

Homily
Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary
Monday of the 27th Week in Ordinary Time
October 7, 2024

Originally Our Lady of Victory, this Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary commemorates the miraculous defeat of the powerful Ottoman navy by the vastly outnumbered Holy League, a coalition of southern European Catholic maritime states, at the Battle of Lepanto in the 16th century. Pope Pius V called for all of Europe to pray the Rosary for success. Our Blessed Mother is attributed for this victory.

The Month of October is dedicated to our Blessed Mother and to her Holy Rosary. Mary gave us the Rosary as our greatest weapon against evil. Given that October is also Respect Life Month, it makes sense for us to increase our devotion to this most powerful and blessed prayer.

Mary is the most powerful intercessor. She was chosen by her Son. She was preserved from Original Sin by the Father. She is Theotokos, the God bearer, the Mother of God. She was given to us by her Son to be our spiritual mother. Everything she does points us to her Son.

One of my favorite bible stories is the Wedding at Cana. There is so much revealed here, but I love the interaction between mother and Son. Mary Tells Jesus, "They have no wine." Jesus responds, "Woman, how does your concern affect me?" Without missing a beat or even addressing His question, she simply turns to the servers and says, "Do whatever He tells you." John 2:3b, 4b & 5b. And He does. I imagine the looks of love exchanged between them during this interaction. She knew exactly what she was doing and knew exactly how Jesus would respond. And we can have that same faith with her intercession as long as we, like her, align our will to His.

In our Gospel this morning, we hear Mary say, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." This is the faith and love of someone devoted to God, completely and unreservedly. And she is here to help us.

When we are fearful or sad or desperate, anytime we are in need, we can reach out to and rely on Mary to intercede for us and know that Jesus will listen to His mother and do whatever she asks of Him. And the best way to reach out to Mary is through her Holy Rosary, which points us directly to her Son, who leads us to His Father. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.