



October 7: Our Lady of the Rosary A Victory — Thanks to Mary

CONNIE CLARK

You know that on feast days we celebrate saints' birthdays and other events such as Jesus' baptism. But have you ever heard of a holy feast that's about a *battle*? The Feast of Our Lady of Victory celebrates a sea battle in 1571 between Catholic countries and the Ottoman Empire, a kingdom whose rulers were famous for their cruelty toward Christians.

Before the battle, Catholic sailors prayed the Rosary. The pope kept churches open day and night so everyone could pray the Rosary and ask for Mary's help. The Catholic side won, and the pope was so grateful to God that he created a feast day to honor Our Lady of Victory. Over the years, the name has changed a bit: Today we

celebrate it on October 7 as the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

It might seem strange to ask Jesus' kind and gentle mom for help in a battle. But actually the Bible is full of battle stories. Even today, we still have to *fight* temptation. So it's good to know that Mary is always on our side — and that the Rosary is a powerful way

to pray. But Mary wants peace for us, too. This year we also celebrate the 100th anniversary of Mary's appearance to three children in Fatima, Portugal. "I am the Lady of the Rosary," Mary said. She asked the children to pray the Rosary every day for peace.

A great way to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is to pray the Rosary each day in October. You could pray for peace, to fight temptation, for a special intention, or simply to get to know Jesus and Mary better. As you pray, think about events in the life of Mary and Jesus. We call these events mysteries because God speaks to us through them. What is God saying to you? Pray the Rosary and listen!

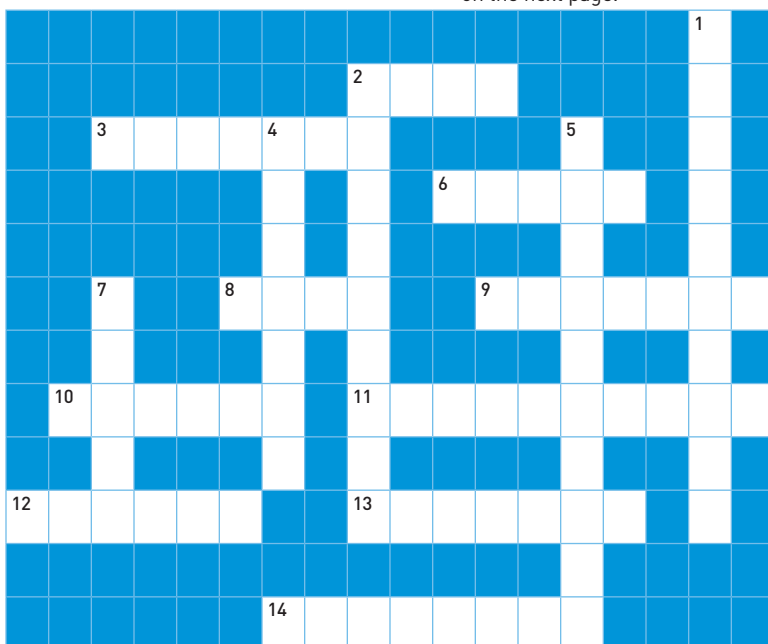


CONNIE CLARK is editor of *Living Faith Kids*, a quarterly magazine of daily Catholic devotions for children. To learn more, visit LivingFaithKids.com.

Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary with these activities and prayers!

Our Lady of the Rosary Crossword

Find the answer key plus more activities for this feast on the next page.



DOWN

1. It's been 100 years since Mary's _____ to three children.
2. We think about these while we pray the Rosary.
4. The _____ Empire was known for its cruelty ...
5. ... toward these people: _____.
7. A holy day can also be called a _____.

ACROSS

2. She wants us to pray for peace.
3. A special day in October was first dedicated to Our Lady of _____.
6. We sometimes have to _____ temptation.
8. He asked everyone to pray (and he still does!).
9. These seafaring soldiers prayed before a big battle.
10. Mary appeared to children here.
11. You can pray for some special _____.
12. You can find stories about these in the Bible.
13. This answer is in the clue for 11 across.
14. The pope kept these open 24 hours a day.

Bonus Puzzle
from **Living
the Liturgical
Year**

FINISH THE MYSTERIES Whenever we pray the Rosary, we meditate (we think deeply and prayerfully) on a set of mysteries, such as the Joyful or Luminous Mysteries. We meditate on one mystery with each decade (that's 10 beads) of the rosary. Get to know the Rosary mysteries better by filling in the blanks. (The words are below if you have trouble.) Then unscramble the letters in the boxes to find a special Rosary prayer.

The Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation: *Mary learns she will be Jesus' _____*

The Visitation: *Mary visits her _____ Elizabeth.*

The Nativity: *Jesus is _____ in Bethlehem.*

The Presentation: *Mary and _____ take baby Jesus to the temple.*

The _____ of Jesus in the temple: *The boy Jesus amazes the teachers.*

The Luminous Mysteries

The _____ of Jesus: *God's voice proclaims that Jesus is his beloved Son.*

The Wedding Feast at Cana: *Jesus performs his first _____.*

The Proclamation of the _____: *Jesus teaches us how to live.*

The Transfiguration: *Jesus is revealed in _____.*

The Institution of the Eucharist: *Jesus offers his _____ at the Last Supper.*

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony in the _____: *Jesus prays the night before he dies.*

The Scourging: *Jesus is _____ with whips.*

The Crowning with _____: *Jesus is mocked with this painful crown placed on his head.*

The Carrying of the _____: *Jesus carries this to Golgotha.*

The Crucifixion: *Jesus is _____ to the cross and dies.*

The Glorious Mysteries

The _____: *God the Father raises Jesus from the dead.*

The Ascension: *Jesus returns to his Father in _____.*

The Descent of the Holy Spirit: *The Holy Spirit comes to the _____.*

The Assumption: *At the end of her life on earth, Mary is taken, body and _____, into heaven.*

The Coronation: *Mary is crowned Queen of Heaven and _____.*

Word Bank disciples / cousin / mom Joseph / nailed / Baptism / earth / kingdom glory / Body and Blood / Garden / hurt Thorns / Cross / born / Resurrection / heaven / finding / soul / miracle

Collect the letters in the boxes here:

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

And unscramble them to spell this special prayer: _____

Solution (in order): heaven, disciples, soul, earth, Garden, hurt, Thorns, Cross, nailed, Resurrection, miracle, kingdom, glory, Body and Blood, Mom, cousin, born, Joseph, finding, Baptism,

ANSWER to **Our Lady of the Rosary Crossword** puzzle from page 16.

