

# Host a Class

## Welcome to Mysteries of the Rosary!

This leader's guide will provide you and your team all you need to know in order to organize, promote and launch a successful seven-week Mysteries of the Rosary class.

Mysteries of the Rosary aims to facilitate an experience where participants can encounter, contemplate and discuss the key mysteries in the life of Jesus Christ as contained within the Rosary. The Rosary is simultaneously a contemplative prayer, a spiritual weapon and a catechetical tool. The goal is for each participant to encounter the person of Jesus Christ in the episodes, discussions and in their personal prayer. In doing so, Our Lord will teach them the art of Christian living as well as the art of Christian prayer.

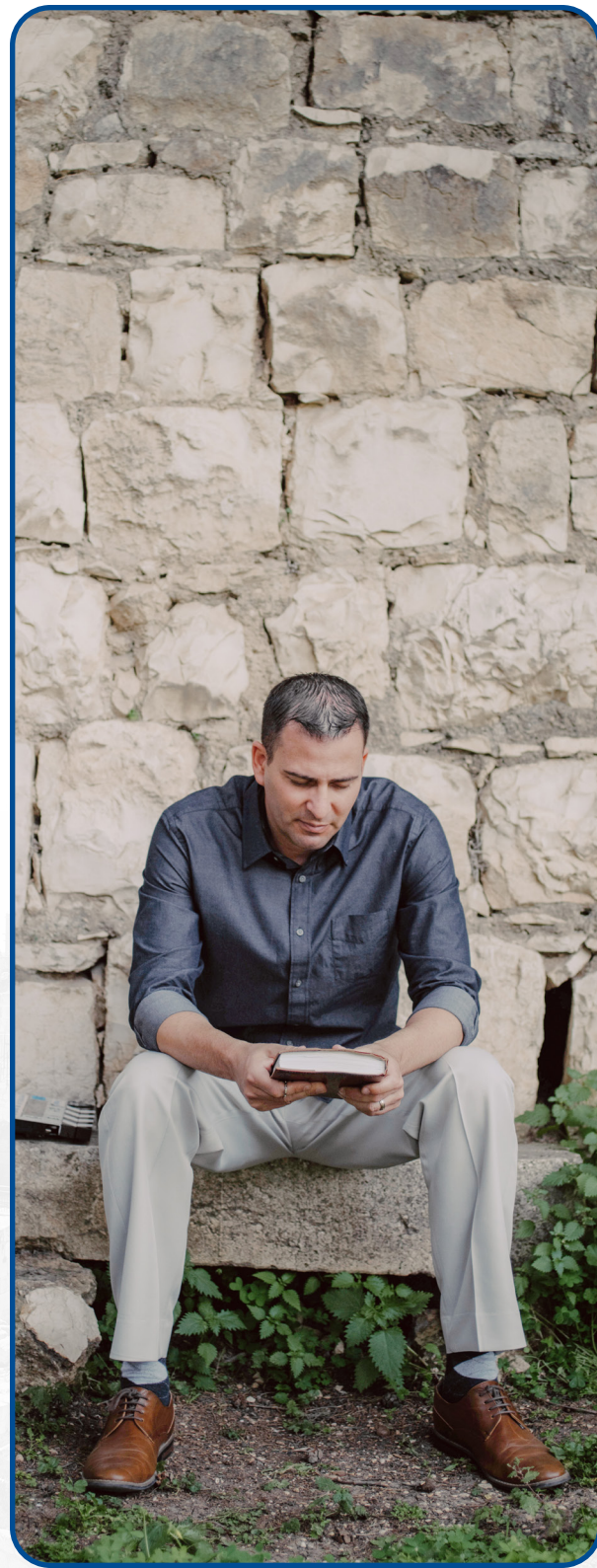
Hosting this series is simple and easy! Just watch the episode and invite the participants into a little R&R: Rosary and reflection. Yes - it's that simple! In most cases, an entire Rosary will be too long for your gathering so just pray one decade together. Indeed, the power of even one Hail Mary will be discovered and celebrated as an explosion of faith!

Please take the time to carefully read and absorb these time-honored principles so that you will be properly equipped to help facilitate a life-transforming encounter with Christ!

Please know we are praying for you and your team as you embark on this worthy adventure.

God's peace,

*Mark Hartfield*





## Outline of this Guide

1. The Vision

2. The Structure

3. Establishing Your Team

4. Promotion

### The Vision

#### ***Enter into the Mysteries of Christ and rediscover the power of the Rosary***

An authentic encounter with Christ leads to our transformation and sanctification. Mysteries of the Rosary integrates deeply reflective insights on the life of Christ, theological truths and captivating stories together with breathtaking scenery, illuminating sacred art and inspiring music. By filming on location in the Holy Land, our aspiration is to make the Rosary come alive in the hearts and minds of the participants. Encounters with Christ in the episodes and discussions will lead to even deeper encounters with Him in personal prayer and contemplation.

### The Structure

#### ***A little R&R...***

Not rest and relaxation but Rosary and reflection! The four essential components of each session are a social gathering, the video content, the Rosary and a reflection. The goal is to create an environment where people can come, learn and discuss their thoughts or questions in an atmosphere that is non-threatening. The entire series is about the life of Jesus Christ! When He is proclaimed, through the video content provided, it is then the Holy Spirit's role to move the souls of the participants. The Holy Spirit is the prime mover of changing hearts. The role of the team is to create fertile ground for the Holy Spirit to plant and grow the seed of the faith.

