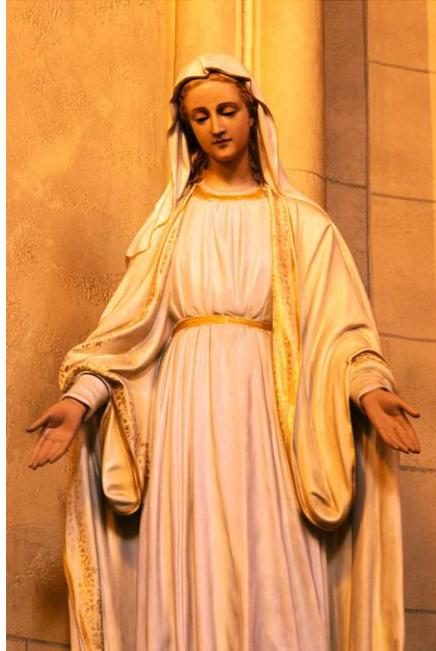


Mary, Mother of God - Liturgy of the Word



Prayer Space:

Make sure that you have a focal point in the gym or library where you will gather. This is a solemn service. Have quiet music playing as students enter to create reflective atmosphere.

Prayer table:

- white cloth (check Liturgical Calendar)
- a large pillar **candle**,
- a **Bible (Book of the Gospels)**
- a simple wooden **cross or** Year of Witness Cross given to schools
- Wooden Faith Logo
- Fresh flowers
- Statue
- Rosary

Opening Song: *Mary, Did You Know?*

Let us begin with the sign of the cross

All: In the name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Opening Prayer:

Today we celebrate and we honor Mary who followed the will of God all her life. She said "yes" to what God asked of her. Mary is a model of faith for all of us.

All: We honor you, Mary, as the Mother of God and our mother too. Amen.

First Reading: A reading from the book of Revelation to John 12: 1, 5

Then a great and mysterious sight appeared in the sky. There was a woman, whose dress was the sun and who had the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head...She gave birth to a son, who will rule over all nations with an iron rod. But the child was snatched away and taken to God and his throne. The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (1: 26-38)

Narrator: In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said,

Angel: Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!

Narrator: Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her,

Angel: Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the King of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!

Narrator: Mary said to the angel,

Mary: How, then, can this be?

Narrator: The angel answered,

Angel: The Holy Spirit will come on you, and god's power will rest on you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. For there is nothing god cannot do.

Narrator: Mary said,

Mary: I am the Lord's servant, may it happen to me as you have said.

Narrator: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayers of the Faithful:

We ask Mary for her prayers that she may intercede with God for us.

Response: *Mary, Mother of God pray for us.*

Mary was the Mother of Jesus. May we also bring Jesus into the world for others. **R.**

Mary lived a life pleasing to God. May we do God's will in all things. **R.**

Mary gave the glory to God through her life. May we give praise to God in all we do. **R.**

Mary was a holy person. May we strive to live as God created us. **R.**

Mary was a person of courage. May we do what we know is right. **R.**

Song: *Hail Mary: Gentle Woman*

Activity:

Give each student two circles (representing beads of the Rosary). Ask them to write, Mother Mary, please help me pray for... (Giving students several minutes to think of what they need help praying for).

One at a time the students will come up to the prayer center to place beads on bulletin board to create a class rosary. The rosary may then be performed on a daily basis for the month of May and/or a couple of times a week (depending on class schedule).

At this point you can distribute a rosary package to all your students and teach the students how to pray the rosary.

Let us pray together the Hail Mary

All: 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.

Closing Prayer:

Mary was always faithful to God's will. She was faithful at the stable in Bethlehem, she was faithful at the stable in Bethlehem, she was faithful on the flight to Egypt, and she was faithful at the foot of the cross. We should follow her example and be faithful to God's will in our lives.

All: Father, help us to do your will even when it is difficult. Help us to be like Mary and respond YES to what He asks of us. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ and your Holy Spirit. Amen.

We end our liturgy of the word with the sign of the cross.

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

Closing Song: *Ave Maria* (Instrumental)