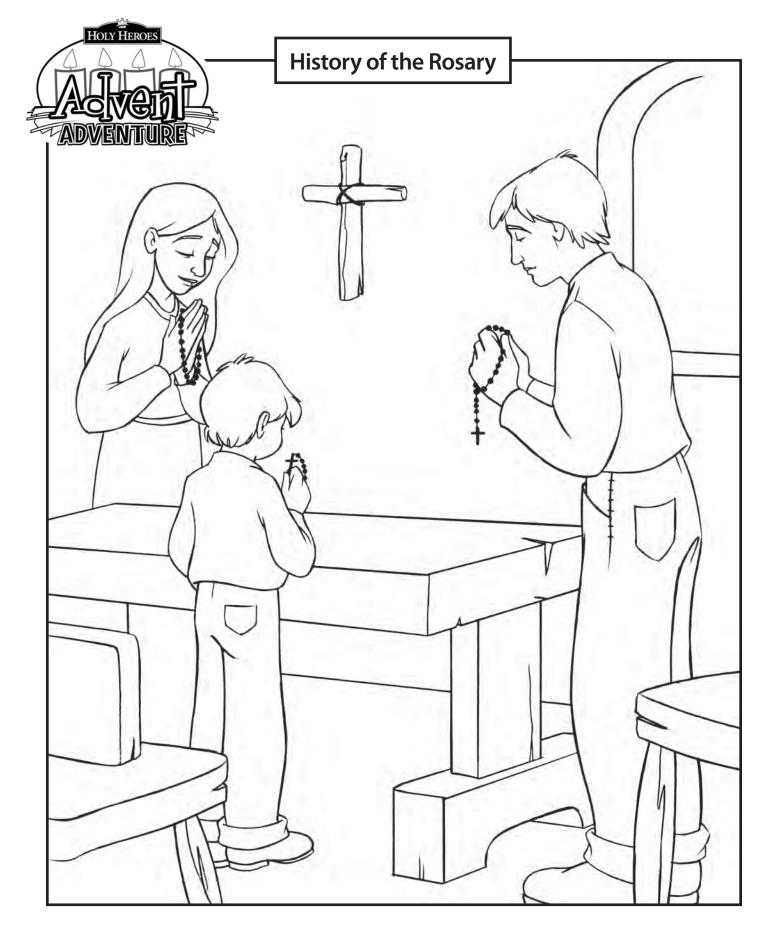


Jesus was a Jewish man. A Jewish custom was (and still is) to pray some or all of the beautiful prayers of the 150 Psalms daily. In the early centuries after Jesus' Resurrection, Christian religious communities grew up in which men and women lived a common life of work and prayer to God. Imitating Christ by praying the psalms together was a very important part of their day.



Other people wanted to imitate Jesus and pray the 150 Psalms, too. However, few people could read or afford to buy a Bible. So many began to recite 150 times the words the Archangel Gabriel said to The Blessed Virgin Mary when he announced the Incarnation of Christ, the "Hail, Mary" prayer. This became the Rosary. Tradition says that Our Lady appeared to St Dominic, telling him that the prayer of the Rosary was a powerful weapon against sinfulness and against wrong teachings about the Faith.



The Rosary is like a little Gospel; as people pray the words of Scripture and meditate on the Mysteries, their hearts open more and more to the love of Jesus and the truths of the Catholic Faith. For centuries, it has been a great way for parents to teach their children about the life of Jesus.