

# A Plenary Indulgence for the Rosary

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Catholics should take advantage of a plenary indulgence available under certain conditions for those who pray the Rosary with devotion. Although sacramental confession obtains forgiveness from the guilt of sin, the temporal consequences of the sin remain and must be put right through penitence and acts of merit. The Church, having access to the treasure of merit obtained by Christ and the saints, grants indulgences under certain conditions to remit the temporal punishment of sin whose guilt has already been forgiven. An indulgence may be *plenary* and remit *all* temporal punishment, or *partial* and remit only *part* of the temporal punishment.

Over time, a variety of indulgences have been given for the Rosary, but a broad Plenary Indulgence was granted in 1927 by Pope Pius XI

*“...relying on the mercy of the Omnipotent God and the authority of His Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, We mercifully grant in the Lord in perpetuity to all the faithful who, having contritely confessed their sins and worthily received Holy Communion, a Plenary Indulgence and remission as often as they shall devoutly recite a third part of the Rosary (i.e., 5 decades recited continuously) in presence of the Sacrament of Christ's Most Sacred Body, whether exposed for the public veneration of the faithful or reserved in the tabernacle.”*



This indulgence has been expanded to include recitation of the Rosary in a church, public oratory, family group, religious community, or pious association.)

There are three prerequisite conditions for the plenary indulgence to be satisfied:

- sacramental confession,
- communion,
- and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.

These must to be performed near the same time as the Rosary (within 20 days).

The indulgence can always be applied to oneself or for the soul of someone deceased, but it cannot be applied to another living person. It is wise to take advantage of the power of the Rosary by including an intention for an indulgence when our Rosary satisfies the conditions of the indulgence.