



FAQ: Mysteries of the Rosary

Who is behind the production of Mysteries of the Rosary?

Mark Hartfiel, vice president of Paradisus Dei, is the narrator and guide for the Mysteries of Rosary series, which was filmed by Dan Johnson, the co-founder and creative director at 4PM Media. The idea for the series came to Mark when he was praying the Rosary after making intentional efforts to be the husband and father that God was calling him to be. He realized the Rosary was the best defense he had for protecting his family.

How did the series idea come about and how many years will the project last?

As a husband and father, Mark believes it is his spiritual and physical duty to protect his family, to keep them safe from all harm. It's his job to pray for his wife and his kids by name and sacrifice for them. For Mark, it became a practical thing to pick up the Rosary and start praying for his family, each of them by name. He started small with a decade or two here and there but, ultimately, God convicted him to pray the Rosary daily.

Through his work with Paradisus Dei and working with fathers all across the country, he started praying the Rosary with hundreds of men every week on a Zoom call when COVID hit. There were no grand ideas to make a film series about the Rosary at this point but, unsurprisingly, the idea to do so ultimately came about while praying the Rosary.

The first thing Mark did was to call his longtime friend Dan Johnson, the co-founder and creative director at 4PM Media. Steve Bollman, who founded Paradisus Dei, was on board as well after Mark pitched him the idea. However, the Holy Land was closed when Mark and Dan decided to pursue the project, which led to months of intricate planning and preparation. When they did finally secure flights to the Holy Land for filming, they were well prepared and worked with Biblical Productions on the ground, who helped them keep their production schedule, scope out shots beforehand and help to tell the story. They filmed everything they needed for the first seven-episode series of the Sorrowful Mysteries over the course of 16 days.

One series per year will be released on each of the five Mysteries of the Rosary starting in 2023.

How can people watch the Mysteries of the Rosary?



The first episode was released Monday, Jan. 30, 2023. The remaining Mysteries of the Rosary videos will be released on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22). People interested in seeing the series can visit www.therosaryseries.com and sign up for the email newsletter.

Is the Mysteries of the Rosary series geared for individuals or groups?

Either is great, but the discussion guides are geared more towards groups, especially in parishes as a Lenten devotion.

What were the sources of inspiration for the Mysteries of the Rosary series?

Scripture was the primary source. St. John Paul II's Apostolic Letter on the Rosary was secondary. They also used St. Louis de Montfort's writings on the Rosary. The rest was personal reflection.

How were the people interviewed in the film chosen?

Through a lot of prayer. Mark and Dan didn't go after the most popular people to speak with on these topics but rather those who they felt called to interview. The people interviewed are all diverse — there are men, women and children from all different backgrounds and cultures.

What age group is the series aimed at?

There is not a specific target audience. This can work for any age group, men's or women's groups, Rosary groups, families praying together, college students, anyone really. It's not built as a teaching series. It is rooted in Scripture but the personal experiences and testimonies gives it a storyline that keeps the person engaged. It doesn't feel like you are sitting in a classroom. The series is engaging for all the senses.

Has anything like Mysteries of the Rosary been created before?

There are so many wonderful films about Christ, His Passion and life, and about the early Church, but none that have been done like this film series. Mysteries of Rosary invites viewers to experience each mystery of the Rosary in a new way, digging deep into their imagination



using the visuals and reflections presented in the film series, to contemplate the life of Christ alongside the heart of Mary.

For more information, see the website: www.therosaryseries.com.