

# St. John's Newsletter



## Power of the Rosary

The Church celebrates **Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary** also known as Our Lady of Victory on October 7, the anniversary of the decisive victory of the combined fleet of the Holy League of 1571 over the Ottoman navy at the Battle of Lepanto.

In 1571, Pope St. Pius V organized a coalition of forces from Spain and smaller Christian kingdoms, republics and military orders, to rescue Christian outposts in Cyprus, particularly the Venetian outpost at Famagusta which, however, surrendered after a long siege at the beginning of August before the Christian forces set sail. On Oct. 7, the Holy League, a coalition of southern European Catholic maritime states, sailed from Messina, Sicily and met a powerful Ottoman fleet in the Battle of Lepanto. Knowing that the Christian forces were at a distinct

disadvantage, Pope Pius V called for all of Europe to pray the Rosary for victory and led a rosary procession in Rome.

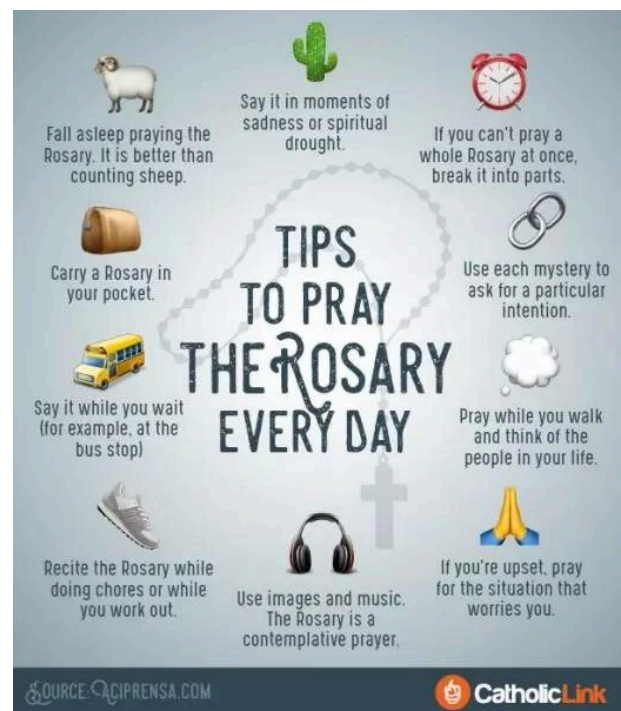
After five hours of fighting on the northern edge of the Gulf of Corinth, the combined navies of the Papal States, Venice and Spain managed to stop the Ottoman navy, slowing the Ottoman advance to the west. If the Ottomans had won, then they might have invaded Italy and the Ottoman sultan, already claiming to be emperor of the Romans, would have been in possession of both New and Old Rome with access to more of Western Europe and the Americas.

In 1573, Pope Gregory XIII changed the title of the "Feast of Our Lady of Victory" to "Feast of the Holy Rosary." Dominican friar Juan Lopez in his 1584 book on the rosary states that the feast of the rosary was offered "in memory and in perpetual gratitude of the miraculous victory that the Lord gave to his Christian people that day." In 1960 Pope John XXIII changed the title to "**Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary**" and designated the first Sunday in October for the universal Church to commemorate the role of the rosary.

### Fatima and the Rosary

Many apparitions of Mary show the importance of the rosary. When the Blessed Mother appeared to the shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal, she told them to pray the rosary to end the War (WWI) and for peace throughout the world. We need to pray for peace today too.

The church encourages the praying of the rosary throughout the month of October. Join the St. John's parish each Wednesday at 5:30 in the garden as we gather to pray the rosary for peace and intentions of the parish. (Bring your own chair.)



Sources: <https://anastpaul.com/2017/10/07/saint-of-the-day-7-october-our-lady-of-the-most-holy-rosaryour-lady-of-victory/>  
<https://catholic-link.org/images/infographic-tips-to-pray-the-rosary-every-day/>

Volume 16 - October 2025- St. John's Newsletter is a once-a-month publication aimed at providing you with items of interest about our Catholic faith. If there is a topic you are interested in, please contact the parish office and we will try to address it in future issues. – Submitted by Mary Jo Peters