

Dear Second Grade Parents,

Please join the second grade moms (or grandmother, aunt, etc.) for an evening of tradition and fellowship while making a rosary for your Communicant on **Thursday, April 11th at 7 p.m. at Waldron Hall in the basement of St. Luke School**. You can make this a surprise gift for your child or ask their opinion, that will be up to you.

The idea of creating a keepsake may seem overwhelming to some, but DO NOT PANIC! The process is very easy. Your shopping list is below and a detailed explanation of the shopping list can be found on the next page.

Your shopping list will be:

- 6 Our Father Beads (10mm or 8mm)
- 53 Hail Mary Beads (8mm or 6mm)
- 1 Crucifix (1 ½ inch to 3 inches)
- 1 Blessed Mother or Patron Saint Center (make sure it has 3 holes)
- 71 spacers (buy more in case you end up wanting to put more on the rosary)
- 12 Bead Caps (optional)

Following are a few tips to keep in mind:

- We recommend getting the Crucifix and Blessed Mother/Patron Saint Center as soon as possible. You can always find beads last minute. A nice touch is to have your Crucifix engraved, possibly with the First Communion date and your child's initials. If your child is named after a Patron Saint, there are many Patron Saint Centers out there. This is just a suggestion, does not have to be done. A Blessed Mother Mary Center is perfectly fine.
- All of your metal components should have the same finish (e.g., silver, gold, etc.). If the crucifix is silver, the bead caps and Blessed Mother/Patron Saint Center should be silver.
- Rosaries also require a nylon wire, crimps and crimp covers. THESE WILL BE PROVIDED AT PARTY at nominal charge (\$3.00 total).
- Purchase a few extra beads in case you should lose some while making, they are small and slippery.
- The key to all of the components is to make sure the sizing is right. If you purchase a smaller Crucifix you may want to use smaller beads and same goes for larger Crucifix. You would want to use larger beads.
- 2nd grade teachers of St. Luke School and Religious Ed will have sample rosaries in their classrooms. if you'd like to see what the rosary will look like.
- Finally, if you absolutely have no interest in choosing and buying your own materials and would rather buy a pre-set rosary kit (pink/blue or clear beads @ \$35.00). PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP.

I hope that you can join us for this special tradition. Please let me know if you have questions/concerns.

Please Join Us for the 2nd Grade Rosary Party

Thursday, April 11th @ 7pm

Waldron Hall - basement of St. Luke School

Please bring your rosary materials and beverage of your choice.

Snacks will be provided.

PLEASE RSVP to Cassia Crotty at ccrotty@colemanlawfirm.com

DETAILED ROSARY SHOPPING LIST

53 Hail Mary Beads – These beads make up the majority of the rosary. Choose your child's favorite color, birthstone, etc. **Recommended size: 8mm or 6mm.**

6 Our Father Beads – These beads should be different in some way from your Hail Mary beads. Typically, they are a little larger than the Hail Mary beads, a different color, and/or set off by a bead cap and spacers. **Recommended size: 10mm or 8mm.**

Blessed Mother OR Patron Saint Center – Make sure that the finish is the same as your crucifix, check sizing to make sure it's in proportion with your crucifix and has 3 holes. If your child is named (first or middle) after a saint, you may want to consider getting that Patron Saint center.

Crucifix—A crucifix, which should include the body of Jesus, is the focal point of the rosary. Make sure that your crucifix and your Blessed Mother/Patron St. Center have the same finish. Depending on the size of your beads, the average crucifix size should be **between 1 ½ inches (35mm) and 2 ½ inches (53 mm).**

12 Bead caps—These are used to set apart your Our Father beads. They are OPTIONAL, but they really make the Our Father beads look special. When picking these components out make sure that they are the same metal as your other components and, most importantly, fit your bead. **If you are using a 10mm Our Father bead make sure your bead cap is made for a 10mm bead.**

AT LEAST 71 Spacers (this number would allow you to put 1 spacer between Hail Mary beads and 2 on ends of Our Father beads)—These are smaller beads that are used to separate your Hail Mary and Our Father beads. If you want more spacers between the beads, buy more than 71. Nonetheless, you will want to buy extra since these are small. I recommend using **a 2mm or 3mm bead (or seed beads)**. These can be round, disks, or bicones. The key is to choose spacers that complement the size of your other beads.

THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS (OR FINDINGS) WILL BE SUPPLIED AT PARTY AT NOMINAL COST (\$3.00):

- Wire—two feet of nylon wire
- 4 Crimps—These are tubes used to close off or end a project.
- 4 Crimp Covers—These give a professional finished look to the rosary.

SHOP LOCALLY FOR BEADS/CRUCIFIXES

1. Bead In Hand-145 Harrison Street, Oak Park (great for crucifixes, huge selection, helpful staff)
2. Michael's
3. Joanne Fabrics
4. Hobby Lobby

SHOP ONLINE

1. www.rosaryparts.com (great for crucifixes and provides engraving – ORDER EARLY!)
2. www.firemountaingems.com
3. www.silverenchantments.com
4. www.catholicparts.com
5. www.rosaryshop.com
6. www.avemariascircle.com

WE NEED PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW TO CRIMP. IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOWS IS WILLING TO HELP, WE NEED MANY HELPERS WITH THIS. PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

Shopping List:

- 1 Crucifix
- 1 Blessed Mother/Patron Saint Center
- 6 Our Father Beads
- 53 Hail Mary Beads
- AT LEAST 71 Spacers (the rosary below has more)
- 12 Beads Caps (caps Our Father Beads) - OPTIONAL

Materials that WILL BE PROVIDED AT PARTY:

- 2 ft. nylon covered wire
- 4 Crimp beads
- 4 Crimp Covers

