



Mother Mary

Holy Spirit Adult Catechesis
April 11, 2021

Deacon Pat Goin

Doni Madonna

Michelangelo ca. 1503, Uffizi Gallery in Florence
(Firenze) Italy

What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illuminates in turn its faith in Christ.

(CCC 487)



Prophetic and Historical Background of Mary

Enthroned Madonna and Child

Flippo Lippi ca. 1437, *Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica* of
Palazzo Barberini, Rome.

Old Testament Prophecies of Mary

- Genesis 3:15 (Protoevangelium):

*I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
They will strike at your head,
while you strike at their heel*

- Isaiah 7:14:

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign; the young woman,
pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel. (Cf.
Mt 1:23)*

Historical Mary

- Lived in Nazareth in Galilee (Lk 1:26, 56)
- From tradition and apocryphal writings we believe Her Parents were Joachim and Anne—July 26 their Feast day
- Visited by an angel and said “yes” to God’s request to become the mother of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (Lk 1:26-38)

Historical Mary

- Married Joseph the carpenter (Mt 1:15, 15:35)
- Gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem (Mt 2, Lk 2, and Mi 5:1)
- With Joseph, fled to Egypt to avoid persecution (Mt 2:15-18)
- With Joseph, raised Jesus in Nazareth (Mt 2:19-23, Lk 2:39, 51)



The Four Marian Dogmas:

- Immaculate Conception
- Mother of God
- Perpetual Virginity
- Assumption

The Immaculate Conception

Tiepolo, Giovanni Battista

Ca 1768

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The Immaculate Conception

- Mary was enriched by God with many gifts for her role as mother of the Savior
- At the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel salutes her as “full of grace.”
- Redeemed from the moment she was conceived by the “virtue of Jesus Christ...[she was] preserved immune from all stain of original sin.”
- Mary’s preservation from original sin *is* the **Immaculate Conception**

The Immaculate Conception

- “The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person”
- By God’s grace, she also remained free from *personal* sin
- Without knowing man, in faith she responded to Gabriel by saying “yes” believing that “with God nothing will be impossible”
- Although foremost, she is among many women in the bible who bore children though it was thought impossible, e.g., Elizabeth, Sara...
- The Dogma of the Immaculate Conception was proclaimed by Pope Pius IX, in 1854 and celebrated December 8.

The Mother of God (*Theotokos*)

- The Gospels rightly call Mary the Mother of Jesus
- Elizabeth calls Mary “the mother of my Lord.” (Lk. 1:43)
- Jesus, her son according to the flesh, was also the Father’s eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity (Jn 1:14)
- “Mary is truly ‘Mother of God’ since she is the mother of the eternal Son of God made man, who is God himself.”
- Proclaimed at the Council of Ephesus in 431 which condemned the heresy of Nestorius that Mary was only the mother of Jesus the man

Mary's Perpetual Virginity

- The Church has always confessed that Jesus was conceived solely by the power of the Holy Spirit; Jesus had no human father
- “A divine work that surpasses all human understanding and possibility” (Cf. Mt 1:1-18 , Lk 1:26-38)
- Deepening faith in her virginal motherhood led the church to confess Mary's real and perpetual virginity.
- At Mass we proclaim Mary as the “Ever-Virgin”

CCC: 496-499

Mary's Perpetual Virginity

- What about the brothers and sisters of Jesus mentioned in the Bible? (Cf Mk: 3:31-35;6:3; 1 Cor 9:5; Gal 1:19)

“The Church has always understood these passages as not referring to other children of the Virgin Mary. In fact James and Joseph, "brothers of Jesus", are the sons of another Mary, a disciple of Christ, whom St. Matthew significantly calls ‘the other Mary’. They are close relations of Jesus, according to an Old Testament expression.” (Cf Mt 13:55, 28:1, Mt 27:56)

CCC: 500

The Assumption of Mary

- "Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death."
- The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians



Mary Our Mother in the Order of Grace

The Virgin in Prayer

Artist: Joos van Cleve (Netherlands), Ca. 1530,
Minneapolis Institute of Arts

Mary Our Mother in the Order of Grace

- Her role in the Church is inseparable from Christ and flows from it
- This is made clear at the crucifixion:

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.
- This passage shows Jesus giving Mary not only to the disciple at the foot of the cross, but to the Church and each of us as our mother

Mary Our Mother in the Order of Grace

- She is the Church's model of faith and charity
- By the "...wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Savior's work of restoring supernatural life to souls," she is "a mother to us in the order of grace"
- Mary's spiritual motherhood continues for us today
- Her spiritual motherhood flows, not from Mary herself, but from the superabundant merits of Christ

CCC: 967-970



Devotions to Mary

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mary appeared four times to Juan Diego and once more to his uncle, Juan Bernardino in December of 1531.

