

54 days to change the world. Day 12.

Today is the twelfth day of this novena, we will be praying the Glorious mysteries in a spirit of petition.

When looking at different miracles of the Rosary, one continues to see how even amidst much tumult, Mary seeks to bring peace, both personally and in the world! A perfect example of this is the Battle of Lepanto.

In 1517, Western Europe was in turmoil. Between the cultural and political divisions caused by the Protestant Revolution and the colonial expeditions in the New World, leaders in Europe were incredibly preoccupied. Recognizing these distractions, the Ottoman Turks began to grow their power and rise against the West. They began to systematically attack, pillage, and enslave the Christian lands.

Aware of this threat, Pope St. Pius V called upon Europe's leaders to prepare an offensive against the Ottomans. Philip II of Spain sent his half-brother Don Juan of Austria to lead dozens of ships alongside men from Venice, the Papal States, and other parts of Italy, creating a force called the Holy League. Upon hearing about these preparations for the defense of Christendom, the Archbishop of Mexico sent an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe that had been touched to the original Tilma for Philip II to mount on one of his ships. Additionally, Pope Pius V called on the faithful to pray the Rosary for victory through Our Lady's intercession.

On October 7th, 1571, the Holy League encountered the Ottomans near the Gulf of Corinth. Originally, the wind had been blowing against the Holy League, but it miraculously switched direction and pushed them right where they needed to be. By early afternoon, after a long and costly battle, the Holy League claimed victory over the Ottomans. The following year, Pope Pius V instituted the "Feast of Our Lady of Victory" to thank the Blessed Mother for her intercession in this battle.

Our Lady will assist you when it seems like the winds are against you! Her intercession has stumped many armies. Inspired by confidence in our Blessed Mother, let us commit to praying Her powerful Rosary!

Our Lady of Victory, pray for us! you!