



Enhance your family prayer with
FAMILY ROSARY

Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

A Children's Story

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THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

There are many feast days that celebrate the life of our Blessed Mother. On July 16 every year we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. In honor of this feast day, we would like to share with you a children's story to better help you and your family honor and understand the history of this celebration.

This piece was created by Growing With the Saints, an organization committed to promoting the Catholic Faith through totally Catholic Vacation Bible Schools. Used with permission and excerpted from the book "Mary's Messages," by Margaret Windle as part of "All Aboard: Tracking Mary: Mysteries and Messages" a Vacation Bible Camp by Growing with the Saints.

We hope that you not only learn from this, but will share it with someone!

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 message created by Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., so many years ago.



DEVOTION TO MARY IS NOT SPIRITUAL ETIQUETTE; IT
IS A REQUIREMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

POPE FRANCIS



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL



There are many feast days that celebrate the life of our Blessed Mother. In July we honor Our Lady of Mt. Carmel! Here's a children's story to better help you and your family understand the history of this celebration.

SAINT SIMON STOCK

Today you will become a friend of Saint Simon Stock. Simon was born in England hundreds of years ago. The name Simon is a Hebrew name and means "God has answered." The name Stock means "tree trunk". Tree trunk? How did he get that name? Ever since Simon was young, he yearned to be with Jesus and his angels and saints. When he turned 12, he found a huge oak tree near his house with a hollowed out trunk. He spent his days here in quiet prayer. He spent so much time alone in the tree that he became known as a hermit (someone who lives alone in quiet prayer). Word of his piety spread, and before long many people came to ask Simon to pray for them.

SIMON'S VOCATION

Years later, the bishop urged Simon to leave his quiet life to teach the Word of God to children. Simon obeyed and was a wonderful teacher. He had a gift for touching the hearts of children and word of his teaching spread to the bishop, who became convinced that Simon should become a priest. When Simon was forty years old, he was ordained into the priesthood.

MOUNT CARMEL

Eventually, Simon felt the need to travel to the Holy Land in Israel. It was there that he found peace and joy, high on a mountain called Carmel. To him, Mount Carmel was like a portal (door) to heaven. There he lived among other hermits dedicated to a life of prayer and sacrifice. All went well until an army of men, who had no love for God, drove them out of the cave and into the wilderness.

Simon returned to England, where he became inspired to open Carmelite houses of prayer named after the mountain he spent so many happy years on. He felt it would please God if he continued to spread the Carmelite order.

GARMENT OF GRACE

One day, according to tradition, Simon was praying to the Blessed Virgin Mary to help him promote the Carmelites. On July 16, 1251 Simon received a great treasure. It was a visit from the Mother of God. She appeared as Our Lady of Mount Carmel and was dressed in brown. She handed Simon a scapular.

It was a small “Garment of Grace” made of two pieces of brown wool joined by strings and worn over the shoulders. Mary asked Simon to start a religious order whose members would wear the scapular and dedicate themselves to her service. Ever since then, the title “Our Lady of Mount Carmel” and the scapular have been linked together.

Our Lady not only appeared to Simon in all of her heavenly beauty, but she spoke the following words: “Receive, my beloved son, this scapular of thy order. It is the special sign of my favor which I have obtained for you and for the children of Mt. Carmel. He who dies, clothed with this habit, shall be preserved from eternal fire. It is the badge of salvation, a shield in time of danger, and a pledge of special peace and protection.”

This great promise makes the scapular a very powerful sacramental of our church.* When you wear the scapular, you place yourself under Mary’s protection and become her spiritual child. The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is celebrated on July 16th.

OUR LADY’S APPARITIONS

Why does the Mother of Jesus come to earth and appear in visions? God loves us so much that He wants to save everyone in the world! Sometimes he sends Mary with a powerful sacramental, like the scapular, to protect us. Remember The Miracle of the Sun? Our Lady appeared as our Lady of Mount Carmel to Lucia and held out the Brown Scapular. Mary wants all of us to wear the scapular and pray the Rosary every day.

The Blessed Virgin gave Pope John XXII a message in a vision regarding those who wear the brown scapular. Since 1280 A.D. every Pope has worn the brown scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

*The Church’s official position regarding the brown scapular is that it is a garment that we wear as both a sign of our belonging to Mary and a pledge of her maternal protection in this life and the next. It is also a sign of belonging to the Carmelite Family, consecration to and trust in Mary, and a goal to imitate Our Lady’s virtues, especially her humility, chastity and prayerfulness.

Excerpted from the book "Mary's Messages," by Margaret Windle as part of "All Aboard: Tracking Mary: Mysteries and Messages" a Vacation Bible Camp by GrowingwiththeSaints.com. Used with permission.

GOING DEEPER

A prayer to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel:

O Most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein You are my Mother.

O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand Your power.

O show me herein You are my Mother. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. *(repeat 3 times)*

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands. *(repeat 3 times)*

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CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

Want to incorporate Mary into your family's daily prayer life? Pick up a Rosary and pray!! For helpful tips and tricks on praying the Rosary with your family go to FamilyRosary.org/How-To-Pray-The-Rosary. If your children are restless, have them color the page below while you're praying together!!



Growing with the Saints, Inc. is committed to handing down the Catholic Faith received from Jesus and the apostles. The Holy Spirit is our unseen ever-present guide as we prayerfully impart the Catholic faith with its rich tradition. We utilize Sacred Scripture, tradition, and the lives of the saints to accomplish our purpose. Dedicated to inspire young children to fall in love with Jesus and his Church, GWTS is committed to preserving the memory of the holy saints and calling children to “holiness” by imitating the lives of the saints, our true faith heroes and heroines. For more information visit GrowingWithTheSaints.com.

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL



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BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER IN PRAYER

We hope the time you've spent reflecting with this material has been enriching. Remember, we're with you in prayer, every step of the way!

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.

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.*"

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