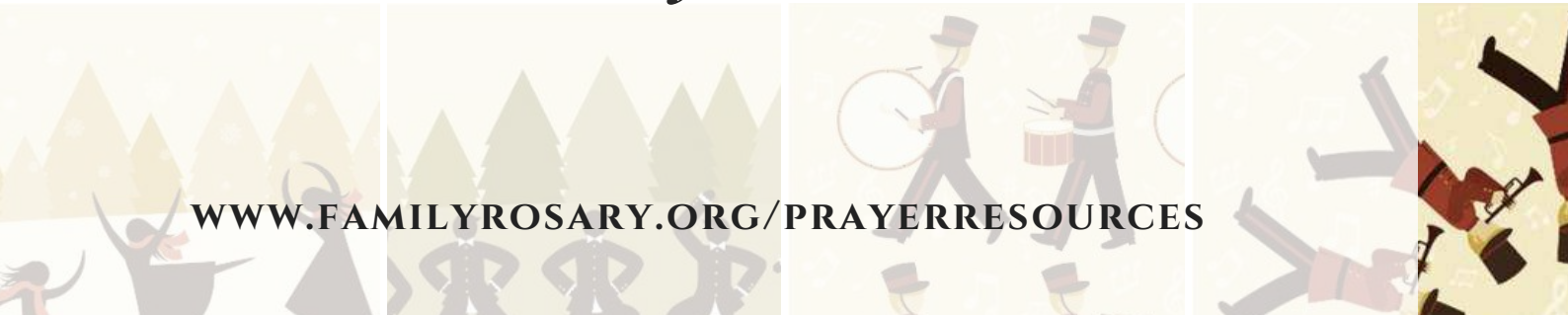


Enhance your family prayer with  
**FAMILY ROSARY**

# 12 Days of Christmas

*A little history*



[WWW.FAMILYROSARY.ORG/PRAYERRESOURCES](http://WWW.FAMILYROSARY.ORG/PRAYERRESOURCES)

THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER



# WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

It's a busy time of year for everyone, but it's important we carry the spirit of Christmas with us throughout the year. Slow down, take a moment to breathe and be present to one another.

Just a few minutes a day of family prayer is all it takes to strengthen your family in good times and bad. Don't worry, family prayer doesn't have to be perfect! Take comfort in knowing there is no one "correct" way of doing it.

Know that we're joining you and your family in prayer as the New Year begins. We promise to be with you, growing in faith, every step of the way. May God continue to bless you and your family.

## A LITTLE HISTORY

Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. began his ministry in 1942 with the goal of building **family unity** through daily prayer of the Rosary. Inspired by his own father who had a deep devotion to family prayer, praying the Rosary became the foundation for the life of Father Peyton (1909-92).

We at Family Rosary are ever so grateful Father Peyton's family instilled in him the importance of **family prayer**. Now it can be part of your family's tradition so you can fulfill the vision that "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together," the slogan coined by Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., so many years ago.



CHRISTMAS HAS ABOVE ALL A TASTE OF HOPE  
BECAUSE, FOR ALL THE DARKNESS IN OUR LIVES,  
GOD'S LIGHT SHINES FORTH.

POPE FRANCIS



In England from the mid-1500s for close to 250 years, Roman Catholics weren't allowed to openly practice their faith. To help young Catholics learn about their faith, someone wrote the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Each character in the well-known Christmas carol is a code representing a religious truth, which the children could easily remember.

Beginning on Christmas Day, celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas with your family as you learn together what the words of each day symbolize!



### FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS

*A Partridge in a Pear Tree* symbolizes Jesus Christ who gave his life on the Cross ("pear tree") for us!

**Pray:** Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of yourself, as an infant and on the Cross. Thank you for the gift of salvation and it's promise of life everlasting. Amen.

### SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS

*Two Turtle Doves* represent the two testaments comprising the Christian Scriptures and the Incarnation - Jesus fully God and fully man.

**Pray:** Dear Jesus, what an incredible mystery the Incarnation is! Even though I can never fully understand the depth of your humanity and divinity, I am thankful that your generosity

knows no bounds. You not only gave us yourself, you have also revealed yourself to us in Scripture and continue to use it to enlighten the world. Amen.





### THIRD DAY OF CHRISTMAS

*Three French Hens* represent the three Divine Persons of the Trinity; also for recalling the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love.

**Pray:** Dear Lord, thank you for revealing to me the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. You show me how to live in perfect union and community with one another, how to love one another. Amen.

### FOURTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

*Four Calling Birds* represent the four Gospels, written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John the four Evangelists. They call us to be more faithful to the Good News we have heard proclaimed.

**Pray:** Thank you, Lord, for inspiring the Gospel writers to leave us an account of Jesus' time on earth. Each time I read the stories of Jesus I am inspired, filled with love and mercy. Amen.



### FIFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

*Five Gold Rings* represent the first five books of the Bible, the Pentateuch, the story of our fall from grace, Abraham's journey of faith, and the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.

**Pray:** O God, you have never abandoned your people. Help us to be ever grateful for the help you give us by your grace to respond to your invitation to serve you by living in love. Amen.



## SIXTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

*Six Geese A-Laying* represents the Six Days of Creation. We recognize that all we have and all we are comes from a Father's loving hand.