This image was miraculously found on Juan Diego's tilma. It is enshrined within the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

Devotions to Mary

- "All generations will call me blessed" (Lk 1:48)
- We do so by honoring her with special devotion
- "This very special devotion [of Mary]...differs essentially from the adoration which is given to the incarnate Word and equally to the Father and the Holy Spirit, and greatly fosters this adoration"
- Mary is venerated, not adored; adoration is reserved only for God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Devotions to Mary

- Devotion to Mary remembers that Jesus alone is God and Redeemer:
“Jesus extended Mary’s maternity to the entire Church when He entrusted her to his beloved disciple shortly before dying on the cross,...From that moment on, we have all been gathered under her mantle [she is] the Madonna who ‘covers,’ like a Mother, to whom Jesus entrusted us, all of us; but as a Mother, not as a goddess, not as co-redeemer: as Mother.”

Pope Francis March 24, 2021 (<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope-francis-jesus-entrusted-mary-to-us-as-a-mother-not-as-co-redeemer>)

Devotions to Mary

Select Marian Feasts:

January 1 — Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*

February 2 — Presentation of the Lord

February 11 — Our Lady of Lourdes

March 25 — Annunciation

May 13 — Our Lady of Fatima

May 31 — Visitation

August 15 — Assumption*

August 22 — Queenship of Mary

September 8 — Birth of Mary

October 7 — Our Lady of the Rosary

November 21 — Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 8 — Immaculate Conception*

December 12 — Our Lady of Guadalupe

* Holy day of Obligation

Devotions to Mary

- May is called “The Month of Mary” (May Crowning)
- The “Month of the Rosary” is October
- The Feast of the “Immaculate Heart of Mary” is the Saturday following the Second Sunday after Pentecost
- The First Saturday of each Month is also dedicated to Marian Devotions

Devotions to Mary – The Rosary

- The Rosary is a Scripture-based prayer
- It begins with the *Apostles' Creed*, a summary of scripture-based faith
- The *Our Father*, which introduces each mystery, is from Matthew
- The first part of the *Hail Mary* is the angel's words announcing Christ's birth and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary. (St. Pius V (d. 1572) officially added the second part of the *Hail Mary*)
- The Mysteries of the Rosary center on the events of Christ's life. There are four sets of Mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and—added by Saint John Paul II in 2002—the Luminous.

Devotions to Mary – The Rosary

Resources on how to pray the rosary:

- <https://www.usccb.org/how-to-pray-the-rosary>
- <https://www.rosarycenter.org/homepage-2/rosary/how-to-pray-the-rosary>
- <http://www.kofc.org/en/resources/cis/devotionals/4772.pdf>
- <https://www.catholiccompany.com/content/how-to-pray-the-rosary>



Miscellaneous...Mary, Devotions, and Other Things

The Madonnina, commonly known as the *Madonna of the Streets*

Roberto Ferruzzi (1854–1934)

First appeared in Venice in 1897. The original has since been lost, but there are many reproductions. It is commonly found on holy cards

Miscellaneous - Mary and Devotions

- *Novenas* are nine consecutive days of praying a rosary (or other prayers) to obtain special grace. Some examples:
 - Immaculate Heart of Mary Novena
 - Immaculate Conception Novena
- Praying the Rosary is credited of the defeat of a Turkish fleet at *Battle of Lepanto* in 1571 (<https://www.opwest.org/lepanto/>)
- Some Anglicans and Lutherans also pray the rosary
- The Quran mentions Mary several times

Miscellaneous - Mary and Devotions

- There are many purported appearances of Mary, but the validity of such appearances is ultimately determined by the Church
- Some Approved Marian Apparitions:
 - Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico)
 - Our Lady of Knock (Ireland)
 - Our Lady of Fatima (Portugal)
 - Our Lady of Lourdes (France)
 - Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Holy Spirit Wednesday Perpetual Novena)
 - Our Lady of Good Help (Bishop Approved; Wisconsin)

Miscellaneous - Mary and Devotions

- Mary is the Patron Saint of all humanity
- In 1846 the US Bishops named her the Patroness of the United States
- Some Marian Titles:
 - Blessed Mother
 - Madonna
 - Our Mother
 - Star of the Sea
 - Queen of Heaven
 - Our Lady of Guadalupe
 - Our Lady of Sorrows (*Mater Dolorosa*)
- ...there are hundreds more

Questions?



Hail Mary

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death.*

Amen

The Virgin in Prayer

Giovanni Battista Salvi da Sassoferrato, *ca.* 1645

Oil on canvas, 73 x 58 cm

National Gallery, London