

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

PREPARATION

May is traditionally a month in which Catholics honor Mary by praying the Rosary, celebrating May Crowning, or gathering for prayer in her honor.

The following prayer is appropriate for classroom use.
You will need:

- A statue or image of the Blessed Virgin Mary
OR multiple images of Mary representing many cultures
- A designated prayer table OR a special corner of your classroom designated as a devotional area
- Candles (if allowed)
- Fresh flowers (invite the children to bring flowers)
- A basket of rosaries on or near the display



INTRODUCTORY RITES

Begin by gathering the class around the prayer table or designated place of honor. Invite students to hold the image(s) of Mary, candles, flowers, and basket of rosaries until it is time to place them on the prayer table.

Gathering Song: Lead the young people in singing a refrain or song in honor of Mary.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Introduction

Leader: Catholics honor Mary as Christ's mother, as the Mother of the Church, and as the Church's greatest saint.

What else do you know about Mary?

(Invite responses from the group.)

May is a special month in the Church to honor Mary.

Let us open our hearts to hear Mary's words of joy and praise taken from the Gospel of Luke.

Adorning an Image of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

THE WORD OF GOD

Gospel

Acclamation: Sing a Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia) familiar to the children.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:42-50 (or, for younger children, Luke 1:46-50)

Reflection: Invite the group to respond to the following questions:

- Why did Mary rejoice in God?
- What causes you to rejoice in God?

LITANY OF MARY (Based upon the Litany of Loreto)

Lead the speaking, chanting, or singing of the following litany.

Leader: Holy Mary
All: pray for us.

Leader: Mother of God's Son
All: pray for us.

Leader: Mother of the Church
All: pray for us.

Leader: Model of holiness
All: pray for us.

Leader: Model of patience
All: pray for us.

Leader: Model of motherhood
All: pray for us.

Leader: Queen of families
All: pray for us.

Leader: Queen of all saints
All: pray for us.

Leader: Queen of the rosary
All: pray for us.

Leader: Cause of our joy
All: pray for us.

Leader: Morning Star
All: pray for us.

Leader: Help of Christians
All: pray for us.

Leader: Queen of peace
All: pray for us.



Adorning an Image of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

ADORNING THE PRAYER TABLE OR DEVOTIONAL AREA

Lead the class in singing a Marian song or hymn as the prayer table or devotional area is adorned with the white cloth, the statue or image(s) of Mary, the candles, the flowers, and the basket of rosaries.

PRAYER OF BLESSING AND CONCLUSION

Leader: Loving God,
 may we who gather here to honor
 Mary, learn the way of holiness
 through the example of her life,
 and grow in faith and love.

 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Together, we lift our voices and pray

All: **Hail, Mary . . .**

Encourage the children to continue to come to the prayer table or devotional area to pray throughout the month of May.

