



"Many of the problems facing contemporary families ... result from their increasing difficulty in communicating. Families seldom manage to come together, and the rare occasions when they do are often taken up with watching television. To return to the recitation of the family Rosary means filling daily life with very different images, images of the mystery of salvation: the image of the Redeemer, the image of his most Blessed Mother. The family that recites the Rosary together reproduces something of the atmosphere of the household of Nazareth: its members place Jesus at the centre, they share his joys and sorrows, they place their needs and their plans in his hands, they draw from him the hope and the strength to go on."

Pope St. John Paul II  
*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*

## About Us

The Office of Family Life is a ministry of the Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine serving parishes within the 17 counties of northeast Florida.

We provide programs, events, and resources to prepare couples for marriage, to support the family, and to build a culture of life. We also provide resources for healing, including a local listing of Catholic therapists in the diocese.

For more information visit our website using the QR code or contact information below:



[family.dosafl.com](http://family.dosafl.com)  
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How to Start a  
**Family  
Rosary  
Ministry**



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The Catholic Church of North Florida

## Set the Structure

As a ministry of the home, discern the form it will take and allow yourselves the flexibility to accommodate the needs of the families who participate. Some basic principles:

- **Invite all family members, not just adults.** Children should be welcome. Parents should not feel pressured to find childcare beforehand or feel guilt over having to nurse/feed infants or attend to restless kids. This is an activity of the home and will invariably reflect the ordinary, sanctifying messiness of family life. That's okay! While raising children can be stressful, it is truly beautiful and important work that should be supported.
- **Choose a Location.** Allow each family the opportunity to participate and host in their own home. This prevents any one family from becoming "burnt out" by the task.
- **Meet once a month.** A date can be set beforehand or discussed among the group before the start.
- **Limit to 5 Families.** If a group becomes too large, the logistics of hosting in the home can become prohibitive for some families to host. A smaller group also allows for a closer sense of community.

## Invite Families

It can be helpful to begin by inviting families you already know if you are starting a group for the first time but be sure to extend an invitation to families at the parish you may not have met yet. Some families may be new to the area or others may have been coming for years but no one has reached out to them. The parish is a family of families and the community you build within the home enriches the life of the parish.

## Be Prepared

Have materials on hand with instructions for praying the rosary and a list of all the mysteries. Anyone should feel comfortable enough to participate regardless of how familiar they are with the rosary or if they have the prayers memorized. For some, this may be their first exposure to the devotion and a learning experience.

Check with your local Knights of Columbus council to see if they have any resources available. The Knights have produced a Scriptural Rosary for the Family as part of their "Building the Domestic Church" series. You can also find resources at [www.familyrosary.org](http://www.familyrosary.org), including complimentary rosaries, a printable infographic with instructions for praying the rosary, and even a make-your-own-rosary kit for children.



## Decide on How to Pray

The format you choose will depend largely on what's best for the group. You can organize chairs in a circle or just sit in whatever space is available in a living room. The hosting family could lead that day – by starting the rosary and announcing each mystery – and go around the room having others lead each decade. Or, if the group is large enough with children, each

individual prayer could be said by someone different to maximize participation. It's really up to you and could be discussed during your first time together as a group.

## Virtual Considerations

Videoconferencing apps like Zoom provide a convenient way of gathering families who may not otherwise be able to participate. If hosting with Zoom, here are some pointers:

- **Mute All Participants.** Allow some time for fellowship at the start but, when you begin praying, have the host mute everyone except the family reciting the decade.
- **Breakout Rooms.** Digital space allows for many more families to participate! If you have a large group, consider using breakout rooms for a more intimate setting then invite everyone back to the main room for fellowship afterwards.
- **Make it Recurring.** Setup a recurring meeting so the meeting ID and link remains the same.

## Disband (and Grow!) *Optional*

Consider setting a fixed end time for the group, such as a year, with the expectation that when the time ends each participant in the group will be responsible for starting their own group and ask another four families to participate. This will allow the ministry to not only support you as a family but grow throughout the parish and broaden the network of families to keep it vibrant and thriving in your community.

*Adapted from "4 Simple Steps to Start a Family Rosary Group," [blessedcatholicmom.com](http://blessedcatholicmom.com).*