

Rosary Circle Script

Hello! My name is _____ and I will be your host for today/tonight's meeting of the Way of the Rose. Would someone be willing to read our Group Description?

The Way of the Rose is an open-hearted, inclusive community of people dedicated to the forgotten Earth wisdom of the rosary...and to the Lady, by any name you like to call Her. We are not affiliated with the Catholic Church or any other religions institution. Nor do we seek to build a new one. We have no dues or fees, no buildings to maintain or capital campaigns. We pass the hat from time to time for our modest needs. There are no priests or levels of mastery. Instead of lineages of power, we value circles of friendship. We support one another in praying for our heart's desire.

If you are new to the rosary, welcome...and don't worry. The prayers are easy to learn, and one of them—the Hail Mary—you can learn today, as you listen and begin to follow along.

To begin our meeting, let's briefly introduce ourselves. Please state your name and geographic location. Let us know if this is your first meeting. OR just welcome newcomers as they enter.

[WHEN EVERYONE HAS SPOKEN, THE HOST ASKS...] Is there anyone else?

It is now time to say the rosary together. Many of us are praying the ongoing Way of the Rose 54-Day Novena. You can ask members about it or learn more on the website. Today we are on DAY ____ of the Novena. We will pray the **Joyful/Sorrowful/Glorious Mysteries**.

If you are unfamiliar with the prayers or mysteries of the rosary, you can visit the "How To" section of our website at wayoftherose.org

Following the *Hail Holy Queen*, please feel free to offer your petitions aloud to Our Lady. When you have finished, say the words "Hail Mary..." and everyone else will join in. When all have made their petitions, we invite the Dead to join our meeting. Please speak the name of anyone you wish to invite into our circle. When all have had a chance to speak, the rosary leader will say the words "Decade for the Dead," following which the members recite one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, and a Glory Be.

The meeting ends with the *Memorare* (which you can find below on your meeting script), after which there will be time for fellowship, questions, and sharing.

Can we have five volunteers to each explore and lead a Mystery today? [ASSIGN MYSTERIES]

Thank you everyone. At this time please mute yourself. You can unmute yourself if you are leading a mystery and when it is time to share petitions.

We begin by sharing words from Our Lady of Woodstock. Does anyone have a passage from Her messages that they have brought to share?

The Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation

The Angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that, if she is willing, she may bring forth a child without a husband. In medieval art, Mary is often depicted illuminated by a shaft of sunlight, wearing over her red dress a robe of the deepest blue—the color of the ocean.

2. The Visitation

Now with child, Mary visits the home of her cousin Elizabeth who, despite her advanced age, is also miraculously with child. The young woman and the old woman celebrate together the rising life force within them and its power to transform the world.

3. The Nativity

Mary gives birth in a cave used as a stable. In the darkness of the night, surrounded only by the animals, she brings her child into the world and lays him in a manger.

4. The Presentation

Mary presents her child to the greater community. On her way into the Temple, she encounters two ancient seers who recognize her as the Mother of God, but predict that a sword shall pierce her heart.

5. The Finding at the Temple

Mary loses her twelve-year-old son in Jerusalem. For three days she searches for him and eventually finds him discussing scripture with the elders in the Temple. Rather than leave him with these men, she brings him home to be with her.

The Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden

Jesus remains awake in the garden at night. The disciples have fallen asleep, unaware of the coming danger. Alone, he experiences the full weight of all the many sorrows to come.

2. The Scourging at the Pillar

Just as the land is furrowed by ploughs and the beasts are beaten into submission, the body of Mary's child is scourged. In the name of Empire, Jesus is flogged by soldiers who are following the orders of their commanders.

3. The Crowning with Thorns

In the central mystery of the rosary, Jesus is mocked by those still fearful of the power he represents. He is given a red robe and a reed for a scepter—each an ancient symbol of the goddess. On his head is placed not a wreath of roses but a crown of thorns.

4. The Carrying of the Cross

A crowd gathers as Jesus is marched to his execution. No one intervenes. After Jesus stumbles and falls, a random onlooker who has come for the spectacle is forced by the soldiers to assume responsibility for carrying the cross.

5. The Crucifixion

The tree that once stood at the center of devotion to the Mother has been stripped of life and made an instrument of execution instead. When Jesus is dead, he is lowered into Mary's arms.

The Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection

Following an ancient pattern whereby a slain god is resurrected by a mother or a lover, Mary Magdalene observes a sacred vigil at Jesus's tomb. On the third day, he appears to her at last. When she tells the other disciples, they refuse to believe her.

2. The Ascension

After his resurrection Jesus appears unexpectedly to various other disciples. On the fortieth day he disappears into a cloud, surrendering to the ceaseless cycle of birth, death, and rebirth that includes all life on Earth.

3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit

The disciples pray together with Mary for nine days after the Ascension. Finally, a mighty wind fills the room and the Holy Spirit descends upon them. The Hebrew word for spirit is *ruach*, which is feminine. In art, the Holy Spirit is often depicted as a dove—another sign of the Goddess.

4. The Assumption

Legend has it that Mary never dies but simply falls asleep and is “assumed” into heaven, her body and her spirit undivided. The body of the Great Mother is the body of the Earth and the body of the Heavens, the body of all that is.

5. The Coronation

In the final mystery of the rosary, Our Lady is crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth. Medieval statues of the Coronation showed Mary in the fullness of her power and glory, and yet mysteriously reborn and young again, holding the infant Christ. Life is a journey that circles back to where it started. This is where the rosary ends, and where it begins again.

The Hail Holy Queen (or Salve Regina)

*Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears!
Turn, then, O most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
Pray for us, holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Life.*

It is now time to share our petitions...

[AFTER THE PETITIONS THE HOST SAYS...] Are there any other petitions?

At this time, we invite the Dead to join us. Please state the name of anyone you wish to welcome into our circle.

[WHEN EVERYONE HAS HAD A CHANCE TO SPEAK, THE HOST SAYS...] **Please mute yourself.**

[THE HOST (OR VOLUNTEER) RECITES THE DECADE FOR THE DEAD AND THE MEMORARE, AFTER WHICH HE/SHE SAYS...]

The Memorare

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone
who fled to Thy protection, implored Thy help,
or sought Thine intercession was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence, I fly to Thee,
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother;
to Thee do I come, before Thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in Thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.*

PLEASE UNMUTE YOURSELF

HOST: If you are new, or if you have any questions about The Way of the Rose, or any insights to offer, now is the time to share them. How has your experience of the novena been? Does anyone have any questions, miracles, or insights to share?

