

Mary



Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Luke 1:30

The Mother of God

The four Gospels teach us about Mary.

- Mary was always open to God's will. When the angel told her she had been chosen by God to be the Mother of the Son of God, she accepted the responsibility even though she did not understand how it could be. (See Luke 1:26–38.)

- Mary was obedient to the Jewish religious laws and customs of the day. After childbirth, she presented Jesus at the Temple and offered the prescribed sacrifice for her purification. (See Luke 2:22–39.)

- Mary was a responsible and loving mother. She traveled for three days to search for her lost Son. (See Luke 2:41–52.) Mary was present at the Crucifixion when others had abandoned Jesus. (See John 19:25–27.)

Filled with God's grace, Mary was conceived without Original Sin and remained free of all personal sin for life. This is called her Immaculate Conception. Mary is the virgin Mother of God. She was a virgin before the birth of Jesus, her only child, and throughout her life after giving birth to Jesus. Mary's faith helped her accept her unique role in God's plan for Redemption. Because Mary is Jesus' mother, she can speak to him as no one else can. He listens to her, as he did at the wedding feast of Cana. (See John 2:1–11.) On January 1, the Church

celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. On this day, we celebrate Mary's unique role as Mother of the Savior. We also celebrate her role as our mother and intercessor. We pray to Mary, asking her to talk to Jesus on our behalf. We ask Mary to help us grow as children of God and faithful disciples of her Son.

This young person is placing a crown of flowers on a statue of Mary at a celebration of the May Crowning.



VIPs and Their Agents

In today's society, VIPs (Very Important Persons) tend to be movie stars, rock musicians, top athletes, or best-selling authors. These people are so famous and busy that they hire agents to care for their business needs—to promote their names, to get them jobs, and to negotiate the best possible deals.

In God's eyes, each one of us is a VIP. We are God's own children. Each one of us has an "agent!" That agent is Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Mary is always ready to "promote" us and stand by our side. Mary loves us and intercedes for us (acts on our behalf) before God. She asks her Son to protect us and to care for all our needs.

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son.

From the Collect, The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Roman Missal

Activity

Think about yourself as a VIP. Then answer the following questions.

1. Explain why you are a VIP in God's eyes.

2. How can you use your talents or abilities to help others?

3. Write a prayer request for which you would like Mary to intercede.

4. Think of someone you know who can use your help. Write a sentence saying how you can follow Mary's example by helping this VIP.

5. How can you live God's plan for your life, as Mary did?
