

ROSARY CRUSADE



All you need to have a Rosary Crusade
in your parish



“
The family that
prays together,
stays together.”



For information visit ScrantonPrays.com or go to DioceseofScranton.org



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
300 WYOMING AVENUE
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503-1279

September 18, 2024

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is with profound joy and gratitude to God that I would like to extend a special invitation to you and your family to join me for an incredibly special event in our Diocese.

On November 16, 2024, I am asking the faithful of our local church to come together to mark a significant milestone: the 75th anniversary of the first Rosary Rally held in the United States by Father Patrick Peyton, which occurred in Scranton in 1949, and brought together approximately 50,000 people.

Father Peyton, known worldwide as the “Rosary Priest,” devoted his ministry to spreading devotion to our Blessed Mother and promoting the Rosary as a powerful instrument for peace, strength, and spiritual unity. His motto, “the family that prays together, stays together,” still resonates deeply in our hearts and lives.

Over his lifetime, Father Peyton reached ten million people with the help of radio, television, and film. A Cause for Sainthood was officially opened for Father Peyton in 2001, and he is currently named Venerable.

Scranton plays a significant role in the life of Father Peyton. After coming to the United States from Ireland, a young Patrick Peyton first got a job as a janitor in our local Cathedral. It was while working in our Cathedral that he truly experienced a sense of being at home and happiness talking to Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother.

With such a milestone year upon us – it is only fitting that we come together to commemorate the ministry and mission of Father Peyton. I believe it will be a wonderful opportunity for many to rekindle a devotion to the Rosary, to pray for our families, our community, and our world, and to celebrate the enduring spirit of Father Peyton’s ministry.

Our large Diocesan Rosary Rally will take place on November 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter – but there will be many other activities taking place that day in Scranton in which to participate.

I am also asking that every parish in the Diocese of Scranton join in this effort in the weeks leading up to this event by participating in a Diocesan Rosary Crusade, which might include holding a Holy Hour for an increase in family prayer, celebrating a Mass for an increase in family prayer and encouraging families to pledge to pray the rosary.

More information on both the Rosary Rally on November 16 and ways for parishes to participate can be found at ScrantonPrays.com or DioceseofScranton.org.

Please join me in making this effort successful by inviting your family, friends, and others to partake in this occasion of grace and unity. Together, let us honor Father Peyton’s legacy by embracing his vision of a united, praying community.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton



What is a Rosary Crusade?

A Rosary Crusade is a way to increase devotion to Mary in the Catholic experience of discipleship, with the Rosary as a powerful tool for healing, renewing and strengthening families. Fr. Peyton believed that restoring the Rosary and family prayer would help people express their deepest yearnings for God, which would also strengthen families in overcoming the social pressures that are eroding family unity.

The Diocesan Rosary Crusade will include the same elements that comprised the original crusades. Parishes are invited to participate in these ways:

1. Holy Hour for an increase in family prayer
2. Mass offered for an increase in family prayer
3. Homilies about the importance of family prayer
4. Pledges from families to pray the rosary
5. Rosary Rally, where families come together to take part in prayer, worship and the praying of the Rosary
6. Outreach to the sick and imprisoned

Supporting this effort are the Order of Malta, Heaven & Earth Gift Shop & Café, and Holy Cross Family Ministries, an organization started by Fr. Peyton that is dedicated to inspiring, promoting and fostering the prayer life and spiritual well-being of families throughout the world. To learn more about Holy Cross Family Ministries, [click here](#)

**All materials and information are available ScrantonPrays.com
or contact Debbie Lyons dlyons@dioceseofscranton.org
or call the Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213**

What can I do as a pastor or PLC?

1. **Select 1-2 lay leaders to oversee the effort as the Rosary Captain**

Each parish that participates will select a Rosary Captain as a liaison with the Office for Parish Life. The Rosary Captain will discern, along with the pastor and parish leadership, how the parish will be involved in the Crusade. This position is a great opportunity for the right person, and it prevents the burden from being on the parish staff or the pastor.

Register the Rosary Captain at ScrantonPrays.com

NOTE: The Captain(s) will need basic computer skills to obtain materials on the Diocese of Scranton website, and must be able to communicate by email.

2. **Inspire and encourage the effort of those involved, including staff, ministry leaders, adults, teens and children**
3. **Include the need for family prayer, and the efforts of the Crusade in homilies and teaching**
4. **Makes frequent announcements during Mass and in the parish bulletin concerning the Crusade and Rally.**

How can our parish participate?

Start with what is already in place!

Many parishes already have a dedication to the Rosary, and groups that regularly pray. This is a great starting point.

- What are the current activities?
- Who are the people involved?

Parishes can participate in a variety of ways:

- Pray the Rosary
- Teach about the Rosary
- Ask parishioners to commit to praying the Rosary, by having them complete pledge cards
- Schedule a special Mass to promote family prayer, especially the Rosary
- Host a Holy Hour for family prayer, especially the Rosary
- Include the intention of family prayer in your Prayer of the Faithful
- Include family prayer, especially the Rosary, in homilies
- Show the movie “Pray: The Story of Patrick Peyton” at your parish
- Promote the Rosary Rally
- Select a family to represent the parish at the Rosary Rally
- Collect and share stories of how the Rosary has impacted the life of the parishioners and their families

What does the Rosary Captain do?

