

St. Therese Chaplet

Written & Illustrated by Alice Cantrell ©2006

All chaplet beads do not have to be round! This little set of prayer beads is a great example of using uniquely shaped beads in a chaplet. The beads chosen for this St. Therese chaplet are, appropriately enough, little pressed glass flowers! Either a St. Therese medal or crucifix can be used for this chaplet, but in the example below, we have used both. The 24 beads are symbolic of her 24 years on earth. May praying this lovely chaplet help you to imitate St. Therese's "little way" of following Christ.

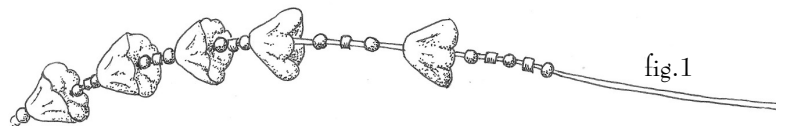
To construct this chaplet, you will need the following:

- A medal honoring St. Therese or a crucifix (or both!) in sterling silver
- 24- 8x6mm Czech pressed glass, flower cone beads in the "light rose" color.
- 1- 10mm sterling Bali bead
- 52- 2mm sterling silver beads
- 2- 2.5mm sterling silver beads
- 27- white size 11/0 seed beads
- 2- white size 8/0 seed beads
- Soft Flex or other beading wire size .019
- 2- 2mm crimp beads in silver
- Crimp Pliers and Beading wire cutters



1. Start by unrolling a (approximately) 12-inch length of beading wire, but do not cut the wire from the spool. By working directly off the spool of wire, there will be less wasted wire. String on one of the 2mm silver beads, a white 11/0 seed bead, and then another 2mm silver. Follow this with another white 11/0 seed bead and one more 2mm silver bead. You should now have five small beads on your wire, three silver and two whites.

2. String on your first pink flower bead. Follow this bead with a 2mm silver, then white 11/0, then 2mm silver combination. (fig. 1) Add another



flower bead and continue the pattern until you have all 24 flower beads strung onto your wire. Make sure that all your flowers are facing the same direction!

2. After stringing the last glass flower bead, end with the same series of five beads that began the chaplet. (2mm silver, white 11/0, 2mm silver, white 11/0, and 2mm silver.)

3. Now slide on one of the 2.5mm silver beads, (We are using the 2.5mm bead here, instead of the 2mm, so that the wire can pass through it twice.) the crimp bead, the white 8/0 bead and then the 10mm Bali bead. Follow this with the other white 8/0 seed bead, the second crimp bead and finally the last 2.5mm silver bead. (fig.2)

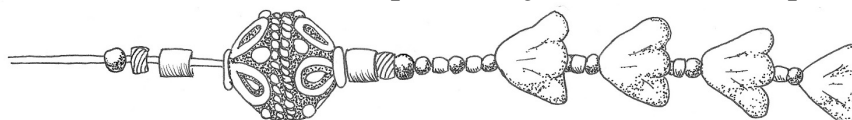


fig.2

4. It is now time to attach the medal and/or crucifix. (If you are using both the medal and crucifix, you can arrange them however you like. They can both face the same direction or opposite directions. It's up to you!) Thread the end of the wire through the hole at the top of the medal and then carefully thread it back through the last 2.5mm silver bead, the crimp bead and the 8/0 white bead (fig.3) Try to keep the two wires parallel to each other, (instead of crossing as this can cause a twist in the final piece.) and carefully crimp the crimp bead with your pliers as explained in the "Basic How To's" section. Snip off the extra wire close to the 8/0 white bead.

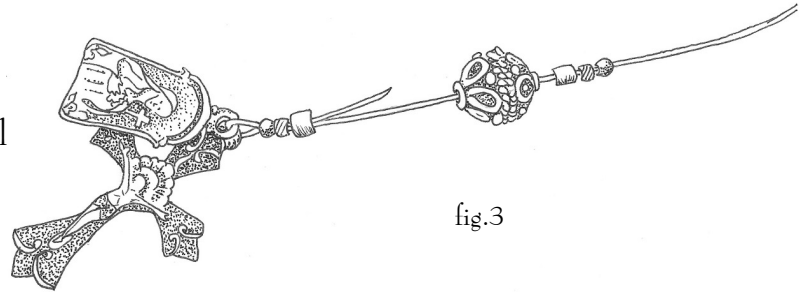


fig.3

5. Now, slide all the beads together pushing them down toward the medal and crucifix, and clip the wire from the spool leaving a 3-inch length of wire. Next, hold the chaplet up by the end of the wire, to get rid of any twisting, and thread the end of the wire back through the 2.5mm silver bead (above the Bali bead), through the crimp and then through the white 8/0 bead. (fig.4) Give the wire a gentle pull to make sure that there are no spaces between the chaplet beads. Give your chaplet a final check making sure there are no missed beads or anything else you might like to change.

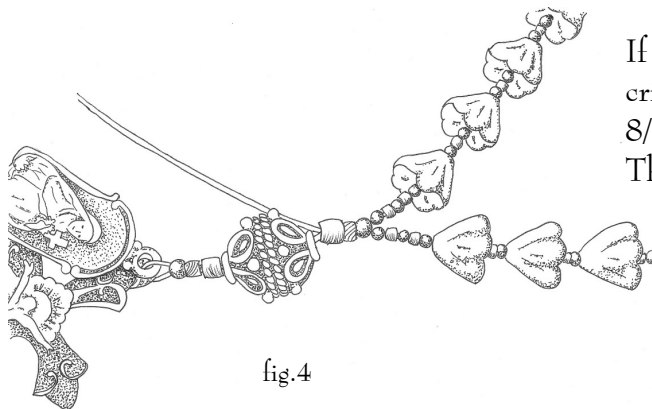


fig.4

If everything is satisfactory, carefully crimp the crimp bead and snip off the excess wire close to the 8/0 white bead. You now have a beautiful Saint Therese chaplet!

"Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them." *Saint Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897)*

St. Therese Chaplet Prayers

On the cross, crucifix or medal, say: *Saint Therese, little flower, please pick for me a rose from the heavenly garden and send it to me with a message of love. Please ask God to grant the favor I implore, and tell Him that I will love Him each day more and more.*

On the single, large bead say an *Our Father*.

On each of the twenty-four flower beads say a *Hail Mary*.

Bali Beads

Bali beads are sterling silver beads (and also clasps and other jewelry findings) made entirely by hand in Bali, Indonesia.

The Balinese silversmiths are known worldwide for their delicate designs and intricate details. Each bead is hand cast and decorated with tiny silver balls and fine silver wires. Because various artisans craft each one by hand, no two are ever exactly alike. (Bali beads can also be made in gold plate.)