



## MCCW Signature Program: Illuminated Rosary

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### Introduction:

The rosary is one of the most loved, beautiful traditions in the Catholic church. MCCW has long embraced this devotion through the use of a special program called the Illuminated Rosary. An illuminated rosary is a rosary prayed with the accompanying visual of lit candles formed into the shape of a rosary.

### Supplies:

- a crucifix for the bottom of the rosary
- six large candles for the Our Fathers (real or battery operated)
- 53 small candles for the Hail Marys (real or battery operated)
- a small image or statue of Mary for the center of the rosary
- volunteers to lead the rosary and to light (or turn on) the candles
- a lighter or candle lighting sticks to light the candles (if using real candles)

### Instructions:

Before beginning the rosary, give yourself plenty of time to lay the candles out in the shape of a rosary. (see image below)



When you begin the rosary, have a person in place to light or turn on the candles. You can choose to have one person do this for all of the candles or have volunteers assigned for portions of the rosary. Pray the rosary as usual, lighting or turning on one candle for each Our Father and each Hail Mary as you go.

When the rosary is complete, offer those in attendance an opportunity for quiet prayer time in front of the lit rosary. Consider playing gentle music during this time.



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*...to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace...Romans 8:6*



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### **Variation:**

If you have enough participants, consider forming a living illuminated rosary with each volunteer holding one battery operated candle and standing in the shape of the rosary. You could have additional volunteers to hold the crucifix and the center image of Mary.

### **Notes:**

- Make sure you have plenty of lighting sticks if you are using real candles so your volunteers don't burn their fingers
- Tell your decade leaders and candle lighters not to worry about staying exactly together. Sometimes you get a tricky candle that is hard to light and you shouldn't stop the rosary for that. Just encourage them to try and finish each decade at about the same time.
- When scheduling this, try to plan it for evening or night time to take full advantage of the low light.
- If you are using real candles, bend the wicks up beforehand to make lighting easier.
- Consider writing special intentions for each decade based on your event. The person announcing the mystery can also read this intention.



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