mary Garden. Invite children and other family members to decorate the statue with flowers, and offer group prayers to the Virgin Mary.
- Create a shrine to the Virgin Mary in one's home, with Mary statues, crosses, or other religious items of significance. Create a makeshift altar area where family members can either light small candles in honor of Mary or write down their prayers to her and lay them before her.
- Encourage children to draw pictures of Mary and how she serves the church and the world. Display pictures prominently in the home; they can also be scanned into the computer and made into cards or postcards that children can send to family, friends, and the parish priests and staff in honor of Mary.

Family Blessing for Marian Feasts

May the Blessed Virgin Mary watch over us and protect us.

Through her, God has given us the author of life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

By her example may we grow closer to Him, who is Lord of all. Amen.



Cupcake Rosary

This is a great way to teach your children about the rosary. To make the rosary use 6 regular cupcakes and 53 mini cupcakes. You may want to use different colored frosting for the large beads and small beads. The cupcakes can be placed on a table in the shape of a rosary. The cross may be made out of construction paper, or you may choose to make a small cross cake.

Some variations of this include using candy items or fruit (grapes would work well.) Once the rosary is assembled, and depending on the perishability of the food items used, you could pray all five decades at once or one decade a night. Of course when the decade has been prayed, you may consume the cupcakes/whatever good item you chose to use.

For information on how to pray the rosary visit:
www.rosary-center.org/howto.htm