

Our Lady of the Rosary

Celebrating the Light of Christ on October 7

Prepare: Read Luke 1:26-38

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary, and on the 7th day we give special attention to Mary as Our Lady of the Rosary. Why? Because the Rosary can be a prayer tool for meditating on the life of Christ, drawing us ever-closer to God, aiding us in our growth in holiness.

Mary has given us this tool as part of her on-going ministry of bringing her Son to us. She wants to enflame the light of Christ ever more brightly within us.

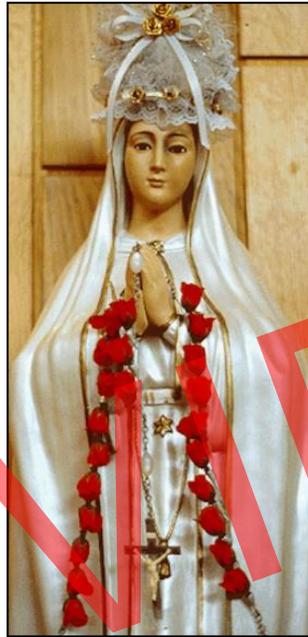
In Luke 1:26-38, we're shown how the light of Christ affected her even before he came to earth as a human. Jesus has always been the Light of the world: an uncreated, divine emanation of Father God, who overcomes our darkness and confusion and the deceptions of evil.

Even though Jesus had not yet come into the world in the flesh of the Son, his holy light totally bathed Mary in its pure glow. And even though she could not understand how the long-awaited Messiah could be conceived within her virgin body, in his light she could see that God was the one who was asking.

The Rosary is our direct connection to this same light. It's not just a string of repeated words. Nor is it just a set of meditations about the life of Jesus. It's more, much more.

It opens our spirits to the Holy Spirit through the assistance of Mary's prayers, her love, her comfort, and her guidance.

Mary didn't need to see the future to say yes to her vocation as the mother of the Messiah. Certainly, there was good reason to worry about the



future, but she lived in the light of the present moment. She trusted God.

The present moment is all that we have. This is where we find God today. Now is when the light of Christ reveals to us anything that God, in his great wisdom, wants us to see and know.

In the light of God's total love and infinite power, Mary knew it was safe and good to say yes to whatever God asked of her. "I am the handmaid of the Lord," she said confidently. "May it be done to me according to your word."

God is asking all of us to continue what Mary began. We are all called to bring Jesus into the world. And we don't need to see what the light is going to reveal on the path ahead; we only need to be walking *in* the light.

Our problem is that whenever God asks us to do something, we usually try to look ahead to figure out where God's going to take us. We want to know how difficult it will be, will it be worth the time and effort, and how quickly will we meet with success.

And in doing so, we only see darkness. The light is not shining on the future — it's only shining on what God is revealing to us right now, right here, in this moment.

That's all we need to know if we trust God. Mary wants to help us trust him as she trusted him. For this reason, she has given us the Rosary to pray.