#### ***Social Gathering***

The first part of each session is to create a quality atmosphere of hospitality including good food and beverages (dinner, snacks, coffee, wine, whatever is best for the local community) so that each guest who attends will feel like the team has presented a thoughtful arrangement for whoever attends. Authentic experiences of hospitality are a "first gospel" for many people, so this should be done well. The budget doesn't need to be huge; simple may be better. Consider temporary table cloths and candles on each table.

#### ***Content***

The centerpiece, though not the most important part of the evening for the guests, is the video presentation. It is essential to have high quality audio and visual for the video and the host should make an engaging introduction before the video is presented. This should include a welcoming of guests, a very short story or mini-testimony, possibly mixed with some humor that introduces the topic at hand. This is not a lecture or a talk, but a 60-90 second engaging introduction to the topic of the evening.



## **Reflection**

Discussion among the participants within a small group or table group setting. This is the most important part of each session where the participants are able to break down the material and integrate it into their own lives. It is an opportunity for them to ask questions, provide deeper insights, share personal experiences and grow in their faith with others. A leader's guide will be provided for each episode.

## **Rosary**

Pray one decade of the Rosary together using our Mysteries of the Rosary guide. Pray the decade related to your episode.



### *Example Schedule:*

6:00pm: Leaders-Only Meeting

6:30pm-7pm: Social Gathering - Doors Open for Dinner or Snacks

7:00pm-7:30pm: Content - Welcome and Video

7:30pm - 7:33pm: Rosary - Pray One Decade Together

7:35-8pm: Reflection - Table Discussion

## **Establishing Your Team**

---

The following roles are suggested for larger groups. For smaller groups, this can be paired back and roles can be combined. The team you establish will be “the face” of your initiative. Therefore, if you seek to attract some of the younger families and young adults at your parish, do your best to include them on your team.

**Main Host:** The person leading the team and who will be “up-front” as the MC each night.

**Logistics Lead:** The person in charge of setting up the room for the evening including tables, chairs, tablecloths, candles, audio/visual and food (if applicable).

**Communications Lead:** This person will be in charge of all aspects of communication from promotion (before the course) to weekly reminders to the participants during the course.

**Hospitality Lead:** The primary role is to be of humble service to the participants and to greet them with joy as they enter. Acts of hospitality include helping participants get set up with a nametag, getting them signed up on the email list, pointing them to the food or drinks and helping them know how to find a table group.

**Table Hosts:** The main responsibility of the table host is to be an encouraging presence, display valued attention and ask quality questions in order to facilitate great conversations. The table host should help ensure each participant feels valued and understood. People will come from many different backgrounds with various life experiences which goes to show how much it is up to the Holy Spirit to move hearts and minds. The role of the table host is to be a witness to faith in Christ in his or her life as a fellow pilgrim on the road of walking with Christ. Table hosts should be humble laborers in the vineyard of faith by showing focused attention, asking good questions, sharing encouraging feedback and sharing their own thoughtful insights into the material presented. The main focus, however, should remain on the participants by helping them come to terms with the information being presented in their own life.





Everyone on the team should make prayer a priority. Pray that the grace of the Holy Spirit would move in the hearts of each participant so that no matter where they are in their spiritual lives, Christ would encounter them right there and take them one step further.

## Promotion

Create a buzz at your parish with personal invitations and mass marketing. A full array of professional digital promotional items can be found here.

### Personal Invitations

Over 75% of the people who attend will do so because somebody personally invited them to be there. This is the single most effective way to promote the series. Face to face is the best way to invite family, friends, neighbors, coworkers and parishioners. Nonetheless, use email, phone calling, text messaging and social media as needed. Send out the series trailer far and wide and link people to Mysteries of the Rosary website.

Each member of your team should be challenged and encouraged to personally invite at least 10 people. This will create the initial word-of-mouth buzz within the community. What gets measured, gets done. Within a team meeting, have the team make a physical list of who they will personally invite and follow up with them during the next meeting to make sure this is taking place. Shared Google documents can also work well. Sometimes it takes multiple people inviting the same person for them to actually join.

It's key to think about people in the parish who might be interested in attending something engaging like Mysteries of the Rosary but aren't used to attending "church events." Don't be afraid to think outside the box. Invite anyone you think might be interested. The worst you can get is a "no", and a "no" is not a "never".

### Mass Marketing

**Bulletin:** Start promoting the time and location six weeks from the start with a brief explanation of what will be covered. Include RSVP and contact information.

**Pulpit Announcements:** If you have your pastor or parochial vicar make a pulpit announcement and to truly plug the course is the single most effective way to promote this program. Ideally, it will be a brief and enthusiastic plug. Strong, public support from your pastor has the power to double your attendance.

**Posters and Flyers:** Print quality posters and flyers to display around the parish infrastructure. Post them in busy areas around the parish gathering area, social hall and other utilized space.

**Social Media:** Utilize whoever handles the digital media at your parish or campus. The post should be clear, engaging and attractive. Facebook and Instagram posts are recommended.

**Parish Email and Website:** Use the parish email and website to promote Mysteries of the Rosary. Include the series trailer video and beautiful pictures from our digital promotional folder.

**Diocesan Paper:** Reach out to your diocese and let them know what you are doing. They may be very interested in writing an article about your initiative.

