



UNIT 6

Mary, the Mother of God and Our Mother

Lessons in This Unit

- › Lesson 1: Exploring the Blessed Mother with Sacred Art
- › Lesson 2: Mary Is the Mother of God
- › Lesson 3: Mary Is Our Mother
- › Lesson 4: Mary's Example of the Christian Life
- › Lesson 5: The Annunciation and the Assumption: Perfect Obedience

Scripture Studied in This Unit

- › Matthew 2:13-15
- › Luke 1:26-56
- › Luke 1:46-49 (RSV translation)
- › Luke 2:41-52
- › Luke 2:16-35
- › John 2:1-11
- › John 19:26-27



Connection to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Lesson 1

- › 963, 965-969, 973-975

Lesson 2

- › 430, 484, 488, 490-495, 508-511, 971-974, 1171, 2617-2619

Lesson 3

- › 430, 484, 488, 490-495, 508-511, 971-974, 1171, 1668-1673, 2617-2619

Lesson 4

- › 430, 484, 488, 490-495, 508-511, 971-974, 1171

Lesson 5

- › 430, 484, 488, 490-495, 508-511, 971-974, 1171, 2617-2619

Introduction

God chose Mary to be the Mother of Jesus and prepared her to be His Mother from her conception. Mary agreed to be the Mother of Jesus, and in her perfect obedience her soul magnified the Lord. At His death on the Cross, Jesus gave His Mother to John and to all of us. She is the Mother of God, the Mother of the Church, and our mother. Therefore, we honor Mary because of her faith and because of her instrumental role in our salvation, and we imitate her example as Jesus' first disciple.

The Mother of God

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced that by the power of the Holy Spirit she would conceive in her womb the Son of God and name Him Jesus. To this astounding news, Mary gave her fiat, or her “yes”, by saying, “I am the handmaiden of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Her perfect obedience to God began the undoing of Eve’s “no” to Him and led to our salvation. Mary raised her Son, Jesus, knowing that He was the Son of God, and in a special way shared in His joys and

At the end of her life, Mary was assumed body and soul into Heaven, where she is crowned Queen of Heaven. She intercedes for us and hears our prayers, taking them to her Son, who sits at the right of God the Father, who will answer her requests.

The Coronation of the Virgin, by Paolo Veronese.



sorrows as only a mother could. At the end of her life, Mary was assumed body and soul into Heaven, where she is crowned Queen of Heaven. She intercedes for us and hears our prayers, taking them to her Son, who sits at the right of God the Father, who will answer her requests.

Mother and Model of the Christian Life

On the Cross, Jesus gave His Mother to John the Apostle to care for. In doing so, not only did Jesus show His great love for His Mother, but He also gave her to all of us. Mary is the Mother of God, but also the Mother of the Church and our Mother too.

Therefore, we honor Mary in such a way that no other human is honored. We pray for her intercession and for her motherly care over us, and we honor her commitment to God. Mary was also the first disciple of Jesus and is our model of discipleship. Her humble obedience to God is the perfect example of what it means to follow Him. There are many ways we honor Mary, from celebrating important moments of her life on the many Marian feast days throughout the liturgical year, to using sacramentals such as the Rosary and scapulars, to praying prayers such as the Hail Mary and the Hail Holy Queen. All of these help prepare our souls to receive the grace of God, whom Mary, in all she does, unceasingly magnifies.

Connections to New York Religion Guidelines

Core Content

- › Mary has a special place in the Church as Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

Christian Living

- › We turn to Mary, our Mother in Heaven, who prays to Jesus for us. She is an example of how her Son wants us to live.

Prayer and Worship

- › Explain the feast of the Assumption, August 15, which celebrates that Mary was raised body and soul into Heaven.
- › This feast strengthens our Catholic belief in the resurrection of the Body. It also reminds us of the dignity of the body.
- › Complete the teaching of the Apostles' Creed, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

Vocabulary

- › Betrothed
- › Fiat
- › Magnify
- › Assumption
- › Original Sin
- › Rosary
- › Disciple
- › Marian Feast
- › Marian Altar
- › Sacramental
- › Miraculous Medal
- › Brown Scapular
- › Disciple
- › Commitment
- › Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- › Baptism
- › Annunciation
- › Magnificat

Pacing Guide Note

Aim to begin presenting Unit 6 in March.

Exploring the Blessed Mother with Sacred Art

UNIT 6, LESSON 1

Learning Goals

- › Mary agreed to be the Mother of Jesus.
- › Mary magnifies the Lord – her life shows us the power and love of God.
- › Mary was assumed into heaven at the end of her earthly life.
- › Mary is our Mother because she loves us and loves God.
- › We can always ask Mary to help us.



Connection to the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- › CCC 963
- › CCC 965-969
- › CCC 973-975



Vocabulary

- › Betrothed
- › Magnify
- › Fiat
- › Assumption

BIBLICAL TOUCHSTONES

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

LUKE 1:26-31, 38

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

LUKE 1:46-49 (RSV TRANSLATION)

Activity

Arrange students in small groups and give each group a laminated copy of **Handout A: Trinity and Coronation of Mary Mural**. Have them discuss the questions on the back of the handout. During this time, try to keep students focused on the artwork and the discussion questions, letting their conversations go in unexpected ways.

Formative Assessment

- A. Circulate among the groups, listening to their discussion, keeping them on task, and offering insights or clarification where needed.
- B. Before moving on to the next activity, have each group write one question they would ask the painter about his work and turn it in.

DAY TWO

Warm-Up

Project again the image of the Trinity and Coronation of Mary mural in Saint Simpliciano Church, Milan, from Handout A, and read aloud a few of the most interesting questions offered by the student groups the previous day. Allow students to share their reactions and other personal responses to the art.

Activity

- A. Give students copies of the art, and have them skim over the questions they discussed the previous day. Then call on groups in turn to share their answers to each of the questions. Conclude the discussion with the question of how the artist probably wanted the people who viewed his painting to feel.
- B. Project and read aloud or have a student stand and read aloud Luke 1:26-31, 38:

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Lesson Plan *(continued)*

C. Ask students the following questions about this passage:

- › Who appeared to Mary? *The angel Gabriel.*
- › The word betrothed means “engaged to be married.” To whom was Mary betrothed and to whom was that man related? *Joseph, who was related to (of the house of) David, the second king of Israel and first in a great line of kings.*
- › How did the angel greet Mary? “*Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.*” Other translations of Scripture read: “*Hail, Mary, full of grace! The Lord is with you.*”
- › What common prayer begins with this greeting from the angel? *The Hail Mary.*
- › What did the angel tell Mary that God wanted of her? For her to be the Mother of Jesus
- › How did Mary respond? What did she say? “*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.*” Explain to your students that a “handmaid” was the lowest of the lowliest servants. A handmaid was the servant of servants essentially. When Mary said yes to God’s plan for her, she was essentially saying that she would be a servant not only to God, but to those who serve God as well.

D. Project and read aloud or have a student stand and read aloud Luke 1:46-49 (RSV translation):

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.”

