



The Armor of Faith

Topic Summary: The Rosary

Part XII: Personal, Family, and Fellowship Prayer



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Introduction

[Greeting:] → Welcome to “The Armor of Faith,” a show where we hope to bring our listeners closer to the Word of God and the blessings we receive through living in the fullness of the Catholic faith. My name is Doug and I will be your host as we discuss the blessings of the Church Christ built upon Peter.

I am joined today by my panel: [names]

Helen is a lay-Dominican and has a love for music ministry. The Dominicans, I always mention, are also known as the Order of Preachers. Sharon is still our token cradle Catholic on the team, and, as everyone knows by now, I am simply here to ask questions because asking answers was patented by Jeopardy. To answer my questions, correct my pronunciation, and make sure I know which century I am talking about is why we have our panelists, so welcome to our panelists as well as to our listeners.

Let us open with a prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in thanks and praise for this opportunity to open and share your Holy Word this day. We pray that You are with us and all our listeners as we share with one another the blessings of faith. We pray You will grant us wisdom and understanding as we seek to learn Your Holy Truth.

Dear Lord, we also lift up the prayers in our prayer basket. You know what is written on each one and you know the hearts of those who offer their thanks and praise as well as their petitions for Your assistance and the blessings of Your great mercy.

We pray especially today for all who are suffering from the pandemic and the souls we have lost. We also pray for those who are working so hard to contain, mitigate, and end the pandemic. We pray also, dear Lord, that You will touch hearts so we may work together for the blessings of all and so we may turn away from the politics which distracts and disrupts the response.

We continue our prayers, dear Lord, for Adolpho, Frank, Barb, Carol, Mary, Sarah, Geska, Nadia, Lucy, and the children Anna, Amber, and Ben; all who are battling various forms of cancer. We pray Your healing hand shall rest upon them, as well as your hand of comfort; that You will guide the hearts and hands of their care givers, and that Your hand of comfort shall rest on all those who love and care for them.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

If you would like to add your prayers to our prayer basket, send us an email at armoroffaithradio@gmail.com. Please include the word “prayer” in the subject line so that we will give it priority and capture it for our prayer basket. Just so you know, Sharon and I lift up our prayers with those in the Armor of Faith Radio prayer basket during our daily prayers.

If you haven't discovered, yet, you can also listen to Armor of Faith Radio on demand and on the go using your smartphone. In addition to wcatradio.com/armoroffaith, we are available through a number of streaming services, such as iHeart Radio, Spreaker, iTunes, and CastBox, among others. Simply search for “Armor of Faith Radio” and select the episode you desire. We will be happy to keep you company wherever you are and wherever you are waiting.

We would also like to ask for your assistance to help share our discussions. All you need to do is share the URL, wcatradio.com/armoroffaith via email or social media and tell family and friends as well. Several of the streaming services through which we are available on demand also have share options, so we invite you to join the evangelization by helping us spread the good news of the Gospel and our faith in Jesus Christ.

Faith Event Announcements:

40 Days for Life: The 40 Days for Life 2020 Spring Campaign remains in progress through 5 Apr 2020, but the public vigil portion was suspended to enable the pandemic control measures.

Unfortunately, abortion clinics have not left the field and remain open. While some states have directed that non-essential surgeries be stopped to redirect vital medical supplies to the care of the afflicted and suffering, abortion advocates are screaming that abortion is essential and abortion clinics must be kept open. What they are saying is that killing children in the womb takes priority to caring for the suffering and afflicted. I would invite everyone to let that sink in a moment as to the mind set of the advocates for the culture of death.

While the public vigil is suspended, we still have the power of prayer. We must remember, prayer is powerful and always necessary.

We can also spend the time we would have volunteered in support of life to write our representatives and ask them to support life. Remember, in writing, do not threaten; rather, be respectful, clear, concise, and brief as you encourage the support of life.

If you would like to learn more about how you can help, check your local 40 Days for Life web site. The national web site, <https://www.40daysforlife.com/>, can help you find an organization near you.

