

How to Pray the Chaplet of the Holy Face

The purpose of the Crown or Chaplet of the Holy Face is to honor the five Wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ and to ask of God the triumph of his Holy Church.

This Chaplet is composed of a cross and thirty-nine beads; of these six are large beads and thirty-three small ones; to this Chaplet is attached a medal of the Holy Face. It would be well to recite it daily in order to obtain from God, by the Face of His well-beloved Son, the triumph of our holy mother, the Catholic Church.

On the cross, which reminds us of the mystery of our Redemption, we begin the Chaplet by saying the words: "*Deus in adjutorium meum intende; Domine ad adjuvandum me festina*". ("Incline unto my aid, O God; O Lord, make haste to help me"), followed by the *Gloria Patri*, etc.

The thirty-three small beads represent the thirty-three years of the mortal life of our Divine Lord. The first thirty beads recall to us the thirty years of his hidden life, and are divided into five parts of six beads each, in honor of the five senses of touch, hearing, sight, smell and taste of Jesus; and, as they were situated principally in his Holy Face, to make reparation for all the sufferings which our Lord has endured in his face through each one of these senses.

The six beads are preceded by a large bead, followed by a *Gloria Patri*, etc. to recall the sense we wish to honor. The other beads mark the three years of the public life of our Lord, and have for their intention to honor all the Wounds of His Adorable Face. These are also preceded by a large bead, to be followed by a *Gloria Patri*, etc., for the same intention.

On each large bead is said: "My Jesus, mercy" (100 days indulgence). On the small beads is said: "Arise, O Lord, and let thy enemies be scattered, and let all that hate thee flee from before thy Face."¹

The *Gloria Patri*, etc., is recited seven times in honor of the seven last words of Jesus upon the Cross and the seven Dolours of the Immaculate Virgin.

The Chaplet is concluded by saying on the medal: "God our protector, look down upon us and cast thine eyes upon the Face of thy Christ."

Note: When the Chaplet is said aloud by two or more persons, one person is the leader. He says the first part of each prayer, and everyone else answers by saying the remainder of the prayer (designated by an asterick *).



1. On the Crucifix make the sign of the Cross and pray: *“O God, come to my assistance; * O Lord make haste to help me.” “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.”*
2. On the large bead: *“My Jesus Mercy.” “In honor of the sense of touch, Glory be...”*
3. On the six small beads: *“Arise O Lord and let Thy enemies be scattered, * and let all that hate Thee flee from before Thy Face.”*
4. On the large bead: *“My Jesus Mercy.” “In honor of the sense of hearing, Glory be...”*
5. On the six small beads: *“Arise O Lord and let Thy enemies be scattered, * and let all that hate Thee flee from before Thy Face.”*
6. On the large bead: *“My Jesus Mercy.” “In honor of the sense of sight, Glory be...”*
7. On the six small beads: *“Arise O Lord and let Thy enemies be scattered, * and let all that hate Thee flee from before Thy Face.”*
8. On the large bead: *“My Jesus Mercy.” “In honor of the sense of smell, Glory be...”*
9. On the six small beads: *“Arise O Lord and let Thy enemies be scattered, * and let all that hate Thee flee from before Thy Face.”*
10. On the large bead: *“My Jesus Mercy.” “In honor of the sense of taste, Glory be...”*
11. On the six small beads: *“Arise O Lord and let Thy enemies be scattered, * and let all that hate Thee flee from before Thy Face.”*
12. On the large bead: *“My Jesus Mercy.” “In honor of Our Lord’s three years of public life, Glory be...”* Honor the wounds of His adorable Face, the slaps, the crown of thorns, spittle, scourges, spear, nails, cross.
13. On the three small beads: *“Arise O Lord and let Thy enemies be scattered, * and let all that hate Thee flee from before Thy Face.”*
14. On the Holy Face medal: *“O God, Our protector, look down upon us and cast Thine eyes upon the Face of Thy Christ.”*

Recommended Optional Prayers to be said on the last 5 Beads and Crucifix

1. * *“Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and all the instruments of His Holy Passion, that Thou may put division in the camp of Thine enemies, for as Thy beloved Son has said, ‘A kingdom divided against itself shall fall.’”*
2. * *“May the thrice Holy Name of God overthrow all their plans.”*
3. * *“May the name of the Living God split them up by disagreements.”*
4. * *“May the terrible Name of God of Eternity stamp out all their godlessness!”*
5. * *“Lord, I do not desire the death of the sinner, but I want him converted and to live. ‘Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.’”*
6. * *“May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most incomprehensible and unutterable Name of God be always praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified in Heaven, on earth and in the hells, by all the creatures of God and by the Sacred Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen.”* Make the Sign of the Cross. (Kiss Holy Face Medal.)

Recommended Optional Prayers

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✠ Francis Cardinal Spellman
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¹ *The Manual of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face*,
Approbation of the Archbishop of Tours, April 15, 1886, p. 234



Holy Face Chaplet from 1885



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