

2021 **TRY PRAYER!** *It Works!* CONTEST

www.FamilyRosary.org

This year's theme, "**Do Whatever He Tells You**" (**John 2:5**), will help you and your family explore how Mother Mary's example and intercession help us to follow God's will. From Mary, especially through the prayer of the Rosary, we learn to listen to Jesus so that we can be His faithful disciples. Following God's will brings peace to our hearts, our families, and our world. Imagine what family Rosary prayer could accomplish! Discover how Mary's maternal influence can lead your family closer to Jesus.



Family Rosary

HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU

Inspired by our founder, Venerable Patrick Peyton, the *Try Prayer! It Works! Contest* focuses on Father Peyton's message: "The family that prays together stays together." To strengthen family prayer in your home, we've included a family-faith experience that takes you and your family through a reflective, enriching journey.

Our goal is to bring the Church's teachings to life around the dinner table with discussion prompts, reflection questions, prayer ideas, and creativity. Let Mary inspire you in writing, drawing, filming, or painting to express how Mary shows her love for you and your family.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Dear family, we encourage you to take time tonight during or after dinner to go through each of these steps, contemplate the prompts, and finish in prayer together.

STEP 1: LIGHT A CANDLE

Begin by choosing someone to light a candle for the center of the table. Encourage everyone to breathe in a moment of silence. Put away all your daily worries for this short time. Choose to focus on the people sitting around you and the presence of God among you. Once you feel the room is settled, continue to the next step.

STEP 2: OPEN WITH PRAYER

Ask someone to open with a prayer through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. Use the prayer we provide below or create your own.

Lord, thank You for gathering us together tonight. Please gently guide our conversation. May it be a fruitful and grace-filled experience, so that we might learn to listen to Your Word and keep it as Mary did. We ask this through her intercession, and so we pray: "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."

STEP 3: FAMILY REFLECTION

Once you've finished the opening prayer, invite another family member to read John 2:1-10.

"Do whatever He tells you." Mary's profound and powerful words, spoken at Jesus' first sign, can give form and direction to our spiritual lives. Her silent presence throughout Jesus' Passion and death expresses her complete abandonment to the divine will. During these difficult times, Mary would doubtless have pronounced words similar to those she spoke at the Wedding at Cana: "My dear Son, whom I love with my whole heart, do whatever the Father in Heaven tells You."

Our Blessed Mother and her Divine Son would have shared the same deep union as they gazed at each other during Jesus' agony on the Cross. They would have both known that the will of the Father in Heaven was perfect. They would have both longed for and embraced this holy

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will without reserve. And these words would have resounded in their hearts as they gazed at each other in silence:

**“My dear Mother, do whatever
Our Father tells you.”**

**“My dear Son, do whatever
Your Father in Heaven wills of You.”**

Reflect on these words and know that Mother and Son speak them to you. No matter what you face in life, our Blessed Mother and her Divine Son are inviting you into this glorious command of love and obedience. They are exhorting you to stay faithful through all struggles. In good times, in difficult ones, through pain and joy, we must always remember Mary’s words, “Do whatever He tells you.”

STEP 4: FAMILY DISCUSSION

As you were reading and reflecting on this passage, perhaps you thought of an incident that took place in your life or the life of someone in your family or community. Dive a little deeper and explore those incidents as your family discusses these questions together:

- Can you recollect a time when you had to make a difficult decision or when you have been uncertain about what you should do? How could prayer help us to understand God’s will and follow it? How could Mary’s words, “Do whatever He tells you,” have guided you?
- What does obedience mean? How do Jesus and Mary teach us obedience?
- Why do we need faith, trust, and confidence in order to hear God’s Word and follow it? Discuss experiences of learning to trust God in moments of uncertainty.

STEP 5: GET CREATIVE

Decide as a family what your *Try Prayer! It Works!* Contest entry will look like. For example:

- Write about a real story from your life or family in which being obedient to God brought peace to you or your family.
- Interview someone in your life, neighborhood, or community who shows you what it means to do God’s will.
- Draw a picture showing how Mary’s obedience has had an impact on the world. (Hint: Think about why it was important that she said “yes” to being the Mother of God!)
- Create a 2-minute long family video project telling what it means to be disciples of Jesus.

Students in grades K – 3 may select one of the pictures of Mary and color, paint, or decorate it. You may download the pages at www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer. You are welcome to color/paint/decorate all the pages, but only a single page is accepted for the contest.

We encourage you and your family to brainstorm together as you design your project. Refer to the Contest Rules & Guidelines or visit www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer for more information.



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STEP 6: CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Dearest Mother, you offer words of wisdom. You invite your dear children to embrace the perfect will of the Father in Heaven. My family helps me to listen to you speak these words to me. Help me, by the power of your prayers, to respond to this call to embrace the perfect will of God in my life. My Precious Jesus, I choose to do all that You command of me. I choose Your will without reserve and I know that You invite me to follow

in Your footsteps. May I never be deterred by the hardships of the Cross but be transformed by the power of Your love. Amen.

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

If you want another fun activity to engage your family, visit www.FamilyRosary.org for family prayer resources.

Thank you for taking the time to pray with your family! We encourage your family to have similar daily conversations to strengthen your faith. As Father Patrick Peyton said, "The family that prays together stays together." For daily reflection questions and topics, visit our blog at Blog.FamilyRosary.org.

We look forward to your contest submission! You're always in our prayers at the Father Peyton Center in North Easton, Massachusetts, USA.

Blessings to you and your family,

Father Willy Raymond, C.S.C.

President

Holy Cross Family Ministries

AWARDS

Each first-place winning entry will be awarded \$100.00 USD, and each sponsoring institution of the first-place winners will receive \$100.00 USD.