E. Ask your students the following questions:

- › Mary said that her soul “magnifies” the Lord. Think about a magnifying glass. What does a magnifying glass do? Makes things look bigger and easier to see. Mary does the same thing: the more we look at her life, the more we see the greatness of God.
- › In what ways does Mary, by letting herself become the Mother of God, show us God’s greatness? *Answers will vary.*

F. Explain to your students that according to tradition, after Jesus ascended into Heaven, Mary spent the rest of her life helping the Apostles teach people about her Son. Then, at the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken into heaven, body and soul. We call this the Assumption because Mary was assumed into heaven. Mary spent her whole life serving God. She agreed to be the Mother of Jesus, she raised Jesus, she believed in Him

and what He taught, she was with Him at His death on the Cross, and she helped His Apostles teach about Him. Mary is now in Heaven with her Son, crowned as Queen of Heaven and seated at His right hand. She takes care of the whole Church and everyone who asks for her help.

- G. Distribute to each student a piece of drawing or construction paper. Make markers and/or colored pencils available. Have your students draw a picture of Mary helping the Church.

Formative Assessment

- A. When students have finished their drawings, have them share their drawings with a neighbor and explain why they chose to draw that.

- B. Conclude by projecting and praying together the following prayer:

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

DAY THREE

Warm-Up

- A. Project again an image of the Trinity and Coronation of Mary mural from **Handout A**.
- B. Explain that Mary wants to help us because she loves us. She wants us to come to Heaven and be happy with her and with God and with the saints and angels. Mary is happy to take care of us and to be our Mother in Heaven because she loves us and knows how much God loves us.
- C. Ask students to name some things they ask or can ask Mary for. Here are some examples to guide the discussion:
- › virtues, such as patience, gentleness, cheerfulness, love, kindness, and so forth
 - › knowledge of what God wants us to do
 - › help with being good friends, children, and students
 - › opportunities to go to church

Lesson Plan *(continued)*

- D. Explain to your students that because Mary is in Heaven with her Son, we can ask for her intercession. That means that Mary can hear our prayers and take them to her Son, Jesus, and ask Him to answer them. One prayer that we can use to ask for Mary's help is called the Memorare.
- E. Project the text of the Memorare, and pray it together with your students. Have your students, while they pray this prayer, think of something to ask of Mary, maybe one of the things they just named.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

AMEN.

Activity and Assessment

Pope St. John Paul II strongly encouraged that the faithful memorize important passages of Scripture. In the Apostolic Exhortation *Catechesi Tradendae*, he wrote: "The blossoms...of faith and piety do not grow in the desert places of memoryless catechesis." When students have memorized important Scripture passages, the Word of God resides in their minds and hearts and is at the ready when the students need it.

To respond to Pope St. John Paul II's wish, have your students write out and commit to memory some or all of the following Bible verses, which complement all the lessons in this unit. Give students a few minutes each day to study them and practice recitation and writing. Before completing this unit, select one or two of these verses to have students write out from memory as a quiz at the end of the unit. Use the **Blank Copywork Page** at the beginning of the book for these memorization quizzes. You may also choose to have your students recite some or all of the memorized Scripture.

This copywork activity is but one means of helping students commit Scripture to memory. Encourage your students to explore other means of memorization, such as hanging important Scripture verses on their refrigerator at home, or on their bathroom mirror, reciting and discussing it with their parents, using Scripture passages in conversation, and other creative means of use and memorization.

Students should also be able to identify the work of art in this lesson. You may wish to give extra points to students who can identify not only the title of the work but also the artist, time period, and location of the work.

- ▶ Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”
LUKE 1:38

- ▶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”
LUKE 1:46-47 (RSV)

- ▶ Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”
LUKE 1:41-42

- ▶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.
JOHN 19:26-27

- ▶ His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.”
JOHN 2:5

HANDOUT A

Trinity and Coronation of Mary Mural

BY BERGOGNONE (C. 1515)



Saint Simpliciano Church, Milan, Italy.

DIGITAL IMAGES AVAILABLE AT WWW.SOPHIAINSTITUTEFORTEACHERS.ORG

Trinity and Coronation of Mary Mural



Trinity and Coronation of Mary Mural, Saint Simpliciano Church, Milan

Directions: Take some time to quietly view and reflect on the art. Let yourself be inspired in any way that happens naturally. Then think about the questions below, and discuss them with your classmates.

Conversation Questions

1. Who are the people in the center of the painting? Who do you think the dove represents?
2. Who are the figures wearing green, yellow, and red robes surrounding the people in the center of the painting? Who are the figures playing musical instruments?
3. Who are the people standing around the bottom of the painting?
4. Why do you think the artist used bright colors of red, blue, and gold to paint this scene?
5. Now that Mary is in Heaven, how is she better able to help answer our prayers?
6. Think about your own mother. What are some things that your mother does to take care of you? How is Mary, the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church, similar to our own mothers?

Answer Key

Handout A: Trinity and Coronation of Mary Mural

1. From left to right: Jesus, God the Father, and Mary. The dove represents the Holy Spirit.
2. They are all angels.
3. The saints in heaven.
4. Accept reasoned answers. Perhaps to symbolize royalty because Mary was being crowned Queen of Heaven.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.

Mary Is the Mother of God

UNIT 6, LESSON 2

Learning Goals

- ▶ We honor Mary because of her deep faith in the Lord and her willingness to be the Mother of our Savior.
- ▶ There are many prayers to honor Mary, including the Hail Mary and the Hail Holy Queen.
- ▶ When we pray the Rosary, we reflect on the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous, and Glorious Mysteries – events in the lives of Jesus and Mary.



Connection to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

- ▶ CCC 430
- ▶ CCC 484
- ▶ CCC 488
- ▶ CCC 490-495
- ▶ CCC 508-511
- ▶ CCC 971-974
- ▶ CCC 1171
- ▶ CCC 2617-2619



Vocabulary

- ▶ Original Sin
- ▶ Rosary
- ▶ Disciple
- ▶ Marian Feast

BIBLICAL TOUCHSTONES

And coming to her, he said, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.”

LUKE 1:28

Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

LUKE 1:41-42

D. Have students think about the meaning of the words they were assigned from the prayer and put it into their own words. Come back together as a whole group and discuss student responses.

► Possible answers

Line 1: Hail Mary, full of grace (*Greetings, Mary! God lives in your heart.*)

Line 2: The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women (*God loves you and has chosen you because you are special.*)

Line 3: And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. (*You are the Mother of Jesus.*)

Line 4: Holy Mary, Mother of God (*Faithful Mary, you are the Mother of God.*)

Line 5: Pray for us sinners (*Please ask God to help us say yes to Him as you did.*)

Line 6: Now and at the hour of our death. Amen. (*Be with us always. Be with us in times of happiness and in times of sadness.*)

Activity

Distribute **Handout A: Hail Mary** to each student. In the space provided, have students copy the Hail Mary in their neatest penmanship and illustrate the line of the prayer they were assigned to work with.

Assessment

Have students memorize the Hail Mary to be recited in the next class.

DAY TWO

Warm-Up

- A. Review with your students that in the previous lesson they learned a special prayer to Mary called the Hail Mary. Ask for a few volunteers to recite the Hail Mary aloud.
- B. Ask your students the following questions:
- What other prayers do we pray to honor Mary? *The Angelus, the Magnificat, the Hail Holy Queen.* Explain that today we will learn the Hail Holy Queen, a prayer often prayed at the end of the Rosary.

Lesson Plan *(continued)*

- Why is Mary a queen? *Jesus is King of the whole world. In heaven, Mary His Mother is the queen. Mary is the Queen of Heaven and Earth.*
 - Can you think of a “Queen” title for Mary? Mary is the Queen of _____.
Accept all reasoned answers. For example: Mary is the Queen of Peace.
- C. Pray the Hail Holy Queen twice. The first time, instruct students to close their eyes and form an image of Mary in their minds as you say the prayer. The second time, invite students to repeat the prayer after you, line by line.

