

# 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, picture, 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 place of honor
- 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.

## 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.*

<b>Leader:</b>	Holy Mary
<b>All:</b>	pray for us
<b>Leader:</b>	Mother of God's Son
<b>All:</b>	pray for us
<b>Leader:</b>	Mother of the Church
<b>All:</b>	pray for us
<b>Leader:</b>	Model of holiness
<b>All:</b>	pray for us
<b>Leader:</b>	Model of patience
<b>All:</b>	pray for us
<b>Leader:</b>	Model of motherhood
<b>All:</b>	pray for us
<b>Leader:</b>	Queen of families
<b>All:</b>	pray for us
<b>Leader:</b>	Queen of all saints
<b>All:</b>	pray for us
<b>Leader:</b>	Queen of the rosary
<b>All:</b>	pray for us
<b>Leader:</b>	Cause of our joy
<b>All:</b>	pray for us
<b>Leader:</b>	Morning Star
<b>All:</b>	pray for us
<b>Leader:</b>	Help of Christians
<b>All:</b>	pray for us
<b>Leader:</b>	Queen of peace
<b>All:</b>	pray for us

## 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 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.

**All:** We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
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.*