WCAT Radio Fund Raiser: WCAT Radio, the organization through which this and a variety of kindred Catholic radio shows are presented, is conducting a funding drive to help address the costs of operation and production. WCAT Radio presents two dozen hours of new, quality, Catholic programming each week and offers over 5,000 hours of archived programming in history, theology, spirituality, and poetry for the purpose of promoting the Catholic spiritual journey — a virtual audio library of our Catholic faith. Please consider giving a tax deductible donation to WCAT Radio to enable them to continue to broadcast the Catholic message. You can donate online at <https://wcatradio.com/support>. Any amount you can contribute, will help the mission to evangelize the Gospel.

Why Catholics Do What We Do:

Lent – Part VII:

We are now half way through Lent. Sure hope everyone is doing well with the sacrifices we signed on for this season. Actually, I believe that we have all taken on many sacrifices this year. In Doug's and my daily prayers, we ask that each of you are protected and kept healthy throughout this pandemic. Never forget that God loves us and desires that we be filled with happiness, wealthy with love, and rich in health.

As we are nearing the end of Lent, I thought we might jump ahead to Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday is the last Sunday of Lent. This is the day we remember the events in Christ's life as He triumphantly returned to Jerusalem to prepare for His passion and crucifixion. After three years of preaching and teaching, Jesus entered Jerusalem amid joy and gladness. By this time, He was famous throughout the whole region and many called Him Lord, Savior, Son of God. The people were very happy to see Him. In their joy, they saluted Him with waves of palm and olive branches as he rode on the back of a small donkey into the city. Jesus never went out of His way to be famous, it just happened. He was born in a stable. His parents were humble people. He walked everywhere. He chose to be surrounded by the poor. He chose fishermen, not educated men to be His Apostles. And then He rode on a donkey, a lowly animal, as He was paraded to the fulfillment of saving the children of His creation.

Today, we celebrate and remember that day as if it were happening now. In Catholic churches around the world, Priests will be blessing palm branches for the faithful and they will then process into the church much as the people of Jesus' time did as they ushered Him into town.

Because the palm branches are blessed, they become sacramentals. This means that these are gifts to us from the church. We are to care for them as we would a medal, a crucifix or an icon. Just like other sacramentals, the palms do not carry any special powers and in no way have any magical ability. What they are, are reminders of significant events in Christ's life. These palms are given to us freely and we take them home with us after the Mass.

Palms are often found in Catholic homes draped over crucifixes, layed on Bibles, or even hung with holy pictures. They are designed to be used for the year as a reminder to pray and to recall the passion of Christ as He went about earning for us the path to eternal salvation. When palm branches are first received, they are beautifully green and healthy. As the year progresses, they will turn brown and become fragile. Since these have been blessed, they cannot be thrown out with the trash. As the next Lent approaches, the palms are to be gathered and returned to the church. The Priest, or someone or persons he assigns, will burn the palms. The ashes from the palms are then put into containers that will be used on Ash Wednesday. Yep, the ashes that you receive on your forehead are made from the palms from the previous year.

Catholic people are very creative. In all my years of going to Palm Sunday Mass, I do not recall a single time when palms were not being lovingly bent into crosses or braided into some work of art. There is no problem with this. I am not talented to do this so my palms are handed to someone else to become a beautiful creation or they remain long and drape a crucifix at home.

This year, it looks like we will not be celebrating Mass as communities. This is yet another sacrifice that we all will endure. Hopefully, the orders for new palms have already been made and will be arriving in time for this special day. Priests can bless them and we can go by the church to pick up palms for our families and still be within the bounds of “distancing”. As you receive your palms and bring them home, remember, that these are beautiful symbols we use to remind us of the love so very great that He gave up His life for us.

Have a blessed week All. Remember, you are loved dearly by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and yes, by us as well.

If you would like to learn more about Palm Sunday, we invite you to follow the links in the reference section of the topic summary for this show. You can obtain the topic summary by visiting <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaithstudyguides/> and look for episode 139.