Hail Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness, and our hope.

To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;

To you do we send up our sighs, mourning, and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn then, most gracious advocate,

Your eyes of mercy toward us,

And after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary

- D. Ask your students the following questions:
- What did Mary look like as you imagined her during the prayer?
 - What was Mary doing as you imagined her during the prayer?

Activity

Distribute **Handout B: Hail Holy Queen Fill-in-the-Blanks** to each student. Have students fill in each blank with the correct word from the word bank. Circulate around the room, giving aid where needed.

Assessment

- A. Review and discuss the answers to **Handout B**.
- B. Memorize the Hail Holy Queen for homework. Give students time to practice writing the prayer out on paper.

DAY THREE

Warm-Up

- A. Ask your students if they have heard of the prayer called the Rosary.
- B. Ask them what comes to mind when they hear the word Rosary. Ask for volunteers to share their answers. *Prayer, Mary, a rose.*
- C. Explain to your students that a very long time ago, Mary taught St. Dominic how to pray the Rosary. St. Dominic was a priest. He loved Jesus and Mary very much. The Rosary is a very special prayer. When we pray the Rosary, we reflect on the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous, and Glorious Mysteries – events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. By thinking about Mary’s triumphs and sufferings, we learn how to live an obedient and holy life in service to God.
- D. We say many prayers as we think about the mysteries. Ask your student to name the prayers we pray when we pray a Rosary. *The Apostles’ Creed, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, and the Hail Holy Queen.*
- E. Show the students a rosary and explain that it is a special chain of beads on which we say these prayers. Point to each bead and show students how to pray the Rosary.
- F. Explain we begin the Rosary by making the Sign of the Cross and reciting the Apostles’ Creed while holding the crucifix; then we pray one Our Father, three Hail Marys, and a Glory Be. Next, we recite the Our Father on each large bead, the Hail Mary on each of the ten smaller beads, and finish with the Glory Be. That completes one decade. Before we begin each decade, we say the mystery for that decade and think about it as we pray the prayers. After five decades, we pray the Hail Holy Queen and make the Sign of the Cross.

Activity

Distribute **Handout C: The Rosary** to each student. **Handout C** is a diagram of a Rosary. Instruct students to write the following prayers next to the correct beads: the Apostles’ Creed, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, and the Hail Holy Queen. Circulate around the classroom, giving help where needed. Have students decorate and color their rosary diagram.

Lesson Plan *(continued)*

Assessment

Pray a decade (or more) of the Rosary together.

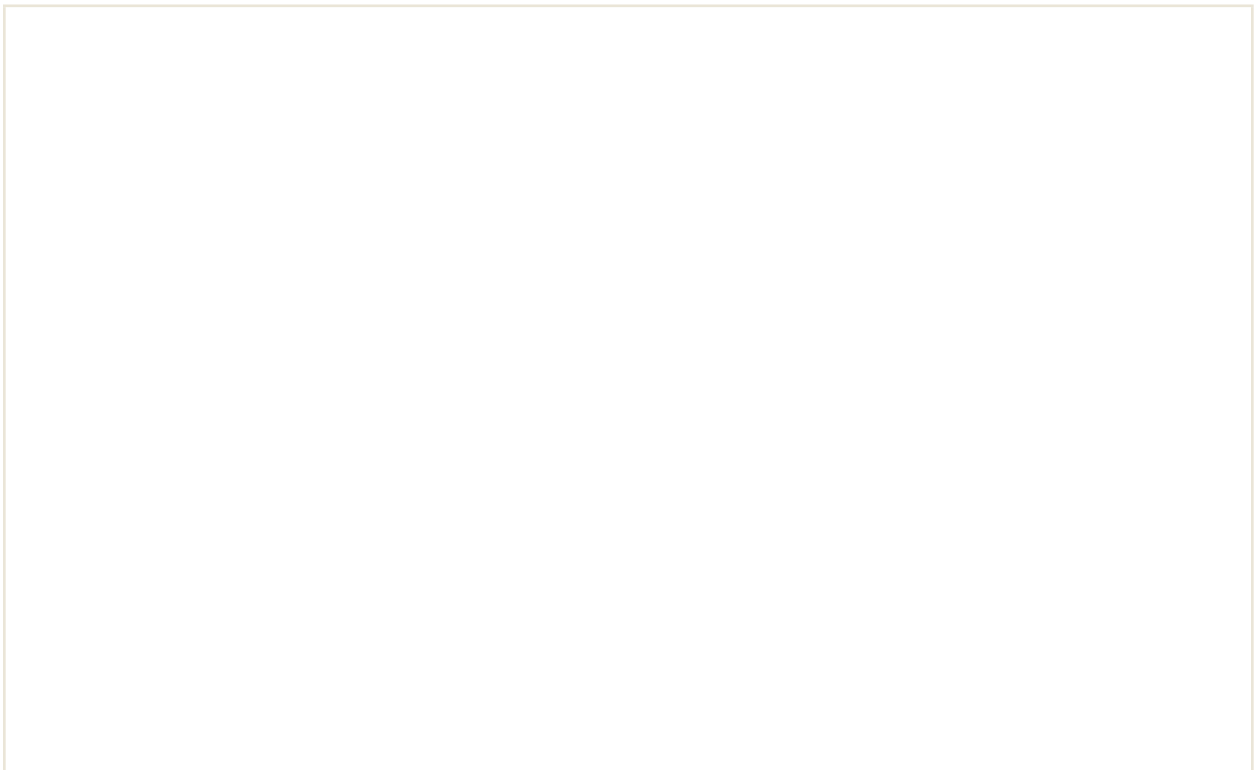
Lesson Extension

Teach the Joyful Mysteries. Explain that on Mondays and Saturdays, we meditate on the Joyful Mysteries. Read aloud the accompanying Scripture passages to help students meditate on each mystery.

- › First Decade: The Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
- › Second Decade: The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)
- › Third Decade: The Birth of Our Lord (Luke 2:1-21)
- › Fourth Decade: The Presentation of Our Lord (Luke 2:22-38)
- › Fifth Decade: The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

Hail Mary

Directions: Write the Hail Mary in your neatest penmanship. Then illustrate a picture of the line of the prayer that was assigned to you.



Hail Holy Queen Fill in the Blanks

Directions: Fill in each blank with the correct word from the word bank.

