

Our Lady of the Rosary



FEAST DAY:
OCTOBER 7

This feast celebrates the victory of God through the intercession of Our Lady, Queen of the Rosary. This feast was formalized in the 16th century.

The feast commemorates the day that the naval forces of several Christian nations defeated invading Turkish naval forces in the Gulf of Lepanto, off the west coast of Greece. The Rosary was already an established pious practice at this time. Leading up to this battle, the Pope Pius V asked Christians throughout Europe to pray the Rosary for a successful defense, and Christians throughout Europe and naval crew members on over 200 naval ships prayed. Members of the Confraternity of the Rosary were also gathered in Rome that day, praying for the victory of the naval forces.

On Sunday, October 7, 1571, a naval victory was won against the invading Ottoman Turkish fleet. Pope Pius V attributed the victory to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary through the prayers of the Rosary. In 1572 the pope established a commemoration in honor of Our Lady of Victory, and in 1573 the feast was changed to Our Lady of

the Rosary, celebrated on the first Sunday of October. The pope extended the feast to the universal Church in 1716, and in 1913 the feast day was fixed to October 7. The month of October is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

“**Virgin Mary, Queen of the Rosary of Fátima!** Blessed among all women, you are the image of the Church robed in paschal light, you are the honor of our people, you are the victory over every assault of evil.”

—Pope Francis, Prayer at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fátima, May 12, 2017