Sources and further reading

This guide follows the 1869 Franciscan manual from beginning to end. A 1908 Catholic Encyclopedia account gives a different opening and places each Joy within the first Hail Mary of its decade. It also does not list a Glory Be after each decade. Those historical variations are not mixed into this version.

Prayer source: Manual of the Third Order of St. Francis of Assisi (1869), pages 305 to 307.

Common prayers: F. X. Lasance, With God (1911), p. 153 and p. 790.

The short instructions are editorial aids. This private compilation carries no ecclesiastical imprimatur. Historical indulgence language does not establish a present-day grant.

Read the full companion online

https://novenaregina.com/rosary/franciscan-crown/book

Printing this pamphlet

This reading file has eight pages, each 5½ × 8½ inches. For a folded pamphlet, use the separate “fold-and-print” PDF: print its four landscape Letter pages at actual size, on both sides, flipping on the short edge. Fold the two sheets together. Test one sheet first, since printer settings vary.

The Franciscan Crown

The Rosary of the Seven Joys

A complete guide to praying with your beads

The Franciscan Crown is a seven-decade Marian rosary in honor of the Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Old Franciscan manuals do not all give the same opening and conclusion. This guide uses one complete method from the 1869 Manual of the Third Order of St. Francis of Assisi rather than combining parts from different editions.

Inside: the prayer order, opening and closing prayers, all seven mysteries, and the full common prayers. Read the longer history and meditations free on our website.

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How to pray

1. Pray the opening versicles

Pray “O God, come to my assistance,” with its response, and then pray one Glory Be.

2. Pray the seven decades

Announce each Joy once. Then meditate on that Joy while praying one Our Father on the large bead and ten Hail Marys, one on each small bead. Finish with one Glory Be.

3. Complete the seventy-two Hail Marys

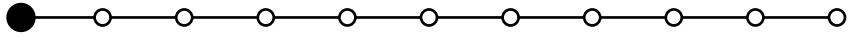
After the seventh decade, pray two additional Hail Marys. This brings the Crown itself to seventy-two Hail Marys.

4. Pray for the Sovereign Pontiff

Pray one Our Father and one Hail Mary for the Sovereign Pontiff.

5. Pray the conclusion

Finish with the versicle and response about the Immaculate Conception, followed by the closing prayer on page 7.



1 Our Father 10 Hail Marys

Keep the mystery in mind while saying the prayers. Announce it once before the group. Bead arrangements can vary.

Complete the Crown

After the seventh decade, pray two more Hail Marys. These complete the seventy-two of the Crown. Then pray one Our Father and one Hail Mary for the Sovereign Pontiff. The complete 1869 sequence therefore has seventy-three Hail Marys.

Then say the following. When praying alone, say both V. and R.

V. In thy Conception, O Virgin Mary, thou wast immaculate.

R. Pray for us to the Father, whose Son thou didst bring forth.

O God, who didst prepare for Thy Son a worthy habitation, by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we beseech Thee that, as Thou didst preserve her from every stain of sin, through the merits of the preordained atonement of Jesus Christ, so Thou wouldst grant that we also may come without spot to Thee. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Seven Joys

5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Rejoice with Mary and St. Joseph when they find Jesus after three days of searching.

6. The Resurrection of Her Divine Son

Rejoice in Christ's victory over death and the joy it brings to His Blessed Mother.

7. The Assumption of Our Lady

Rejoice that Mary is taken into Heaven, body and soul.

At each Joy: one Our Father and ten Hail Marys, followed by one Glory Be.

Begin the Crown

V. O God, come to my assistance.

R. O Lord, make haste to help me.

Pray one Glory Be.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Then announce the First Joy and begin one Our Father and ten Hail Marys, followed by one Glory Be.

The common prayers

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Seven Joys

1. The Annunciation and Divine Maternity

Rejoice with Mary at the message of the angel and the Incarnation of the Son of God.

2. The Visitation

Rejoice with Mary as she visits St. Elizabeth and carries Christ into her home.

3. The Birth of Jesus

Rejoice with Mary at Bethlehem and adore the Infant Christ.

4. The Adoration of the Magi

Rejoice as the nations come to worship the newborn King.

At each Joy: one Our Father and ten Hail Marys, followed by one Glory Be.