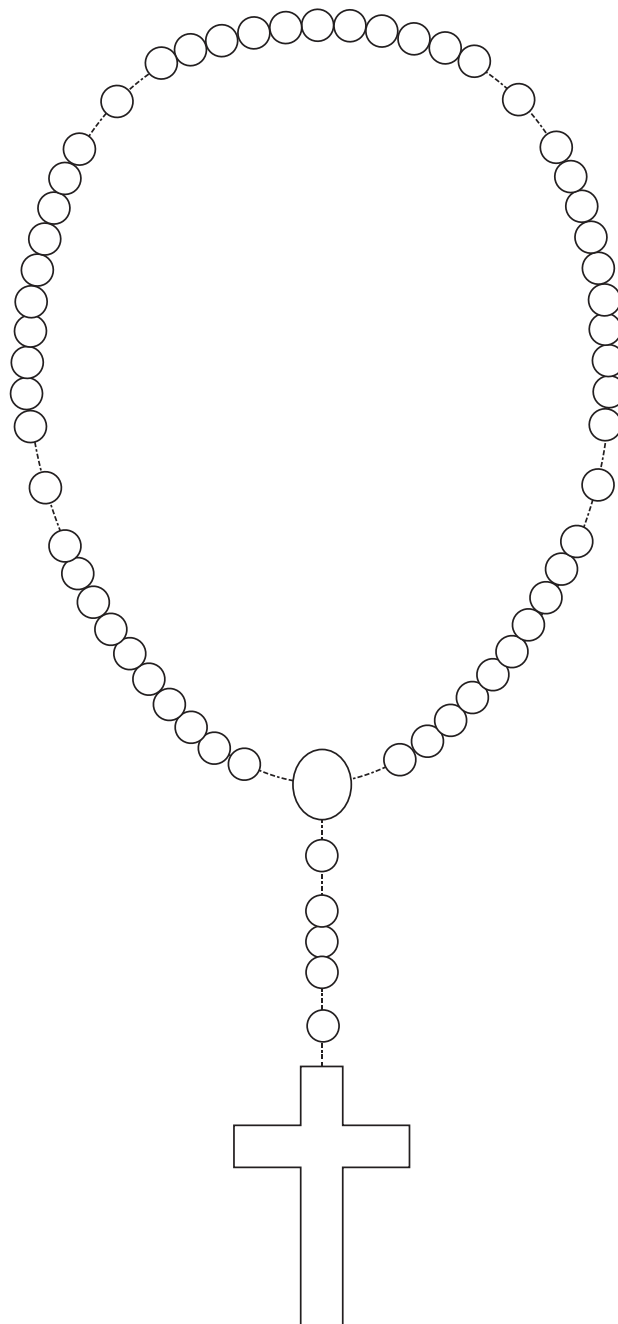
Word Bank

Mercy	Weeping	Clement	Exile
Advocate	Jesus	Mourning	Hope
Children	Mother	Queen	Loving

- Hail, holy _____,
- _____ of mercy,
Our life, our sweetness, and our _____.
- To you do we cry, poor banished _____ of Eve;
- To you do we send up our sighs, _____ and
_____ in this valley of tears.
- Turn then, most gracious _____,
- Your eyes of _____ towards us,
- And after this our _____
- Show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, _____.
- O _____, O _____, O sweet Virgin Mary

The Rosary

Directions: Write the following prayers next to the correct beads on the Rosary diagram: the Apostles' Creed, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, and the Hail Holy Queen.



Mary Is Our Mother

UNIT 6, LESSON 3

Learning Goals

- ▶ Mary is our Mother and nurtures our souls.
- ▶ Marian sacramentals help prepare our souls for grace through our faith and prayers.
- ▶ The Rosary, the Miraculous Medal, and scapulars are sacramental gifts from Mary.



Connection to the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- ▶ CCC 430
- ▶ CCC 484
- ▶ CCC 488
- ▶ CCC 490-495
- ▶ CCC 508-511
- ▶ CCC 971-974
- ▶ CCC 1171
- ▶ CCC 1668-1673
- ▶ CCC 2617-2619



Vocabulary

- ▶ Marian Altar
- ▶ Sacramental
- ▶ Miraculous Medal
- ▶ Brown Scapular

BIBLICAL TOUCHSTONES

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

LUKE 2:34-35

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

JOHN 19:26-27

- › How was Mary a mother to Jesus when he was a young boy, about the same age as you? *Mary fed Him, prayed with (read the psalms to) Him, and protected Him.*
- › This poem is also a prayer. What are we asking of Mary, Jesus' Mother, in this prayer? *To teach us how to pray, just as she taught Jesus to pray.*

Activity

- A. Discuss with your students what we know about the childhood of Jesus. Mary and Jesus spent much of their time together when Jesus was a child. The Bible records three important events from Mary and Jesus' life together during His childhood: the prophecy of Simeon, the flight into Egypt, and the finding in the Temple.
- B. Explain to your students that they will be role-playing the different scenes from Jesus' childhood. Arrange students into three groups. Distribute one scenario from **Teacher Resource A: Jesus' Childhood Cards** to each group. Give each group a Bible.
- C. Have each group find and read their assigned passage in the Bible. Each group will decide who will play each character and act out the story following the verses found in the Bible. Give the groups time to organize and practice their role plays. Make available and encourage students to use props or to create props with paper and markers. Tell students to focus on the relationship between Jesus and Mary in each scene.

Assessment

- A. Have each group perform their role plays for the entire class.
- B. After the role plays, ask your students to write down on their own paper one thing they learned about the relationship between Jesus and Mary. Collect their finished papers for your own review.

DAY TWO

Warm-Up

- A. Review with your students the main idea of the previous lesson. (*We learned about the life of Mary as Mother of the Child Jesus. Mary nurtured and cared for Jesus just as our mothers nurture and care for our needs. Mary is also our Mother. We think of Mary as our spiritual Mother. She looks after our souls.*)
- B. Ask your students how they think Mary cares for our souls. *In the same way that Mary nurtured and cared for Jesus and His needs, Mary nurtures and cares for our souls and*

Lesson Plan *(continued)*

their needs. She brings our worries and prayers to her Son, Jesus, who answers her prayers on our behalf.

- C. Project John 19:26-27 on the board, and have a student stand and read it aloud:

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

- D. Ask your students the following questions:

- ▶ *Why do you think Jesus gave His Mother to John, the disciple whom He loved? Jesus did this while dying on the Cross. He was making sure that His Mother would be cared for after His death.*
- ▶ *Why do you think Jesus gave John to His mother? So that His mother would have someone to love and care for after His death.*

- E. Explain to your students that these words were meant for all of Jesus’ followers. *Jesus gave His Mother to all of us. Mary has a special love for each one of us, just as she has special love for her Child Jesus.*

Activity

- A. Distribute **Handout A: Mary Is Our Mother** to each student.
- B. Explain that Mary listened to God and obeyed His will. Mary is our Mother in Heaven. Mary protects and loves us; she is always with us, especially when we are sad or when we ask for her help.
- C. Have students respond to the questions on Handout B and complete the activity, drawing a picture of a time when Mary listened and responded to God’s will for her.

Assessment

- A. Review and discuss the responses to **Handout A**, specifically the answers to the question “How do you know what God’s will is for you? How should you respond to God’s will for you?” *We know God’s will for us when we learn to listen to Him. God speaks to us through His Word, Scripture, and in and through the Holy Spirit active in the Church, and through the development of our consciences. We should respond to God’s will for us by obeying Him.*
- B. Ask for a few volunteers to share and explain their drawings.