Discussion:

Last time, as we came to the conclusion of our eleventh discussion about the scripture behind the Rosary and all which it reveals, I mentioned that those new to the Rosary might be tempted to ask, “Do I need to be a theologian to properly pray and meditate on the prayers and mysteries of the Rosary?” Those who pray the Rosary regularly will tell you, no. They will advise us that we simply need to relax, enjoy the spiritual ride, and allow the Holy Spirit to be our guide.

We do hope that as we come to the conclusion of our series about the Rosary that everyone finds something they want to explore further. It is a prayer which traverses so many threads of scripture as we meditate on our faith. Of course, when we put on our favorite sweater or jacket, we do not always examine the threads, but the weave of the fabric still keeps us warm. So it is with the Rosary. Of course, as we mentioned a number of times during our discussion, we provided several examples of to where the Rosary may take our heart, but there is even more we can discover as we pray.

Today, as we conclude our discussion concerning the Rosary, we will talk about means by which we can increase the presence of the Rosary in our lives. I understand that learning the Rosary can appear a bit intimidating as something to memorize, but we should not allow memorization to be an obstacle because there are so many aids available. I also pray we did not intimidate anyone by all the scripture we mentioned as to through which our heart may wander during the course of the Rosary, but we should not view the threads of scripture as something to overwhelm us, rather, as a treasure to discover.

(Question 1: Our first topic today is about bringing the Rosary into our personal prayer. As I just mentioned memorizing the basic prayers can cause us to pause. I know it was an obstacle for me because I am not very good at memorization. **Why should we not let memorization deter us from bringing the Rosary into our prayer life?)**

- Aides to help us pray the Rosary are everywhere
- Memorization will come on its own in time
- We never have to memorize the prayers, but there is a freedom when we do
- Consider the prayers we memorize as life giving water which primes the pump

(Question 2: As we discussed during our previous episodes, there is so much for us to discover as we pray the Rosary. **What is some advice we might offer to those who wish to learn it or increase its presence in their daily prayers.)**

- The first step is the decision to pray.
- Make it a part of our daily routine → set aside the time → include in priorities
- Use an aid from which to learn the basic prayers
- Find an online Rosary video, podcast, mp3 or devotional to follow and learn
- Take a moment to read through a segment of scripture, then pray and reflect
- Praying the Rosary is also a good time for examination of conscience
- As we pray, we may also listen for His light, silent, sound in our hearts
- Reflect on the reasons for our intentions and petitions → remember adoration, thanks, and praise for His great glory, grace, and mercy
- Before or after praying the Rosary, write in a prayer journal and make note of spiritual questions and petitions – also make note of what is in our heart

(Question 3: The Rosary provides a wonderful means of bringing prayer into the domestic church. **What is some advice we might offer to encourage praying the Rosary as a family?)**

- Parents, teach your children
 - ➔ We also learn as we teach
 - ➔ Use coloring pages as a means to help younger children (enter “Rosary coloring pages” into your favorite search engine – lots out there)
 - ➔ Older children can help younger children too (remember, we learn as we teach)
- Set aside family time → bring everyone together
- Pray for family members who cannot be part of prayer time

- Before praying, select one mystery and read the associated scripture aloud
- Talk about for what to pray
- Allow children a special part → as they learn, teach them how to lead
- Incorporate the Rosary into special occasions and family traditions
- Give hugs afterwards → make it a moment of joy

(Question 4: Just as the Rosary can enable our family bonds, it is also a prayer we may enable the bonds of fellowship. **What is some advice we might offer for opportunities to pray in fellowship?)**

- Many parishes set aside time before or after the Mass
- Parishes may set aside time before, during, or after adoration
- Pray the Rosary before or after bible studies
- Pray the Rosary as part of a prayer group or prayer home ministry
- Pray the Rosary before or after ministry meetings
- Ask a friend to pray the Rosary with you
- Incorporate the Rosary into special occasions
- Incorporate the Rosary into a date night or group date

(Question 5: The first time I prayed the Rosary, I did so as part of a group. For the longest time, I viewed it only as a group prayer. **Why should we incorporate the Rosary into both our personal as well as group prayer life?)**

