

# Prayer beads

Beads have been with mankind since the beginning of time. Originally used as a talisman, they evolved into a means of counting prayers. Some believe the beads on the abacus were the inspiration for the practice of counting prayers. The first use of prayer beads is attributed to the Hindu faith.



## Komboskini

GREEK ORTHODOX PRAYER ROPE

*Worn by clergy and lay members*

**Number of beads:** 150 knots (worn on the wrist) Each knot represents one "Jesus prayer."



## Subha

MUSLIM PRAYER BEADS

*Prayers are recited 100 times morning and night.*

**Number of beads:** 99 beads (full set) represent 99 names of Allah.

**Facts:** Tassel is attached to ward off the evil eye. Beads can be made of clay from the holy cities of Mecca or Medina or of wood or precious stones.



## Hindu Mala

*First to use prayer beads.*

**Number of beads:** 32-108

*First used in the eighth century BC. The name of the Hindu gods are repeated in prayers. Use begins at age 7.*

**Types:** *Siva* beads are made of seed from the rudraksha tree of Java (seeds represent an austere life).

**Vishnu** beads are made of wood from the tulsi tree.

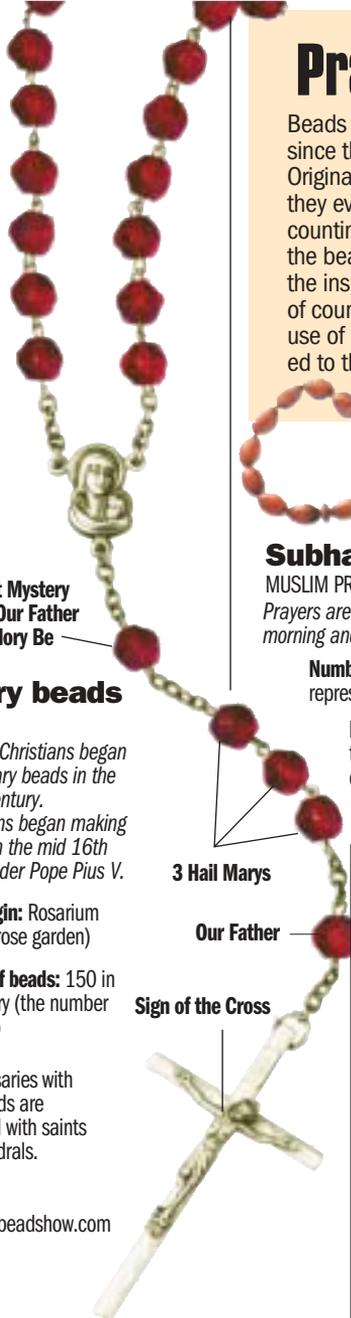


## Onenju

Lay version

BUDDHIST PRAYER BEADS

**Number of beads:** 108 beads (full set) represent the 108 afflicting passions of man. Lay version has at least 12 beads. Female version has a tassel, while male version has a simple string.



First Mystery and Our Father Glory Be

## Rosary beads

CATHOLIC

*The early Christians began using Rosary beads in the seventh century.*

*Dominicans began making Rosaries in the mid 16th century under Pope Pius V.*

**Name origin:** Rosarium (Latin for rose garden)

**Number of beads:** 150 in a full rosary (the number of Psalms)

**Types:** Rosaries with lesser beads are associated with saints and cathedrals.

3 Hail Marys

Our Father

Sign of the Cross



SOURCE: beadshow.com