DAY THREE

Warm-Up

- A. In advance, set up a Mary altar near the front of your classroom. This can be a table or desk with a tablecloth, a statue or picture of Mary, flowers (real or children can make them), and other Mary-related items, such as a Miraculous Medal, a scapular, or a rosary.
- B. Ask your students the following questions:
- What are sacramentals? *Sacramentals are objects or actions that we use as Catholics to connect to the sacraments and live out our Faith. Objects such as medals, crosses, scapulars, and rosaries become sacramental when they are blessed by the church.*
 - Who has a sacramental at home? *Answers will vary.*
 - How do you treat an object that has been blessed? *With respect and reverence.*
- C. Explain that a sacramental will help prepare our souls for grace through our faith and prayers. A sacramental is a sign of our faith and commitment to God.
- D. Ask your students what people wear as a sign of a commitment to someone or something. *A wedding ring, for example. A wedding ring is an outward sign of a promise. A team uniform is another example. It is an outward sign of belonging to the team.*
- E. Explain to your students that not all sacramentals are objects. In fact, even more important than sacred objects are blessings. Blessings ask Jesus for His gifts of grace, usually followed by the Sign of the Cross. Blessings are usually given by priests. Sacred actions such as kneeling to pray, making the Sign of the Cross, using holy water, and visiting holy places are also sacramentals.
- F. Three very special sacramental gifts from Mary are the Rosary, the Miraculous Medal, and the scapular.

Activity

- A. Distribute to each student one Marian Sacramental card from **Teacher Resource B: Marian Sacramental Cards**. Also distribute a blank piece of paper to each student. Have students read the description of the sacramental from their card and draw a picture of the sacramental and the special sacramental graces received from it.

Note: It would be helpful to have examples of a Miraculous Medal, a scapular, and a rosary to show students.

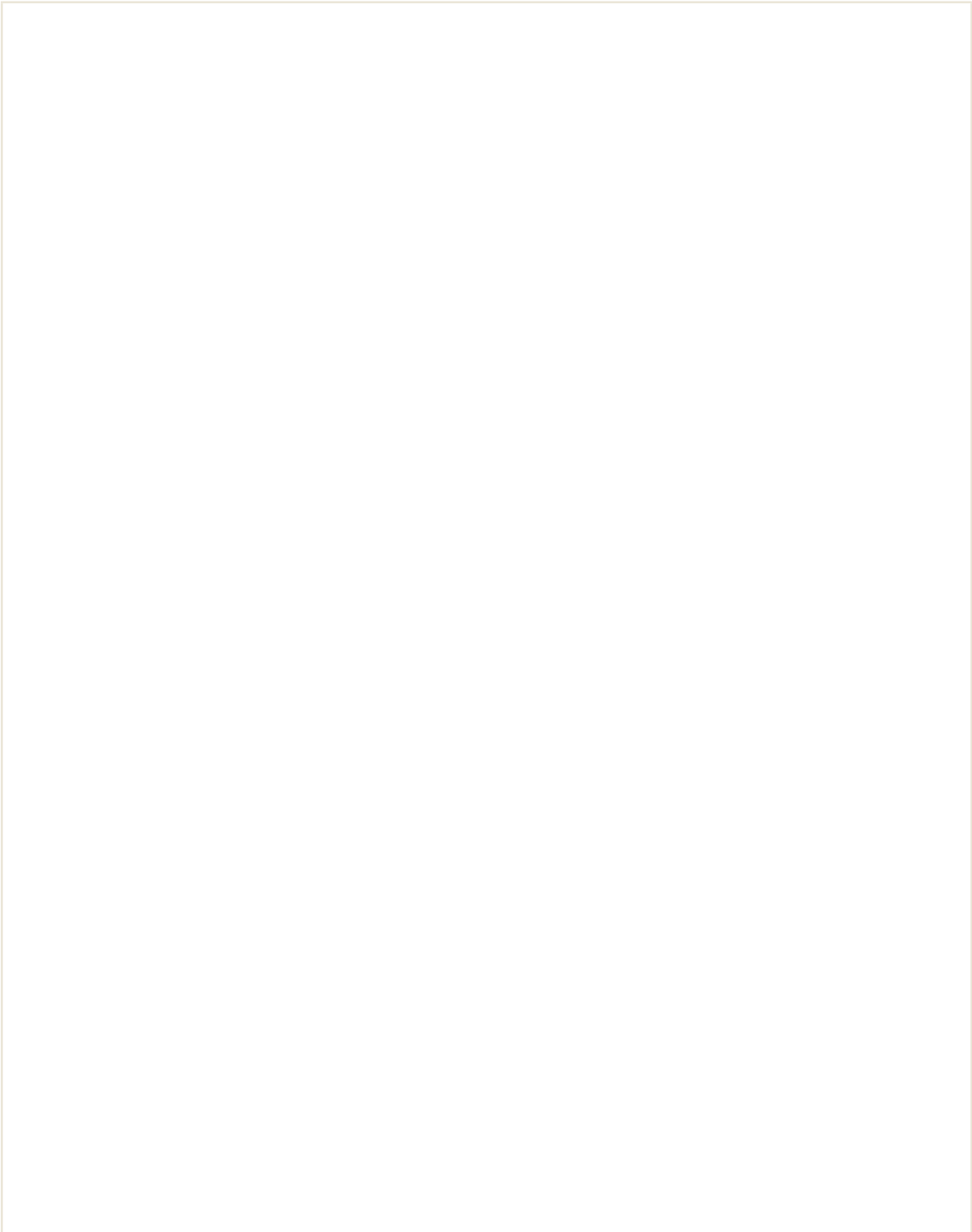
Lesson Plan *(continued)*

- B. At the bottom of the illustration, have students write a prayer to Mary, asking her to lead them closer to her Son, Jesus.

Assessment

- A. When the students have completed their illustrations and prayers, ask for a few volunteers, at least one for each sacramental, to share and explain their illustrations.
- B. Have students bring their artwork and prayer to the Mary altar, place their prayers in a basket on the altar, and pause for a moment to pray their written prayer silently.
- C. Later, display the artwork and prayers around the classroom.

Draw a picture of a time when Mary listened
and responded to God's will for her.



Jesus' Childhood Cards

Directions: Copy and cut out the cards, and have students role play the scenes.

The Prophecy of Simeon

- ▶ **Dramatization:** Scene 1.
The prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:22-35)
- ▶ **Introduction:** Not long after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph presented Him in the Temple. There they were recognized by an old man who had been told by God that he would not die before he had seen the Christ. The old man, Simeon, took Jesus into his arms and thanked God for bringing him to see that day. Simeon prophesied to Mary that she would share in the sufferings and sorrows of her Son just as she had shared in the joy of His birth.
- ▶ **Characters:** Narrator, Joseph, Mary, Jesus, and Simeon.

The Flight into Egypt

- ▶ **Dramatization:** Scene 2.
The flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)
- ▶ **Introduction:** Soon after the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Mary, Joseph, and the Child Jesus had to flee into Egypt to escape King Herod, who had heard that a Child had been born who was to be King of Israel.
- ▶ **Characters:** Narrator, Angel, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus.

Jesus Lost and Found in the Temple

- › **Dramatization:** Scene 3.

Jesus lost and found in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

- › **Introduction:** After returning to Galilee, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus traveled each year to Jerusalem to worship in the Temple. One year, on their journey home, they discovered that Jesus was missing. He was twelve years old, and He was lost for three days. Mary and Joseph finally found Him sitting among the learned men of the Temple, listening to them and asking questions. Jesus returned with Mary and Joseph to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His Mother kept all these things in her heart.
- › **Characters:** Narrator, Joseph, Mary, Jesus, teachers of the law, people in caravan.

Marian Sacramental Cards

The Brown Scapular

Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock and gave him a special sacramental called the Brown Scapular. A scapular is two small pieces of cloth connected by a cord worn around the neck. Our Mother Mary is pleased when her children wear her scapular as a sign that we are faithful to our Faith and our baptismal promises. It is an outward sign showing that the wearer has asked to be protected and to be guided closer to Jesus. Those who wear the scapular and are faithful to Jesus in all things are promised salvation.



