

The Junior Observer

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A New Testament Story

John Sees Michael Battle a Dragon

Q&A

What are some of the things John saw in heaven?

Who was on each side of the war in heaven?

Read more about it in Revelation 12

Catholic News Service

John had been exiled to the Greek island of Patmos because he was a Christian.

He was worshipping one Sunday when Jesus appeared to him. After Jesus gave John messages to give to the seven Christian churches in Asia, John was taken up to heaven.

There was thunder and lightning in heaven, as well as four living creatures, 24 elders and many angels surrounding God's throne. Everyone in heaven worshipped God continually.

John was given many visions. One of them was of a woman who was pregnant. She was "clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars," John said.

He said the woman wailed in pain as she gave birth. Just then, another sign appeared in the sky.

"It was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and 10 horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about



Bible Trivia

Which angel spoke to Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist? (Hint: Luke 1:19)

Answer: Gabriel

to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth," John continued.

The woman gave birth to a male child, who was destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. The baby was caught up to God and his throne, John said.

God had prepared a place in the desert to which the woman fled, and she stayed there and was taken care of for 1,260 days.

Meanwhile, a war broke out in heaven between Michael and his angels and the dragon and its angels. The dragon and its angels lost the battle, and there was no longer a place for them in heaven.

"The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it," John said.

Then he heard a loud voice speaking from heaven that told those dwelling there to rejoice.

"But woe to you, earth and sea, for the Devil has come down to you in great fury, for he knows he has but a short time," the voice warned.

October is the Month of the Rosary

Pray the Rosary with Bishop Malloy

October has been celebrated as the Month of the Rosary in honor of Mary for many years. Now it is also Respect Life Month.

Saying a decade of the rosary with your family after school is a way to honor Mary and pray that God will protect all of His children, born and unborn.

Bishop David Malloy of the Rockford Diocese has recorded each decade. To say the rosary with him,



(Observer photo by Sharon Boehlefeld)

Bishop David Malloy prays the rosary.

ask an adult to help you go to the website <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org/decade-a-day>.

There you can click on the name of the mystery to pray it with the bishop in English or Spanish.

Try a Rosary Relay

One way to pray the rosary as a family is based on an idea from Elizabeth Heitkamp, superintendent of the Aquin Catholic Schools in Freeport.

At several schools in the diocese, large rosaries are displayed in classrooms or halls so anyone can say a prayer when passing by.

You can pray your own Rosary Relay at home.

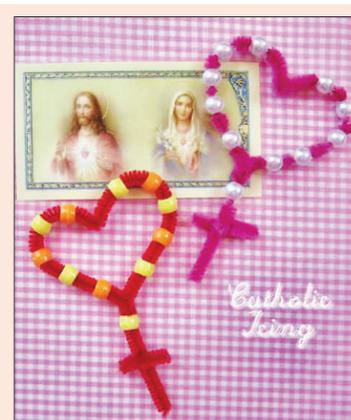
Ask an adult to help you print a copy of a rosary (above left) from the decade-a-day website. Print and color one, then post it where everyone will pass by.

If you post your rosary



(Image provided)

Depending on what your family enjoys, you can decorate a larger copy of this rosary (left), post it in your home and mark each bead as you finish it. You can also make one-decade rosaries (right) with plastic beads and pipecleaners. Find this craft on our Forever Family board at www.pinterest.com/TheObserverRkfd/



(Photo/ Catholic Icing)

on a magnetic surface, you can move a magnet around the rosary as family members stop to say a prayer or two. Another way to mark a completed bead would be to color a mark or symbol next to it.

Like any relay, it takes teamwork — the whole family — to "win the race."

When you've finished one full rosary, you can start

around again, or you can print another one and start from scratch.

Make a rosary

Another way to pray the rosary as a family is based on an idea from Catholic Icing. An adult can help you find this craft on our Forever Family board at www.pinterest.com/TheObserverRkfd/. You may even

find that your leftover beads make good decorations for a rosary relay.

Pray a rosary

A decade is one Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, a Glory Be and the Fatima prayer.

Four groups of five mysteries make the rosary. Each mystery tells an important story in Jesus's life.

October starts on a Friday this year, so you may start with the Sorrowful Mystery, the Crucifixion, and follow the chart at the decade-a-day website, saying a decade each weekday of the month. Think about each mystery as you pray it, even the sad ones.

Pray with Bishop Malloy, have a Rosary Relay or make your own rosary — or do all three. Each one will start you on your way to a new prayer habit.