

Seven Sorrows Rosary

The Order of Prayer

WOTR Meeting 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 religious 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.

FIRST PETAL—WOTR circles are free. We may pass the hat to cover special expenses, but no contribution will ever be required. WOTR has no dues or fees for membership.

SECOND PETAL—WOTR circles are inclusive. Everyone is welcome at every meeting. We have affinity meetings but these circles are open. Anyone may attend.

THIRD PETAL—WOTR circles pray the rosary or a chaplet. We may adapt these or modify them for the purpose of a meeting, but the focus of our fellowship remains on Our Lady and Her beads.

FOURTH PETAL—WOTR circles are places to pray for our heart's desire. We do not support outside causes—religious, political, humanitarian, or otherwise—that might divert us from our own petitions.

FIFTHPETAL—WOTR circles are leaderless. A member may sponsor a meeting, but there are no teachers, experts, or authorities. Once a meeting format has been established, any member may lead it.

BEGIN with the Sign of the Cross:

In the name of Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. [Feel free to substitute 'Child' for Son and 'Holy Mother' for Holy Spirit if you want.]

NEXT (at Our Lady's request) recite the following words from 'Gospel According to the Dark':

Lift a stone from the earth and let it fall: it can only seek its Mother. All wisdom lies in this. All folly is tossing stones at the heavens and willing them to fly. I who am your Mother tell you these things. I tell you nothing but what is true. This is the first word to carry to the nations. Drop your stones and see if even one of them will fly.

ON THE FIRST MEDAL, announce: ***The Prophecy of Simeon.***

Say one Our Father, seven Hail Marys and conclude: *O most Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.*



ON THE SECOND MEDAL, announce: *The Flight into Egypt*. Say one Our Father, seven Hail Marys, and conclude: *O most Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.*

ON THE THIRD MEDAL, announce: *The Loss in the Temple*. Say one Our Father, seven Hail Marys, and conclude: *O most Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.*

ON THE FOURTH MEDAL, announce: *The Road to Calvary*. Say one Our Father, seven Hail Marys, and conclude: *O most Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.*

ON THE FIFTH MEDAL, announce: *The Crucifixion*. Say one Our Father, seven Hail Marys, and conclude: *O most Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.*

ON THE SIXTH MEDAL, announce: *The Pieta*. Say one Our Father, seven Hail Marys, and conclude: *O most Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.*

ON THE SEVENTH MEDAL, announce: *The Burial*. Say one Our Father, seven Hail Marys, and conclude: *O most Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.*

ON THE THREE BEADS OF THE PENDANT, recite Hail Marys. Then, holding the cross or medal at the end, say three times: *O Mary, who was conceived without sin and who suffered for us, pray for us!*

OFFER YOUR PETITIONS or PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

THEN SAY THE MEMORARE to Our Lady of Sorrows:

Remember, O most Sorrowful 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 unto 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.

END with the Sign of the Cross.

NOTES: Don't feel that you have to adhere so closely to the traditional form of the Seven Sorrows that you lose your enthusiasm for it or fail to connect to it emotionally. The Hail Marys and Our Fathers are, as always, the trellis on which we grow the vine of our personal prayer.

Seven is a number that has always been associated with spiritual endeavors. One way of reciting the Seven Sorrows is to align them with the Seven Chakras, starting at the top with the Crown Chakra for the Prophecy of Simeon and working your way down to the Base Chakra/Seventh Sorrow, as Jesus' body is laid in the tomb. Another is to follow the path of the oldest written story, *The Descent of Inanna*, joining the original Queen of Heaven as She makes Her way into the Underworld to visit Her dark sister, Ereshkigal.

At each of the Seven Gates to the Underworld, Inanna must surrender an "adornment" (an aspect of Herself that She identifies closely with but must nevertheless give up in order to complete Her journey). As She surrenders Her crown, Her earrings, Her necklace, and so forth, She asks each time, "What is this?" and a voice answers, "Quiet, Inanna! The ways of the Underworld are perfect and

may not be questioned.” Eventually She finds Herself completely naked and ready to undergo transformation, dying and being reborn.

You may find other patterns involving the number seven that you can combine with the Seven Sorrows to deepen your connection with them. Or you may simply recite them as given, reflecting on each of the Sorrows in the traditional way.