

## **Celebrate Mary in May!**

### **Mary, the Mother of Jesus!**

It has been a tradition in the Church to honor Mary during the month of May.

Mary was called by God for a special mission. She was to be the Mother of Jesus! Mary loved God very much and said "yes" to all he asked of her.

Mary was very close to Jesus. She listened to everything he said and reflected on it in her heart. She believed in Jesus and followed his teaching.

When Jesus suffered and died for us on the cross, Mary also suffered. It was hard for her to see her Son being treated so badly and killed. When Jesus was dying on the cross, Mary was standing nearby. Jesus said to one of his disciples who was standing with her, "Behold your Mother!" Jesus gave his mother to us, to be our mother, too. She helps us to love and follow Jesus, as she helped the first followers of Jesus.

How happy Mary must have been when Jesus rose from the dead!

We can talk to Mary in sad times and happy times. We can ask her to help us be like Jesus.

### **Make a May Shrine**

You can set up a place to honor Mary in a special way during May. (First ask your parent's permission!) Find a statue or picture of Mary. Put it in a different place than you usually have it. Maybe you can put it on a little table in the corner of the living room or family room. You can cover the table with a blue cloth if you have one.

If you have flowers growing in your yard, ask your mom or dad if you can cut some to put next to the image of Mary.

Whether or not you have real flowers, you can make this jar with spiritual flowers for Mary. Find a jar or box. Write down (or print out) the following "spiritual flowers" you can do to honor Mary. You can make up as many more as you like. Each day, pull out a slip of paper with one idea on it and do it that day.

- Pray a "Hail Mary" for each person in your family.
- Remember how Jesus obeyed Mary and Joseph and do your chores without being told.
- Ask your Mom or Dad if there is some work in the yard or house they need help with.
- Pray a "Hail Mary" for all women who are expecting a baby.

- Ask Mary to comfort all who are sick.
- Read in the Bible where the words to the “Hail Mary” come from: Luke 1:28 and Luke 1:42.
- Read the story of Mary and Jesus at the wedding in Cana: John 2:1-12.
- Pray one decade of the rosary for peace in the world.
- Pray one “Hail Mary” for someone you find it hard to be nice to.
- Read the story of when the angel came to Mary: Luke 1:26-38.

## **The Rosary**

A special prayer to Mary is the rosary.

When you pray the rosary, you are invited to think deeply about the life of Jesus. You are asking Mary to help you learn how to be more and more like Jesus in your daily life. You do this by thinking about the “mysteries” of the rosary as you pray the prayers.

### **What are the mysteries?**

The Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious “mysteries” are events in the life of Jesus and Mary. They’re called “mysteries” because you can think about them for a very long time and still not understand everything about them.