The Miraculous Medal

Our Lady appeared to St. Catherine Laboure and asked her to make a medal with Mary's picture on it. Around the picture are the words of this prayer, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you."



Our Mother Mary said that all who wear this medal around their neck with confidence will receive many graces. Wearing the Miraculous Medal helps us to remember our heavenly Mother.

The Rosary

The prayers of the Rosary, the Apostles' Creed, the Our Father, and the Hail Mary, have been prayed by Christians from the beginning of the Church. Christians used to



use prayer beads to help them pray these prayers throughout the day. Over time, this practice became more formalized. Tradition holds that one day St. Dominic was praying and had a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary with three angels by her side. She told him to use the prayers of the Rosary as a way to teach those who did not believe in Jesus about her Son. St. Dominic did as she told him. He grouped the prayers together to be prayed on a string of beads. He organized the stories of the lives of Jesus and Mary into three sets of mysteries, the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries. St. Dominic used the Rosary to convert souls to Christ and teach them how to pray.

Today, our Mother Mary wants us to save souls by praying the Rosary often.

Mary's Example of the Christian Life

UNIT 6, LESSON 4

Learning Goals

- › A disciple is one who follows Jesus.
- › Mary was the first disciple of Jesus and is our model of discipleship.
- › We honor Mary because of her commitment to God.
- › Mary helps us to be good and brings us closer to God.
- › Many feast days throughout the liturgical year honor Mary.



Connection to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

- › CCC 430
- › CCC 484
- › CCC 488
- › CCC 490-495
- › CCC 508-511
- › CCC 971-974
- › CCC 1171



Vocabulary

- › Disciple
- › Commitment
- › Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- › Baptism
- › Marian Feast

BIBLICAL TOUCHSTONES

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

LUKE 2:21

His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

JOHN 2:5

problems to Mary she will take them to her Son, Jesus. Mary, our Mother, will bring all our prayers to Him.

- › How is Mary a model of discipleship? Mary shows us the way to God's love. Mary wants us to know and love God more and more.

Activity

Materials: Lined paper/pencils

- A. With a partner, have students brainstorm a list of ten words to describe a student. *For example: intelligent, cooperative, honest, sincere, creative, hard-working, brave, respectful, curious, and talented. Accept all reasoned answers.*
- B. When your students have finished making their lists, ask groups to share and keep a list on the board.
- C. Have your students look at the list of words on the board and think about how these words might describe a disciple of Jesus. Ask them if there are any other words that they would add to this list to describe a disciple of Jesus. *For example: holy, serving others, faithful, loving, prayerful, obedient, trusting, or understanding. Accept all reasoned answers.*
- D. Ask your students what a disciple, or student, of Jesus might learn from Him? *How to love God and one another, how to be holy, how to be saved from sin, how to resist temptation and sin, the meaning of life, and so forth. Accept all reasoned answers.*
- E. With a partner, have students write a sentence that describes how being a student and being a follower of Jesus are similar. *Those who accept Jesus' call to follow Him are called His disciples. Jesus associated His disciples with His own life, revealed to them the mystery of the Kingdom, and gave them a share in His mission, His joy, and his sufferings. (See CCC 767, 787.)*
- F. When finished, ask for volunteers to share their sentence aloud with the rest of the class.

Assessment

- A. Ask your students to write on their own paper an answer to the question: What does Mary show us about being a disciple of Jesus?
- B. Ask for volunteers to share their responses. Collect completed student papers.

Lesson Plan *(continued)*

DAY TWO

Warm-Up

- A. Explain to your students that Mary said yes to God and honored that commitment by becoming the Mother of Jesus. Because she did so, she is a model of discipleship.
- B. Ask your students the following questions:
- ▶ What does it mean to make a commitment? *To decide to do something, to promise, to make a vow.*
 - ▶ What are some things we say when we make a commitment? *Examples: I promise, on my honor, I will, I do.*
 - ▶ What commitments have you made? *Examples: a promise to do your homework or clean your room, a commitment to a sports team.*
 - ▶ How important is it to keep a commitment? *In most situations, it is very important to keep a commitment. Not doing so can harm our reputations and make it difficult for others to respect and trust us.*
 - ▶ How do you feel when a commitment made to you is not honored? *Accept all reasoned answers.*
- C. Explain to your students that one of the reasons we honor Mary is because she kept her commitment to God in becoming the Mother of Jesus. Today we will learn about a feast in Mary's honor called the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Let's listen to the Gospel for this feast. When we are finished, I will ask you to name some of the ways Mary honored her promise to God.
- D. Ask one or more volunteers to stand and read aloud the Gospel for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, Luke 2:16-21.
- E. Ask your students what commitment to God Mary showed in this reading. *Mary "pondered" the things of God in her heart. She also named her Child Jesus, as the angel Gabriel had told her to do at the Annunciation.*
- F. Explain to your students that because Mary honored her commitment to God, she is a model for us of how to be a disciple. In our previous lesson, we learned that a disciple is a follower of Jesus.
- G. Ask your students the following questions:

- › As Catholics, when did we make our first commitment to be disciples of Jesus? At *Baptism*.
- › How do we show this commitment? *Accept all reasoned answers, such as through prayer, Mass, religious education, and following the Commandments.*

Activity and Assessment

- A. Explain to your students that they can honor Mary by showing love and care for their families. Have your students create a bouquet of love. First, have them write a list of things they will do (commitments) to show love for their families (examples: share, hug, help).
- B. Next, distribute a blank piece of paper to each student, and have students illustrate a beautiful bouquet of flowers on it. Have students write their ideas (commitments) all around the flowers. Finally, they can take their bouquet of love home to hang on their refrigerator as a reminder of their promises.
- C. Close by praying a decade of the Rosary together.

DAY THREE

Warm-Up

- A. Explain to your students that the Church honors Mary in many ways throughout the liturgical year. We can show our love for Mary by celebrating the many feast days named for her during the course of the Church year.
- B. Distribute to each student **Handout A: How Does the Church Honor Mary?** and have students respond to the questions to see how much they know about the ways the Church honors Mary.
- C. Review and discuss the answers to the completed questions.

Activity

- A. Arrange students into pairs or trios. Assign each group (or allow each group to choose) one Marian feast day from the list below (This is not an exhaustive list. There are other Marian feast days.). Marian Feast Days:

Lesson Plan *(continued)*

- › January 1: Mary, Mother of God
 - › February 11: Our Lady of Lourdes
 - › March 25: The Annunciation of the Lord
 - › The Immaculate Heart of Mary (Saturday after the Second Sunday after Pentecost)
 - › May 24: Our Lady Help of Christians
 - › May 31: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth
 - › July 16: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
 - › August 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven
 - › August 22: The Queenship of the Virgin Mary
 - › September 8: The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - › September 15: Our Lady of Sorrows
 - › October 7: Our Lady of the Rosary
 - › November 21: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - › December 8: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- B. In advance, download the document titled “Marian Feasts in the General Roman Calendar” from the following website: EWTN.com/library/LITURGY/FEAST.TXT. This document includes descriptions of the list of Marian feast days. Either distribute the entire document to each group, or cut out each feast day’s description from the document and after assigning each group a feast day, give them the corresponding description from the document.
- C. Have each group read the description of their assigned Marian feast day. Then, distribute to each group a blank piece of paper and have students illustrate a picture of Mary to represent the feast (filling the entire page) and label their picture with the title of the feast day. On the back of the piece of paper, have each group write a sentence or two that describes what we celebrate on that feast day. Display pictures on a bulletin board titled “Marian Feasts.”