At the direction of the pastor, the Rosary Captain coordinates the Rosary Crusade and is the liaison between the parish and the diocesan Office for Parish Life.

[Click here](#) to register as a Parish Rosary Captain or visit [ScrantonPrays.com](https://www.scrantonprays.com)

With the resources provided by the Office for Parish Life, the Rosary Captain will guide the parish in the following ways:

- Raise awareness for the Rosary Crusade and the need for family prayer
 - Posters and flyers will be sent to the parish during the first week of October
 - All promotional materials are available at [ScrantonPrays.com](https://www.scrantonprays.com)
- Work with the pastor, parish staff, existing parish ministries, and prayer groups to plan for and coordinate the Rosary Crusade in the parish, integrating what already exists into the Rosary Crusade
- Encourage families to commit to praying the rosary; distribute and collect pledge cards, which can be placed at the altar or at the statue of Mary during Mass on the weekend of Nov. 9-10
 - Pledge cards are available in this guide and also at [ScrantonPrays.com](https://www.scrantonprays.com)
- Arrange and promote a parish Holy Hour for Family Prayer
 - [Click here](#) to register the parish Holy Hour for Family Prayer or visit [ScrantonPrays.com](https://www.scrantonprays.com)
- Arrange and promote a parish Mass for Family Prayer
 - [Click here](#) to register the parish Mass for Family Prayer or visit [ScrantonPrays.com](https://www.scrantonprays.com)
 - Consider recognizing the family at the parish
- Promote parishioner participation in the Rosary Crusade
 - Place promotional materials in prominent places
 - Utilize the bulletin, email and social media to promote the Rosary Crusade
 - Involve the families in Religious Education by working with the catechetical leader
- Arrange a screening of “Pray: The Story of Patrick Peyton” at your parish. For more information, visit <https://www.praythefilm.com/>
- Identify a family to represent the parish at the Rosary Rally on November 16 at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton
 - [Click here](#) to register the family for the Rally or visit [ScrantonPrays.com](https://www.scrantonprays.com)
- Invite and encourage parishioners to attend the Rosary Rally on November 16, 2024 at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton

ROSARY RALLY

11.16.2024
1:30pm
CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER
SCRANTON

Venerable Patrick Peyton

“The family that prays together, stays together.”

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
 HOLY CROSS FAMILY MINISTRIES
 ORDER OF MALTA SCRANTON
 HEAVEN & EARTH
GIFT SHOP • CAFE

What is a Rosary Rally?

The Rosary Rally, a gathering of families from throughout the diocese, is the culmination of the Rosary Crusade. It gives Bishop Bambera an ideal opportunity to speak to his people, his diocesan family – to inspire them, encourage them, and to offer them the hope and consolation that can be received by devotion to Mary through the Family Rosary. It gives the people a visible demonstration of their solidarity, strengthening their commitment to unite their families together by praying the rosary.

The Scranton Rosary Rally takes place Saturday, November 16 at 1:30pm at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton. A variety of activities will take place throughout the day, including a book signing, screening of the movie *“Pray: The Story of Patrick Peyton”*, confessions, adoration, inspirational speakers, and a recitation of the rosary. More information will be available at ScrantonPrays.com.

75th Anniversary Rosary Rally – A Little History

In the fall of 1949, the first Rosary Rally in the United States was held in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Organized by “the rosary priest” Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., the Rosary Rally was an effort to re-ignite the untold benefits of devotion to the rosary and prayer to our Blessed Mother. Nearly 50,000 people gathered to pray the rosary on this special day, right here in the Electric City.

Father Patrick Peyton – A Vocation Story

Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. was born in 1909 in Ireland to a devout Catholic family. Praying the Rosary together each night was a routine in the Peyton household and laid a strong foundation for Father Peyton's faith.

In 1927, at age 18, Patrick decided that he wanted to sell real estate in the United States. He already had family members in America: three sisters, three uncles and other relatives settled in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Greeted by their sister Nellie, Patrick and his brother Tom were mesmerized by “Scranton, the Electric City.” For weeks Patrick searched, without success, for employment. At the urging of Nellie, Monsignor Kelly tracked Patrick down and offered him a job as a sexton (janitor) in the cathedral – he accepted. Finally, while working in the cathedral, with the silence, peace, and joy of talking to Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother, Patrick experienced a sense of being at home and a place of happiness.

In the spring of 1929, Holy Cross priests from Notre Dame, IN visited Patrick’s new parish in Scranton, PA. Their preaching and presence spurred Patrick to realize and express a desire to become a missionary with Holy Cross. Soon after, both Patrick and his brother entered the seminary.



