

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God



St. Charles Catholic Church
Liturgy of the Word with Children
Family Reflection for
January 1, 2023 Solemnity of Mary

Family Prayer:

Dear Jesus, help us to grow in trust and obedience like Your mother, Mary. Jesus, help us do things today Your Father would find favor with. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:16-21

Mary, Blessed of God

Reflection:

Today we honor Mary as the Holy Mother of God. Mary is said to be the greatest of all saints because she was prepared by God himself to be the mother of Jesus, and she chose to fully cooperate with God's plan. Since Jesus is fully human and fully divine, we refer to Mary as the God-bearer. She brought the Word of God made flesh, Jesus, into this world. Mary was the first to believe that Jesus was the Messiah and a savior born for the people so that all people could be saved.

As miraculous things happened around her son, Mary reflected on these moments in her heart. She lived her life loving Jesus and guiding others toward him. Because Mary honored her commitment to God, she is a model for us of how to be a disciple. As followers of Christ, we are called to reflect as Mary did so that we might see God's presence in the events of our lives. Like Mary, we are also called to be obedient to God's will and loyal to a community of faith.

Discuss these questions as a family:

How do you think Mary felt when shepherds, who were strangers, arrived not long after Jesus was born to adore him?

God gives each of us special gifts to share with the world. We say yes to God when we share our gifts to help others. How can you be like Mary and say *yes* to God by using your gifts and talents to serve others in both large and small ways?

The Holy Family cared for and loved one another. How do you show your family that you love them?

What are the everyday things God is inviting you to do with trust, humility and love?

Family activities:

1. Have each member of your family write a letter to Mary. In their letters, they can be free to express themselves: ask questions or relay thoughts. For those unable to write yet, have them draw a picture about Mary to give to her. Take your letters and drawings to a statue of Mary at your church. Ask Mary to pray for your family as you offer her your gifts.

2. Make a family tree that includes great-grandparents, grandparents, parents, siblings, etc. What is special about your family? How has God blessed your family? Write the blessings on your family tree.

3. In the 1st Reading – Numbers 6:22-27: The LORD said to Moses: Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them: This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them:

*“May the LORD bless you and keep you!
May the LORD let his face shine upon you, and be
gracious to you! May the LORD look upon you
with kindness and grant you peace!”*

Repeat this passage each day this week to bless your family.



4. As a family, pray the Rosary and the Joyful Mysteries. The link below is a beautiful guide for praying the Rosary with children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLrk4v2idv8&t=14s>