

October - The Month of the Rosary

By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to certain devotion. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotion. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7).

The best way to celebrate the month is, of course, to pray the Rosary. But why is it that on October 7th the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary? On **October 7, 1571**, a great victory over the mighty Turkish fleet was won by Catholic naval forces primarily from Spain, Venice, and Genoa under the command of Don Juan of Austria.

The patchwork team of Catholic ships was powered by the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Knowing that the Christian forces were at a distinct material disadvantage, the holy pontiff, **St. Pope Pius V** called for all of Europe to pray the Rosary for victory.

We know today that the victory was significant, prevented the **Islamic invasion** of Europe, and evidenced the Hand of God working through Our Lady.

The Battle of Lepanto was at first celebrated liturgically as "Our Lady of Victory." Later, the feast of October 7th was renamed "Our Lady of the Rosary" and extended throughout the Universal Church by Pope Clement XI in 1716 (who canonized Pope Pius V in 1712). And with that we are back to Fatima, Portugal where Our Lady, when asked her name, said: "I am the Lady of the Rosary." At Fatima, Our Lady taught us to pray the Rosary every day.

Heaven presented its peace plan at Fatima and truly gave us hope for the world. Conversions were promised at Fatima: the conversion of sinners!

Please join us for Rosary prayer 20 minutes before every weekend Mass, or daily after Morning Mass. Please pray Rosary while driving car to work, at home with Family or privately in our Chapel. We all keep our Rosary always near with us. Our Lady of Rosary, pray for us!