**Pray:** Dear Lord, thank you for this wondrous world you have created for me! How marvelous your creations, how beautiful the sights and sounds all around me. Thank you Lord especially for creating those I love. We offer you thanks, O Lord, that we are so "wonderfully made!" Amen.



## SEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

*Seven Swans A-Swimming* represents the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord) and the seven Sacraments.

**Pray:** Loving God, you make yourself present to us in so many ways. Help us to be sensitive to the Spirit's guidance and responsive to the special graces you generously give us in the Holy Sacraments. Thank you for your overabundant love and generosity. Amen.

## EIGHTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Happy New Year! Today's *Eight Maids A-Milking* represent the eight Beatitudes.

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, thank you for your teachings, the Beatitudes. These attitudes give me guidance and wisdom for how I am to live in relationship with others and with creation. Thank you for challenging me to reform my ways of thinking and acting so that I can grow in holiness. Amen.





## NINTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

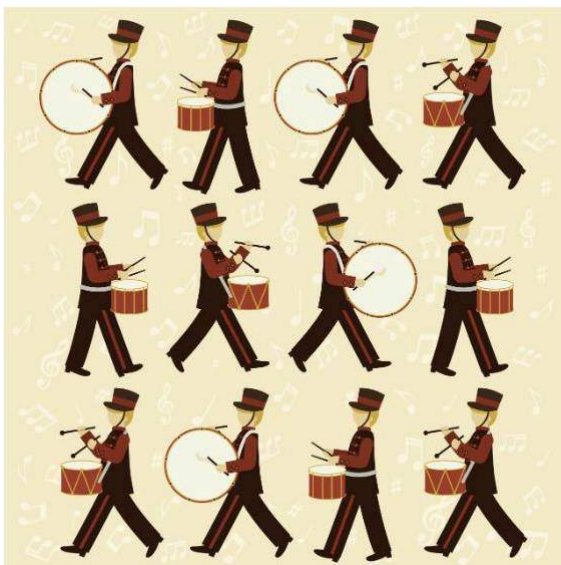
*Nine Ladies Dancing* represents the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Charity [Generosity], Joy, Peace, Patience, Goodness [Kindness], Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control [Chastity].

**Pray:** Dear Holy Spirit, thank you for allowing your fruits to flourish in my life. Each day is full of promise and new growth. Thank you for guiding me along the paths of goodness and truth as the fruits of your Spirit grow in me. Amen.

## TENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

*Ten Lords A-Leaping!* Today represents the Ten Commandments. Isn't this song a great way for children to learn more about their faith?

**Pray:** Thank you, Lord, for the gift of the Ten Commandments. I know that these rules provide me the framework for living a holy, purposeful life. Amen.



## ELEVENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

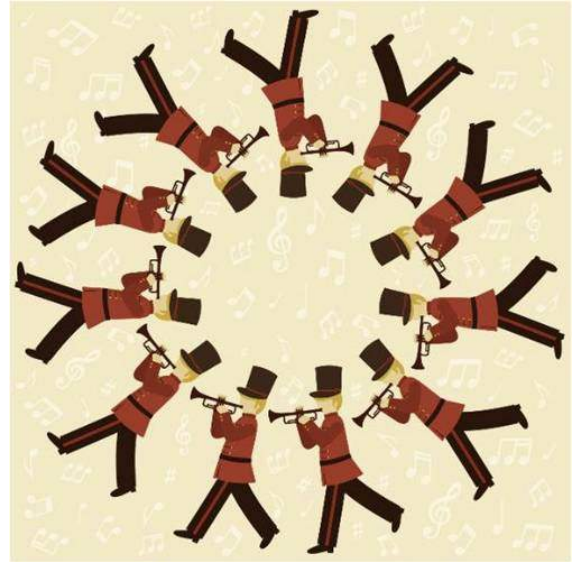
*Eleven Pipers Piping*, a reminder to us of the 11 faithful Apostles.

**Pray:** Lord, even though all may not be faithful, be our strength and our encouragement to go about the Apostolic work you give us with grateful and loving hearts. Amen.

## TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

*12 Drummers Drumming* represent the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

**Pray:** Dear Jesus, thank you for our Church. I am proud to be a son/daughter of your Church and I marvel at the long history which I am a part of. Thank you for all the holy men and women who through the ages have listened to your voice and helped shape and guide the Church to today. Amen.



### FAMILY ROSARY TEAM

As a team we pull together our creative resources to provide you enriching spiritual content!

12 Day of Christmas prayers are from **KATE TALIAFERRO**.

Read her full article at [CatholicMom.com](http://CatholicMom.com).

## BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER IN PRAYER

We hope the time you've spent reflecting with this material has been enriching. Continue to pray with your family every day, wherever you are.

For additional online resources for family prayer including a Prayer Petition Page and our World at Prayer Blog, please visit our website at [www.FamilyRosary.org](http://www.FamilyRosary.org).

This e-book and all our resources represent a culmination of Father Peyton's passion for family unity through prayer. We hope our services will enhance your family's prayer life particularly remembering Father Peyton's famous words, "*The Family That Prays Together Stays Together.*"

### WHERE YOU CAN FIND US:



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