Venerable Peyton's Impactful Life

Known the world over as “The Rosary Priest,” Father Peyton began Family Rosary in Albany, NY in 1942, with the goal of building family unity through daily prayer of the Rosary. He used radio, television, and film, and 540 Rosary Rallies worldwide to accomplish his mission with Family Rosary Rallies that drew 28 million people, including 2 million each at events in Sao Paulo, Brazil and Manila, Philippines. Father Peyton, a Catholic media pioneer, spent the 51 years of his priesthood serving the spiritual needs of families.

Today, Father Peyton's messages that "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together" and "A World at Prayer is a World at Peace" are still well known around the world. His Cause for Sainthood was officially opened in 2001 and he is currently named Venerable. With your prayers, hopefully he will be recognized as a saint for Family Prayer!

To learn more about Fr. Patrick Peyton, [click here](#)

A Brief History of the Rosary: Ever Ancient, Ever New

Where and when the Rosary began is unknown. The use of beads as an aid in prayer has a long history both in the Catholic Church and in other religions. The chain of beads establishes a framework, a setting, a pace for the prayer, and the repetition provides a background for meditation.

Even though the origin of the Rosary is unknown, it is undeniable that its popularity grew significantly through the preaching of Saint Dominic, who died in 1221. Dominic encouraged the Rosary as a remedy to heresy. The meditation on the mysteries developed a foundation of the truths of the faith. This saint also saw the prayer as an antidote to sin. As Dominic and his followers preached throughout Europe, they encouraged the laity to regularly pray the Rosary.

Many popes have also encouraged this devotion. One notable example comes from the reign of Pope Pius V (1566–1572). At that time the Turkish Muslims were actively seeking to conquer Christian Europe and were having significant success in their endeavors. Europe was in real peril.

Pope Pius V asked all the faithful to pray and ask for Mary's intercession that the Turkish threat would be halted. In particular, Pius encouraged the praying of the Rosary. In the famous Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571, the Christian forces defeated the Turkish fleet and effectively ended the threat of conquest by the Muslims.

To acknowledge the effectiveness of praying the Rosary and to thank the Blessed Mother for her intercession, Pius established the Feast of the Holy Rosary to be celebrated each October.

The word rosary comes from the Latin *rosarius*, which means “garland” or “bouquet of flowers.” It is an apt word for a bouquet of prayers offered to God. The word *bead* is an Old English term that originally meant “a prayer.”

The rosary has 59 beads, a crucifix, and a medal, with certain prayers for each of these different pieces.

The Rosary is a Scripture-based prayer. It begins with the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the great mysteries of the Catholic faith. The Our Father, which introduces each mystery, is from the Gospels. The first part of the Hail Mary is the angel's words announcing Christ's birth and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary. St. Pius V officially added the second part of the Hail Mary. The Mysteries of the Rosary center on the events of Christ's life. There are four sets of Mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and—added by Saint John Paul II in 2002—the Luminous.

To learn more about the history of the Rosary, [click here](#)

How to Pray the Rosary

This powerful prayer allows you to meditate on Scripture and the key moments during Jesus' life.

The repetition in the Rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayer related to each Mystery. The gentle repetition of the words helps us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells. The Rosary can be said privately or with a group. The steps to praying the Rosary are:

1a. **Make the Sign of the Cross**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

1b. **The Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified; died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

2. **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.

3. **Say 3 Hail Marys**

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst 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.

4. **Glory be to the Father**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

5. **Announce the First Mystery**

Then say the Our Father (2).

6. **On the Ten Small Beads of Each Decade**

Say ten Hail Marys (3), while meditating on the Mystery.

7. **Glory be to the Father**

After each decade say the following prayer requested by the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima: "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy."

8. Announce the Second Mystery

Then say the Our Father (2). Repeat 6 and 7 and continue with the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Mysteries in the same manner.

9. Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope, to thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears; turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Daily Mystery Meditations

The Mysteries traditionally adhere to certain days of the week.

Pope Saint John Paul II suggested the recitation of the Rosary as follows:

- * **JOYFUL** mysteries Monday and Saturday,
 - * **LUMINOUS** on Thursday,
 - * **SORROWFUL** on Tuesday and Friday, and
 - * **GLORIOUS** on Wednesday and Sunday
- (with this exception; Sundays of Advent and Christmas – **JOYFUL**;
- * Sundays of Lent – the **SORROWFUL**)

[How to Pray the Rosary – printable version](#)

All materials and information are available ScrantonPrays.com
or contact Debbie Lyons dlyons@dioceseofscranton.org
or call the Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213

**ROSARY
CRUSADE**



**Our Family Gift
to the Blessed Mother**

Pray the Rosary Pledge

You were chosen, Mary, to be the Mother of Jesus. He gave you to us before he died on Calvary. What you were to him you are now to us – friend, companion, Counselor and mother. Our family, our home and our country need you more than ever. We need you to pray with us and for us. With confidence in your help, we offer to pray the Rosary especially with members of our family and when necessary, when we are alone.

Name _____

Please list members of household _____

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