Assessment

- A. Circulate around the room, asking students to describe how their pictures of Mary represent the feast day they were assigned.
- B. Have students write an answer on their own paper to the following question: How does Mary help us to be good and bring us closer to God? Ask for volunteers to share their answers. Collect completed student work for your own review.

How Does the Church Honor Mary?

Directions: Answer each question about how the Church honors Mary.

1. Name the prayer to Mary taken from Scripture that tells of the angel's visit to Mary.

2. Name the feast that celebrates Mary's meeting with Elizabeth, her cousin.

3. Mary is the one person in the world besides Jesus who was born without this.

4. The Immaculate Conception is the feast that celebrates that Mary was conceived without what?

5. What is the flower most often associated with Mary?

6. When we pray the Rosary, whose lives do we remember?

7. Which month do we dedicate to Our Lady of the Rosary?

8. We believe Mary was taken into heaven, body and soul. What is the name of the feast that celebrates this?

9. We believe Mary was crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth. We celebrate this feast on August 22. Name this feast.

10. What did Mary say when God asked her to be the Mother of the Savior?

Answer Key

Handout A: How Does the Church Honor Mary?

1. Hail Mary
2. Feast of the Visitation
3. Original Sin
4. Original Sin
5. Rose
6. The lives of Jesus and Mary
7. October
8. Assumption
9. Coronation of Mary
10. Yes

The Annunciation: Perfect Obedience

UNIT 6, LESSON 5

Learning Goals

- Mary is the Mother of the Church.
- Mary's "yes" to God is an important event in our Catholic Faith and an example for us all.
- Mary prayed the Magnificat in praise of and thanksgiving to God.



Connection to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

- CCC 430
- CCC 484
- CCC 488
- CCC 490-495
- CCC 508-511
- CCC 971-974
- CCC 1171
- CCC 2617-2619



Vocabulary

- Annunciation
- Magnificat

BIBLICAL TOUCHSTONES

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

LUKE 1:38

And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed."

LUKE 1:46-48

Lesson Plan

Materials

- ▶ Handout A: My Favorite Event from Mary's Life
- ▶ Handout B: Mary Said Yes!
- ▶ Handout C: Thank You, God!
- ▶ Teacher Resource: The Life of Mary Strips
- ▶ Drawing paper and markers/colored pencils
- ▶ Picture books about Mary

My Notes

DAY ONE

Background

Mary was a young woman who lived in Nazareth. She was engaged to marry a carpenter named Joseph. God chose Mary to be the Mother of His Son, Jesus. We believe that Mary was free from Original Sin and all personal sin from her conception. Mary was “full of grace.” She loved God very much and always wanted to do God’s will. Mary said yes to God’s plan. She is the Mother of Jesus, who is God. We believe that Mary is truly the Mother of God. And we believe that, at the time of her death, God took her, body and soul, to be with Him forever. Jesus told us to call Mary our Mother, too. She is the Mother of the church.

Warm-Up

- Ask your students who Mary is. *Mary is the Mother of God.*
- Explain to your students that Mary accepted God’s will in times of joy (such as at the birth of Jesus) and in times of sorrow (such as during the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross).
- Ask your students what events from Mary’s life they know. Brainstorm with your students a list of events from Mary’s life. Refer to the following list throughout your discussion:
 - ▶ Immaculate Conception – Mary was born without sin to her parents, Anne and Joachim.
 - ▶ Betrothal to Joseph (Matthew 1:16; Luke 1:27)
 - ▶ Annunciation of Christ’s birth to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

- › Mary's visitation to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)
 - › Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-19)
 - › Prophecy of Simeon concerning Jesus and Mary (Luke 2:25-35)
 - › Flight into Egypt to save Jesus from Herod (Matthew 2:13-14)
 - › Finding of Jesus in the Temple at Jerusalem (Luke 2:41-50)
 - › Wedding Feast at Cana (John 2:1-11)
 - › Mary with Jesus during His public life (Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21; John 2:12-13)
 - › Mary at the Cross (John 19:25-27)
 - › Mary assumed into heaven to rejoin her Son
- D. Before class copy and cut out sets of sentence strips from **Teacher Resource: The Life of Mary Strips**. Arrange students in pairs or in groups of three. Give each group a set, and have groups organize the strips in chronological order.
- E. Next, come together as a whole group. Have students share their results with the class and record the events in chronological order on the board. Finally, have students make corrections to their work.
- F. Distribute **Handout A: My Favorite Event from Mary's Life** to each student. Have students choose one event from Mary's life and find and read the Scripture passage in the Bible. Then have students illustrate and describe this event from Mary's life in the space provided on **Handout A**.

Assessment

Have students share their illustrations and read their brief descriptions to the class.

Lesson Extension

Create a story map or a class mural of the events in Mary's life.

Lesson Plan *(continued)*

DAY TWO

Warm-Up

- A. Explain to your students that we say yes in many ways. Ask students to brainstorm a list of verbal and nonverbal ways to say yes. Write student answers on the board.
- B. Explain to your students that sometimes it is easy to say yes (e.g., Yes, I would like a piece of cake), and sometimes it is difficult (e.g., Yes, I will clean my room). Have students turn to a partner and share one example of each.
- C. Discuss with students the importance of Mary's yes. Jesus was born because Mary said yes when God asked her to be the Mother of Jesus.
- D. Invite three student volunteers to role-play the Annunciation from Luke 1:26-38. You will need a narrator, the angel Gabriel, and Mary. Note: You may choose to read the narrative lines yourself.
- E. After the role play, ask your students the following questions:
 - ▶ What was the angel Gabriel's message for Mary? *She would have a Son who would be called the Son of God.*
 - ▶ Describe how Mary felt. *Mary was afraid.*
 - ▶ What words did Mary use to say yes? *"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).*
 - ▶ Who did the angel Gabriel promise would come to Mary? *The Holy Spirit.*
- F. Write on the board and define Annunciation:

The visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to inform her that she was to be the Mother of the Savior. After giving her consent to God's word, Mary became the Mother of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit (CCC 484, 494).

Activity

Distribute **Handout B: Mary Said Yes!** to each student. Have students work individually to answer the following questions in the space provided.

- ▶ What are some of the ways you are like Mary by saying yes to God each day?
- ▶ Make a list of ways to say yes to God at home, at school, and with friends.

Assessment

Have students turn to a neighbor and share one way they can say yes to God at home, at school, and with friends. Circulate around the room and listen to students' responses.

