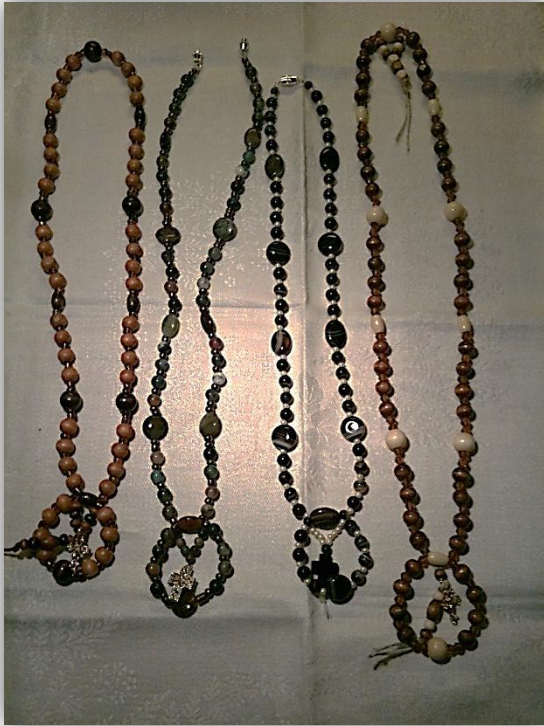


Gospel of Thomas Rosary



The *Gospel of Thomas Rosary* was developed by Deborah A. Foster in winter of 2011 to assist with chanting the 114 logia (sayings of Yeshua) that comprise the Gospel of Thomas.

Examples to the left are made with wooden beads, and also with semi-precious stones of jasper and onyx. The clasp at the top of the stone necklace takes its place as one of the beads marking each decade.

There are 6 decades, each 10th bead being larger than the rest, and each 5th bead having a different shape (oval). These differences in bead size and shape are simply to assist with tactile memory and counting the logia. Part of the 3rd and 4th decade share a central bead which both holds the cross as well as being the counting bead no. 5 for each of those decades. The Rosary is chanted in a figure 8 beginning in the smaller circle. You will complete one full figure 8 and a partial second figure 8.

Chanting the Rosary:

To begin chanting, a dedication may be offered on the large decade-bead at the bottom of the small circle. Logion 1 is said on either side of the dedication bead. Then begin chanting, one logia for each bead. Logion 114 is said as you reach the bead beside the central oval cross bead on your second circuit. Conclude your chant cycle with a closing prayer on the cross bead and cross.

Chanting on your own can be very simple, using one or two notes as you prefer, or if you are musically inclined you can be more complex. Keeping it simple is best.

Language tends to have its own natural rhythm which you will discover as you chant. Pronounce each syllable clearly and steadily. Take a breath where it suits you and continue on.

Chanting for an extended period of time, such as 30 minutes to an hour, can set up vibrations in your body which release trapped emotions and memories. Therefore chant with awareness of what is taking place within you; pay attention to time frame and your responses and adjust accordingly. You may wish to write in a journal, and as with all contemplative practices that reach into deeper levels of consciousness, talk with a counsellor or spiritual director if that is helpful.



If you wish to chant in a group, all of the above applies. A simple drum beat can help determine group rhythm, or a chant director may provide some suitable chant tones.

There are several translations of the Gospel of Thomas available. The translation by the Rev. Lynn Bauman is excellent, both in language rhythm and in entering the meaning of the logia. See *The Luminous Gospels: Thomas, Mary Magdalene, and Philip*. Transl. Lynn C. Bauman. Commentary Lynn C. Baumann, Ward J. Bauman, and Cynthia Bourgeault. Telephone, Texas: Praxis Publishing, 2008. <http://www.praxisofprayer.com>

Chanting is a powerful practice. It has the capacity to open one's heart and mind. Chanting scripture has the capacity to provide insight into a text, one's self and circumstances. Chanting sacred texts such as the Gospel of Thomas also has the potential to change and grow one's relationships, in this case with Christ, his followers, and one's self.

Stringing the Rosary:

The size and materials suggested here make a rosary suitable for a necklace. You can also use smaller beads with a necklace clasp, or choose not to wear it as a necklace. Other kinds of beads can be used according to personal preference.

1. Supplies:

- i. Stretch Bead Jewellery Cord, thickness preferably 1mm (.039inch) or 0.7mm (.028in.); length approximately 1 meter (3ft.)
- ii. Beads:
 - a) 6 round beads. Size 8mm.
 - b) 5 oval beads. Size 9mmx6mm.
 - c) 48 round beads. Size 6mm.
 - d) 72 separator beads
 - e) 6 to 8 extra beads (e.g. approx. 4mm) to attach cross.
 - f) 8 inches of hemp string, or similar.
 - g) small cross.
 - h) glue such as crazy glue to secure knots in cord or string. (optional)

2. Stringing the Rosary:

- i. String 3 decades each: one 8mm round bead; two separator beads; one 6mm round bead plus one separator bead (x4); one oval 9mmx6mm bead plus one separator bead; one 6mm round bead plus one separator bead (x4); add one more separator bead. Then you are ready to begin your next decade.
- ii. Having strung 3 full decades, you are now ready to create the smaller circle. Add one 8mm round bead with its separator beads. Now draw the remaining jewellery cord through all the beads until the cord ends meet. One half of the cord has beads; the second half is empty. Begin your 4th decade with four 6mm beads and their separators. Slip the end of the



empty cord through the oval bead of the 3rd decade –enter the oval bead from the side that will let you create the figure 8. Pull the empty cord all the way through until the 4 beads (4th decade) and separators meet the shared oval bead. You have now created the small circle, and are ready to conclude your 4th decade.



iii. String decades 5 and 6, ending with two separator beads. You are now ready to tie the knot and complete your rosary.

iv. Tying the knot: Tie a double reef knot, pulling the ends snug each time. (A reef knot is “Right end over left and under; left end over right and under”) Let the knot slip inside the large 8mm bead that joins the circle. Slip the loose ends of the remaining cord through several of the beads to either side of the knot. Keep these loose ends approximately 1 to 1.5 inches in length so there will be no risk of your knot coming undone. If you really want a secure knot, place a drop of glue on the knot.



v. Add the cross: Slip one end of your hemp string through the central oval bead that creates the small circle. Draw the string half way through. Add three separator beads or other small beads (4mm) to each side, string the cross, and a few more beads if you choose. A simple knot will hold these final beads in place. A drop of glue on the knot will secure it.



May your chanting bring you and those around you great blessings.