

Prayer Beads

MAIN POINT

This “prayer beads” activity provides a hands-on way to practice common prayer, and it is a developmentally appropriate preparation for traditional prayer techniques, such as the Rosary.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Reproducible: “Prayer Beads” instructions for parents, one copy for each child
- scissors
- six bowls for the items listed below
- 10" plastic string, one for each child
- three different colored pony beads for each child
- crucifix, one for each child
- medal of the your church’s patron saint for each child in the class

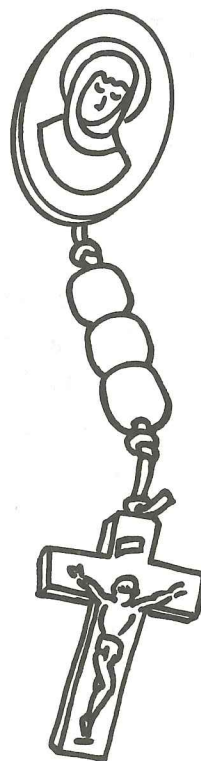
PREPARATION

Gather the above six items (plastic strings, three different colored pony beads, crucifixes, and medals) and sort them into the six plastic bowls. Place the bowls on the table where the children will be working.

INSTRUCTIONS

Help the children knot the patron saint medal on the string, and have them place the three different colored beads on the plastic string. Help the children knot the crucifix on the very end of the string, and be sure to cut off the excess. Invite the children to pray using their prayer beads. While holding the crucifix, have the children make the Sign of the Cross. Help them to say the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be on the beads. End the prayer with “St. (patron saint of your church), pray for us.” Send home the instructions for parents so that they can pray it at home.

When introducing the prayers to the children, be sure to talk about what each prayer means. There are children’s books to accompany each of the prayers. These might be helpful in your explanations. Or you may wish your explanation to be briefer (for example, “The Glory Be is a prayer that tells God how great he is” or “The Hail Mary is a prayer we use to ask Mary, our Mother, for help”). You may wish to wait to do this activity until these prayers have been introduced in class, each on a different week.



PRAYER BEADS

Note to Parents: These prayer beads offer an interactive way for children to learn and practice some simple, traditional Catholic prayers. To use the beads for family prayer, simply follow the guide below.

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

First Bead: Let us pray for _____ by saying:

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.

Second Bead: Let us pray for _____ by saying:

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among 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.

Third Bead: Let us pray for _____ by saying:

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.

Medal: St. (patron saint of your church):
Pray for us.

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