DAY THREE

Warm-Up

- A. Explain to your students that the Church celebrates every August 15th the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven. We believe as Catholics that at the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken, or assumed, body and soul into Heaven. There, in her bodily form, like her Son, Jesus, she was crowned; she is Queen of Heaven. Mary's Assumption into Heaven is connected to her "yes" to God. All Mary did in her life glorified God and was obedient to Him. In fact, God had prepared her to the Mother of Jesus even before she was born, by preserving her from sin. Because Mary was born without sin and remained sinless throughout her life, and because of her great obedience to God, Mary shares in the victory over death won by her Son on the Cross. Like Jesus, Mary was glorified in her body in Heaven. Ultimately, all of us will share in this same glorification at the end of time when we experience the Resurrection of the Body. In short, even after her earthly life, everything that Mary did and experienced glorified God.
- B. Read aloud Luke 1:39-56, Mary's visit to the home of her cousin Elizabeth.
- C. Explain to your students that Mary rejoices in being chosen to be the Mother of God. The Prayer of Mary is called the Magnificat. The Bible tells us that Mary said this prayer at the home of her cousin after Elizabeth joyfully greeted her. Mary was so happy about the good news of Jesus' coming that she said this prayer to praise and thank God. Mary understood that grace comes directly from God. God had blessed and honored her by asking her to be the Mother of Jesus. How often do we think something good has happened to us because of something we have done, not because of God!
- D. Discuss with your students that all their talents and abilities are gifts from God.
- E. Ask your students to consider which talents God has given them. Ask for volunteers to share with the class and keep a list on the board.
- F. Read to your students the Magnificat, one line at a time, and ask them to repeat after you. Mary said this prayer in praise and thanksgiving for all that God had given her.

Lesson Plan *(continued)*

Instruct students to think about the expression Mary would have worn on her face and used in her voice when she said this prayer to God. (Mary was very humble.)

The Prayer of Mary (The Magnificat)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

LUKE 1:46-55

- G. After praying the Magnificat together, ask your students the following questions:
- ▶ How do you think Mary looked during this prayer? *Answers may include she was on her knees, or she looked up to heaven, or she looked happy or peaceful.*
 - ▶ How do you think Mary sounded? *Answers may include kind, sweet, happy, joyful, or soft.*
 - ▶ How do you think Mary felt? *Answers may include happy, excited, joyful, or peaceful.*

Activity

Distribute **Handout C: Thank You, God!** to each student. Give the following instructions: *Write three talents God has given to you. Then write a prayer of praise to God, thanking Him for His goodness.*

Note: It may be helpful to brainstorm a list of praise words on the board, such as great, wonderful, awesome, fantastic, and amazing.

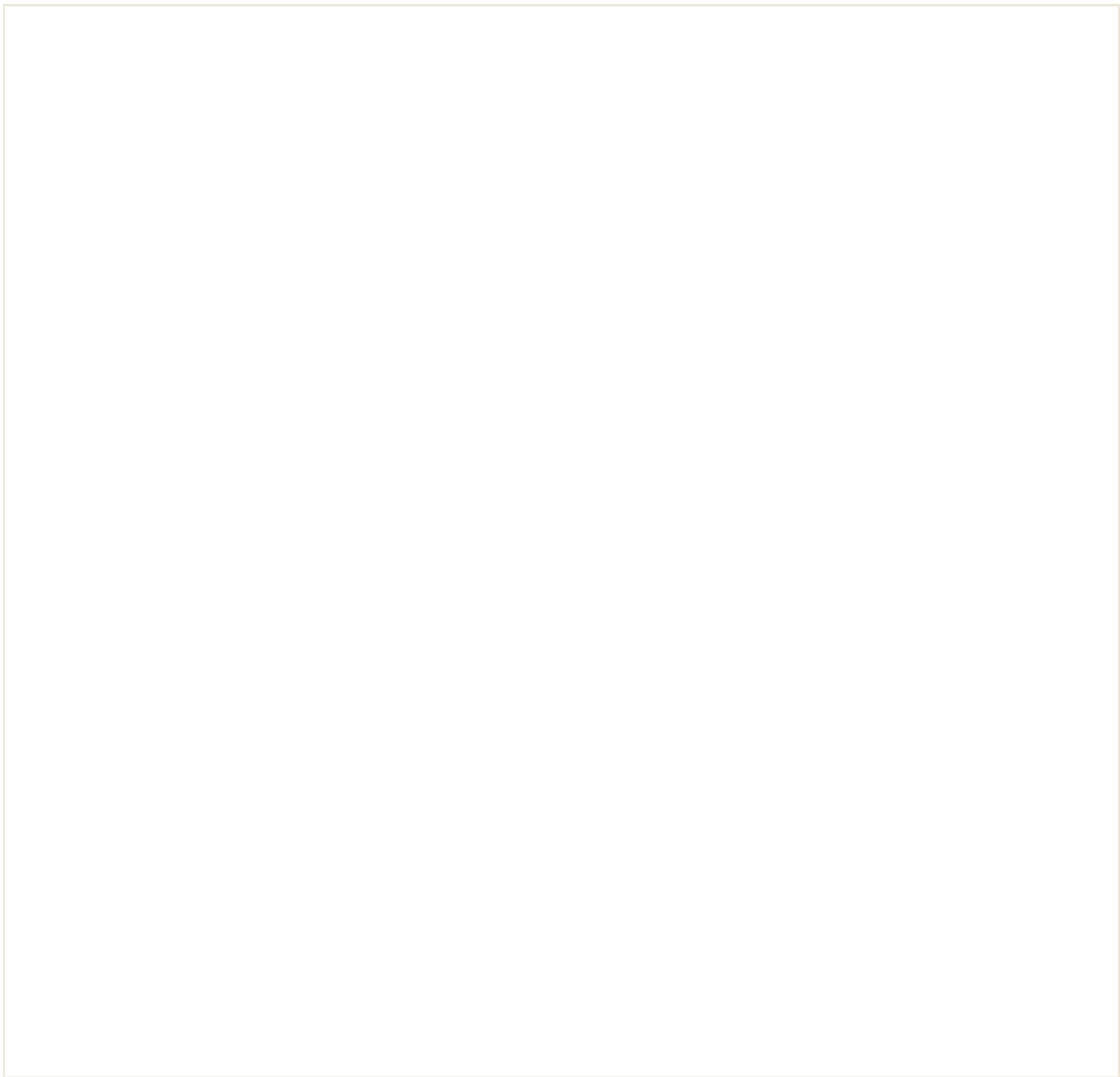
Assessment

Ask your students why Mary said the Magnificat prayer. *Mary was responding to her cousin Elizabeth's greeting and how the infant in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy at the presence of Jesus in Mary's womb.*

My Favorite Event from Mary's Life

My favorite event from Mary's life is:

Draw your favorite event from Mary's life below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin, light-colored border, intended for drawing a favorite event from Mary's life.

Mary Said Yes!

Directions: How do I say yes to God at home, at school, and with my friends?
Write those ways in the boxes.

Home	School	Friends

Thank You, God!

Directions: Write a list of three talents that you have. Then write a prayer to God praising Him for His goodness and thanking Him for the talents He has given you.

Three talents I have are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

My prayer of praise:

The Life of Mary Strips

Directions: Copy and cut out the strips below, making enough to give one set to each group of two or three students in your classroom.

Immaculate Conception

Mary was born without sin to her parents, Anne and Joachim.

Betrothal to Joseph (Matthew 1:16; Luke 1:27)

Annunciation of Christ's birth to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

Mary's Visitation to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)

Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-19)

Prophecy of Simeon concerning Jesus and Mary (Luke 2:25-35)

Flight into Egypt to save Jesus from Herod (Matthew 2:13-14)

Finding of Jesus in the Temple at Jerusalem (Luke 2:41-50)

Wedding Feast in Cana (John 2:1-11)

Mary with Jesus during His public life (Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21; John 2:12-13)

Mary at the Cross (John 19:25-27)

Mary assumed into heaven to rejoin her Son