- We have some flexibility with personal prayer as to our preparation and meditation
- Where two or three are gathered in His name, He is in our midst (cf. Matthew 18:20)
- As we pray together, we live the second of the greatest commandments (cf. Matthew 22:36-40)
- The Rosary provides a common bond of faith with family, friends, and fellow faith travelers
- Personal prayer is a personal devotion → Prayer with others amplifies that devotion

Quotes:

– *Saint Louis de Monfort – Secrets of the Rosary*

From the time Saint Dominic established the devotion to the holy Rosary up to the time when Blessed Alan de la Roche re-established it in 1460, it has always been called the Psalter of Jesus and Mary. This is because it has the same number of Hail Marys as there are psalms in the Book of the Psalms of David. Since simple and uneducated people are not able to say the Psalms of David, the Rosary is held to be just as fruitful for them as David's Psalter is for others. But the Rosary can be considered to be even more valuable than the latter for three reasons:

- Firstly, because the Angelic Psalter bears a nobler fruit, that of the Word

- incarnate, whereas David's Psalter only prophesies his coming;
- Just as the real thing is more important than its prefiguration and the body surpasses the shadow, so the Psalter of our Lady is greater than David's Psalter, which did no more than prefigure it;
 - Because our Lady's Psalter or the Rosary made up of the Our Father and Hail Mary is the direct work of the Blessed Trinity.

Final Thoughts:

As we close our series concerning the Rosary, we pray our discussion opened doors to discovery as to what the scripture behind the Rosary reveals. As we mentioned at several points, there is so much to discover and so much to which the prayers and mysteries draw our attention. It is the ultimate treasure map, but it is also the ultimate armor and weapon as the battle with the evil one rages.

Remember what our Lady said to Saint Dominic:

I want you to know that, in this kind of warfare, the principal weapon has always been the Angelic Psalter, which is the foundation-stone of the New Testament. Therefore, if you want to reach these hardened souls and win them over to God, preach my Psalter.

As we bring this episode and series to a conclusion, our nation is engaged in social distancing and the doors to our parishes are closed. We can only watch the Mass at a distance. Some do not even have a means by which they may watch. We are not allowed to receive the Eucharist. We are being distanced from the sacraments. Still, the Rosary cannot be taken from us. It is a gift to us from the Holy Spirit who inspired it. Our Lord and Savior and His Mother encourage us to pray it so that as we pray, we may approach the Sacred Heart of the only begotten Son of God.

During this time of social distancing, we may be restricted in our ability to pray in fellowship, but we can still join together using video devices or phones. More importantly, we can join with our families and lift up our hearts in prayer.

Something else we should consider, our Lady told Sister Lucia of Fatima that the final battle with Satan will be over marriage and family. Sister Lucia wrote to Cardinal Caffarra, "The final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of Satan will be about Marriage and the Family." In her letter, she added, "Don't be afraid, because whoever works for the sanctity of Marriage and the Family will always be fought against and opposed in every way, because this is the decisive issue." Then she concluded, "nevertheless, Our Lady has already crushed his head." (Catholic News Agency)

During this time of social distancing, while we are being kept from the Eucharist, wouldn't it be wonderful if a multitude of families joined the battle, using the ultimate weapon of which both our Lord and our Lady called St. Dominic to preach? (Montfort, 20, 25) Wouldn't it be such a blessing if families all over the world lifted their hearts to God through the Rosary so that the doors to our parishes might be reopened and we may once more receive the precious body and blood of our Lord and Savior as He instructed us at the last supper?

We pray all our listeners will draw closer to the Rosary so that the Rosary may draw all of us closer to Christ. Pray, encourage one another, and pray so that as we pray, we may imitate what the Rosary contains and obtain what it promises through the same Christ our Lord.

Wrap Up: Well, our time has come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next time as we begin a new series where we discuss the Divine Mercy.

Let us conclude with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity to share the blessings of our trust and faith in You. We pray that as we go our separate ways, You will continue to walk with us and help us to see how we may put on the armor of **truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation**, and the **Word** of the gospel not only for the benefit of our lives, but also the lives of all who cross our path. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Thank you all and God bless.

Next Session: Divine Mercy – Part I: The Vision

Why Catholics Do What We Do References:

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