

The Witches Rosary with Joan of Arc Mysteries

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 beings 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.

Every rosary circle honors the Five Petals of the Wild Rose. Would anyone be willing to read them?

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.

FIFTH PETAL—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.

Does anyone have a Message from Our Lady of Woodstock they would like to share?

Is there anyone who would like to share what it means to them to be a witch?

We will need five volunteers for today's rosary. Today we are praying the [Joyful/Sorrowful/Glorious] Mysteries. [Ask for volunteers.]

After we finish saying the rosary, we will invite participants to share their novena petition or their heart's desire. Then we will acknowledge the presence of the Dead among us. Who would volunteer to lead us in the Prayers for the Dead?

[Rosary is said.]

Her Joyous Mysteries

1. Prophecy

Joan is born in the village of Domremy on January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany. Her mother remembers the church bells ringing as she held the baby. Many ancient prophecies told of a maid who would come from the oak forest to liberate France. In naming her Jehanne did her parents know they were invoking the name of the reincarnated goddess of the Cathars?

2. Annunciation

At the ancient beech tree where the village children would dance and commune with the fairies, Joan first encounters her spiritual guides. She is 13 and she is terrified. They told her who she was and what she must do. It took her four years to agree to their demands.

3. Visitation

Joan convinces any number of powerful men to listen to her and do what she says. A local lord gives her an escort to the court of the Dauphin. The Dauphin, the crown prince of France, gives a peasant girl who has never held a sword an army to command. She is the youngest general in history.

4. Liberation

Joan rallies the French troops and liberates the long-besieged city of Orleans from the English. Orleans was a city devoted to the Black Madonna, to Mary the Egyptian, and to Mary Magdalene before her. When she had liberated the city, Joan offered prayers to her Mother. Women brought her their stillborn babies and Joan revived them.

5. Coronation

Joan crowns the Dauphin King of France at Rheims Cathedral. During the coronation she stands beside him in full armor. Without Joan, Louis was no one. With Joan he was King.

Her Sorrowful Mysteries

1. Capture and Betrayal

Joan is captured on the battlefield. Like most soldiers of that period, Joan would have expected to be ransomed. But the Dauphin would do nothing to save her—not even when the Burgundians turned her over to the English. She was condemned as a witch.

2. The Tower and the Fall

Joan did not acquiesce to her fate. When the English imprisoned her in a tower, she leapt out of the window. Miraculously, she survived the sixty foot fall. She did admit to disobeying her voices when she did so, however. Did she know what was coming? Had they told her? She never said. After her leap, she was kept encased in chains in an iron cage in a dungeon.

3. The First Trial

Joan's true battle was waged against the theologians who questioned her for months. Kept in chains, barely fed, most likely raped—she stands before her seated accusers day after day. She never loses her wit or williness. "Do you know whether or not you are in God's grace?" asks Cauchon, her accuser, hoping to catch her. "If I am not, may God put me there; and if I am, may God so keep me. I should be the saddest creature in the world if I knew I were not in His grace."

4. The Recantation

Joan is led out to the village square where a great pyre had been built. Frightened, she signs a statement renouncing her visions and agreeing to stop wearing men's clothes. But even though she knows how to sign her name, she signs with an "X." When she recants the recantation and is tricked into wearing men's clothes, she is condemned to death.

5. The Fire

Joan was burned to death on May 30th. From the stake, Joan begged for a cross. A priest held up two sticks for her to watch as she burned. Her final words were, Jesu, Jesu, Jesu. The executioner found her heart in the coals. It would not burn and legend has it that it was thrown in the river. Joan was a lit flame, a pillar of fire. When she burned, she blazed.

Her Glorious Mysteries

1. The Dove

As Joan's body was devoured by the fire, a white dove was seen emerging from the flames by all those in attendance. The Dove is symbolic of peace, of the soul, of the Holy Spirit. But above all, the white dove is the symbol of the Goddess herself.

2. The Victory

As Joan had predicted, the English were routed from both Paris and all of France within ten years of her death. Every victory in battle was attributed to Her.

3. The Second Trial

Joan's mother, Isabelle Romee, fought the Church for twenty years to have her daughter re-tried. Her friends, her comrades, and her family all testified at Notre Dame to her powers and her grace. Joan was fully exonerated.

4. The Dormition of Mary or The Great Forgetting

Nine years after Joan was executed, the printing press was invented. Oral culture will quickly disappear as the written word becomes all powerful. On the one hand, because so much was written down about Joan at each of the trials, we know a great deal about her—what she said, what she sounded like, her sense of humor, her courage, her passion. On the other, that which the common illiterate people whispered about her could never be written down and much of Joan's real story is shrouded in mystery.

5. The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth

Joan rode into battle with a banner that said Jesu-Maria with a double cross. In many ways this image foreshadows the miraculous medal Catherine Laboure will see in Paris 400 years later with another double cross and two sacred hearts side by side for Jesus and Mary.

Hail Holy Queen is said after the five mysteries and prayers are said.

Before we begin our petitions, I would like to remind everyone that:

- Everything shared here is confidential.
- We do not offer each other advice or commentary on our petitions but simply bear witness to each other's hearts.
- While we may have many personal petitions in our daily rosary, at our meetings we ask that each participant focus on their current novena petition or heart's desire.

[Petitions are offered.]

We now acknowledge the presence of the Dead—our ancestors, our saints and anyone on the other side we love.

[Calling in the Dead]

It is now time for Prayers for the Dead.

[One Our Father and ten Hail Marys, ending with the Memorare.]

Thank you everyone. This concludes our meeting. Does anyone have any news or miracles to share?