

Mary, Mother of God

INTRODUCTION

Mary is a very special person. She was chosen by God to be the mother of his son. Her life was not easy and there were many sad times, but she believed that God loved her and would do what was best for her in the end.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 3.

SORRY

Mary is the Mother of God. We pray with her and ask her help so that God will know we are truly sorry for anything we have done wrong.

Read the following prayer:

Do not be afraid;
God will always love you.
Whatever you have done,
God will always love you.
As a father loves his child,
God will always love you.
Come back to him and know,
God's love lasts forever.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

GOSPEL (LUKE 2:16-21)

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they told them what they had seen and heard that night, Mary and Joseph shared their amazement. The mother of Jesus listened carefully and cherished all these things in her heart.

The shepherds went back to their sheep on the hillside, singing God's praises, for everything had been as the angel had said. When their baby was eight days old, Mary and Joseph named him Jesus, which was the name the angel had given to him when he first told Mary that she was going to have a child.

DISCUSSION

Ask the children to think of some of the things that a mother does: cooking, cleaning, going to work, shopping, and so many other things that the list is almost endless! Did Mary also have many things to do?

Mothers are much more than people who look after us and do all this work! They fill our lives with love, even when we misbehave. They make us laugh and smile. They listen to us and answer our questions. They have time for us and make us feel wanted. Mary did all of these things for her little boy, Jesus.

Why is Mary so special that we sing about her and pray to her? There are several important reasons:

1. She said "yes" to God and agreed to be the mother of his son. Jesus, who is God, was born and saved us from our sins.
2. She knew Jesus all his life, better than anyone else. She can help us to know him too.
3. Mary always did what God asked. With her help, we can try to do what God asks of us.
4. Mary is our heavenly mother.

We call Mary our "mother" because Jesus shared her with us. Just before he died on the cross, he turned to his mother and said: "My friends are your children now and you are their mother." (John 19:26-27)

ACTIVITY

Ask each child to draw and color a picture of themselves. These can be arranged around a central picture of Mary, the Mother of God.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Mary, help us to say "yes" to God
as you did,
even when it is not easy.

Now together, say the "Hail Mary." The words of the first part of this prayer come from the Christmas story. The second part is a prayer for the Church.

